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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2029, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2029, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

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1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
4 means the Department of Agriculture.

5 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of Agriculture.

7 **TITLE I—COMMODITIES**
8 **Subtitle A—Commodity Policy**

9 **SEC. 1101. REFERENCE PRICES.**

10 Section 1111 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
11 U.S.C. 9011) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “September
13 30, 2013” and inserting “September 30, 2024”; and

14 (2) in paragraph (19)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
16 “\$5.50” and inserting “\$6.35”;

17 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
18 “\$3.70” and inserting “\$4.10”;

- 1 (C) in subparagraph (C), by striking
2 “\$3.95” and inserting “\$4.40”;
- 3 (D) in subparagraph (D), by striking
4 “\$4.95” and inserting “\$5.45”;
- 5 (E) in subparagraph (E), by striking
6 “\$2.40” and inserting “\$2.65”;
- 7 (F) in subparagraph (F), by striking
8 “\$14.00” and inserting “\$16.90”;
- 9 (G) in subparagraph (G), by striking
10 “\$14.00” and inserting “\$16.90”;
- 11 (H) in subparagraph (H), by striking
12 “\$8.40” and inserting “\$10.00”;
- 13 (I) in subparagraph (I), by striking
14 “\$20.15” and inserting “\$23.75”;
- 15 (J) in subparagraph (J), by striking
16 “\$535.00” and inserting “\$630.00”;
- 17 (K) in subparagraph (K), by striking
18 “\$11.00” and inserting “\$13.10”;
- 19 (L) in subparagraph (L), by striking
20 “\$19.97” and inserting “\$23.75”;
- 21 (M) in subparagraph (M), by striking
22 “\$19.04” and inserting “\$22.65”;
- 23 (N) in subparagraph (N), by striking
24 “\$21.54” and inserting “\$25.65”; and

1 (O) in subparagraph (O), by striking
2 “\$0.367” and inserting “\$0.42”.

3 **SEC. 1102. 1-TIME OPPORTUNITY TO ADD BASE ACRES.**

4 Section 1112 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
5 U.S.C. 9012) is amended:

6 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(a) 1-TIME OPPORTUNITY TO ADD BASE ACRES.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

10 “(A) NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO ADD
11 BASE ACRES.—As soon as practicable after the
12 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
13 tional Security Act of 2024, the Secretary shall
14 provide notice to the owners of a farm regard-
15 ing the allocation of base acres to such farm in
16 the manner provided in this subsection.

17 “(B) CONTENT OF NOTICE.—The notice
18 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(i) Information that the allocation is
21 occurring.

22 “(ii) Information regarding the eligi-
23 bility of the farm for an allocation of base
24 acres under paragraph (2).

1 “(iii) Information on how an owner
2 may appeal a determination of ineligibility
3 for an allocation of base acres under para-
4 graph (2) through an appeals process es-
5 tablished by the Secretary.

6 “(C) OPT-OUT.—An owner of a farm that
7 is eligible to receive an allocation of base acres
8 may elect to not receive such allocation by noti-
9 fying the Secretary.

10 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
12 graph (E), effective beginning with the 2025
13 crop year, a farm is eligible to receive an alloca-
14 tion of base acres if, with respect to such farm,
15 the amount described in subparagraph (B) ex-
16 ceeds the amount described in subparagraph
17 (C).

18 “(B) 5-YEAR AVERAGE SUM.—The amount
19 described in this subparagraph is, with respect
20 to a farm, the sum of—

21 “(i) the 5-year average of—

22 “(I) the acreage planted on the
23 farm to all covered commodities for
24 harvest, grazing, haying, silage or

1 other similar purposes for the 2019
2 through 2023 crop years; and

3 “(II) any acreage on the farm
4 that the producers were prevented
5 from planting during the 2019
6 through 2023 crop years to covered
7 commodities because of drought,
8 flood, or other natural disaster, or
9 other condition beyond the control of
10 the producers, as determined by the
11 Secretary; plus

12 “(ii) the lesser of the following:

13 “(I) 15 percent of the total acres
14 on the farm.

15 “(II) The 5-year average of—

16 “(aa) the acreage planted on
17 the farm to eligible non-covered
18 commodities for harvest, grazing,
19 haying, silage, or other similar
20 purposes for the 2019 through
21 2023 crop years; and

22 “(bb) any acreage on the
23 farm that the producers were
24 prevented from planting during
25 the 2019 through 2023 crop

1 years to eligible non-covered com-
2 modities because of drought,
3 flood, or other natural disaster,
4 or other condition beyond the
5 control of the producers, as de-
6 termined by the Secretary.

7 “(C) TOTAL NUMBER OF BASE ACRES FOR
8 COVERED COMMODITIES.—The amount de-
9 scribed in this subparagraph is, with respect to
10 a farm, the total number of base acres for cov-
11 ered commodities on the farm (excluding unas-
12 signed crop base), as in effect on September 30,
13 2024.

14 “(D) ACREAGE PLANTED ON THE FARM TO
15 ELIGIBLE NON-COVERED COMMODITIES DE-
16 FINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘acreage
17 planted on the farm to eligible non-covered
18 commodities’ means acreage planted on a farm
19 to commodities other than covered commodities,
20 trees, bushes, vines, grass, or pasture (including
21 cropland that was idle or fallow), as determined
22 by the Secretary.

23 “(E) EFFECT OF NO RECENT PLANTINGS
24 OF COVERED COMMODITIES.—In the case of a
25 farm for which the amount determined under

1 clause (i) of subparagraph (B) is equal to zero,
2 such farm shall be ineligible to receive an allo-
3 cation of base acres under this subsection.

4 “(3) ELIGIBLE ACRES.—Subject to paragraph
5 (5), the acres eligible for allocation to base acres—

6 “(A) shall be equal to the difference ob-
7 tained by subtracting the amount determined
8 under subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) from
9 the amount determined under subparagraph
10 (B) of such paragraph; and

11 “(B) shall include unassigned crop base.

12 “(4) ALLOCATION OF ACRES.—

13 “(A) ALLOCATION.—For the purpose of
14 applying this subsection to covered commod-
15 ities, the Secretary shall allocate the eligible
16 acres under paragraph (3) among those covered
17 commodities planted on the farm at any time
18 during the 2019 through 2023 crop years.

19 “(B) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—The alloca-
20 tion of eligible acres to base acres for covered
21 commodities shall be in proportion to the ratio
22 of—

23 “(i) the 5-year average of—

24 “(I) the acreage planted on the
25 farm to each covered commodity for

1 harvest, grazing, haying, silage, or
2 other similar purposes for the 2019
3 through 2023 crop years; and

4 “(II) any acreage on the farm
5 that the producers were prevented
6 from planting during the 2019
7 through 2023 crop years to that cov-
8 ered commodity because of drought,
9 flood, or other natural disaster, or
10 other condition beyond the control of
11 the producers, as determined by the
12 Secretary; to

13 “(ii) the 5-year average determined
14 under paragraph (2)(B)(i).

15 “(C) INCLUSION OF ALL 5 YEARS IN AVER-
16 AGE.—For the purpose of determining a 5-year
17 acreage average under subparagraph (B) for a
18 farm, the Secretary shall not exclude any crop
19 year in which a covered commodity was not
20 planted.

21 “(D) TREATMENT OF MULTIPLE PLANTING
22 OR PREVENTED PLANTING.—For the purpose of
23 determining under subparagraph (B) the acre-
24 age on a farm that producers planted or were
25 prevented from planting during the 2019

1 through 2023 crop years to covered commod-
2 ities, if the acreage that was planted or pre-
3 vented from being planted was devoted to an-
4 other covered commodity in the same crop year
5 (other than a covered commodity produced
6 under an established practice of double crop-
7 ping), the owner may elect the commodity to be
8 used for that crop year in determining the 5-
9 year average, but may not include both the ini-
10 tial commodity and the subsequent commodity.

11 “(E) LIMITATION.—The allocation of eligi-
12 ble acres to base acres among covered commod-
13 ities on a farm under this paragraph may not
14 result in a total number of base acres for the
15 farm in excess of the total number of acres on
16 the farm.

17 “(5) REDUCTION BY THE SECRETARY.—In car-
18 rying out this subsection, if the total number of eli-
19 gible acres allocated to base acres across all farms
20 in the United States under this subsection would ex-
21 ceed 30,000,000 acres, the Secretary shall apply an
22 across the board, pro-rata reduction to the number
23 of eligible acres to ensure the number of allocated
24 base acres under this subsection is equal to
25 30,000,000 acres.

1 “(6) PAYMENT YIELD.—Beginning with crop
2 year 2025, for the purpose of making price loss cov-
3 erage payments under section 1116, the Secretary
4 shall establish payment yields to base acres allocated
5 under this subsection equal to—

6 “(A) the payment yield established on the
7 farm for the applicable covered commodity; and

8 “(B) if no such payment yield for the ap-
9 plicable covered commodity exists, a payment
10 yield—

11 “(i) equal to the average payment
12 yield for the covered commodity for the
13 county in which the farm is situated; or

14 “(ii) determined pursuant to section
15 1113(e).

16 “(7) TREATMENT OF NEW OWNERS.—In the
17 case of a farm for which the owner on the date of
18 the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Se-
19 curity Act of 2024 was not the owner for the 2019
20 crop year, the Secretary shall use the planting his-
21 tory of the prior owner or owners of such farm for
22 purposes of determining eligibility under paragraph
23 (2), eligible acres under paragraph (3), and the allo-
24 cation of acres under paragraph (4).”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “Notwith-
2 standing the election made under subsection (a),
3 the” and inserting “The”;

4 (3) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “Notwith-
5 standing the election made under subsection (a), if”
6 and inserting “If”; and

7 (4) in subsection (d)(3)(A), by striking “2023”
8 and inserting “2029”.

9 **SEC. 1103. PRODUCER ELECTION.**

10 Section 1115 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
11 U.S.C. 9015) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
13 paragraph (1)—

14 (A) by striking “and for” and inserting “,
15 for”; and

16 (B) by inserting “, and for the 2025
17 through 2029 crop years (subject to subsection
18 (h))” after “(subject to subsection (h))”; and

19 (2) in subsection (c)—

20 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
21 by striking “2014 crop year or the 2019 crop
22 year, as applicable” and inserting “2014 crop
23 year, 2019 crop year, or 2025 crop year, as ap-
24 plicable”;

1 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “2014
2 crop year or the 2019 crop year, as applicable,”
3 and inserting “2014 crop year, 2019 crop year,
4 or 2025 crop year, as applicable,”; and

5 (C) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
7 “and” at the end;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
9 the period at the end and inserting “;
10 and”; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(C) the same coverage for each covered
14 commodity on the farm for the 2026 through
15 2029 crop years as was applicable for the 2024
16 crop year.”.

17 **SEC. 1104. PRICE LOSS COVERAGE.**

18 Section 1116 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
19 U.S.C. 9016) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “2023” and
21 inserting “2029”;

22 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(B)—

23 (A) in the heading, by striking “2023” and
24 inserting “2029”; and

1 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
2 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”; and
3 (3) in subsection (d), by striking “2024” and
4 inserting “2029”.

5 **SEC. 1105. AGRICULTURE RISK COVERAGE.**

6 Section 1117 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
7 U.S.C. 9017) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
9 paragraph (1), by striking “2014 through 2018 crop
10 years or the 2019 through 2023 crop years, as appli-
11 cable” and inserting “2014 through 2018 crop
12 years, 2019 through 2023 crop years, or 2025
13 through 2029 crop years, as applicable”;

14 (2) in subsection (c)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “for
16 each of 2014 through 2024 crop years and 90
17 percent of the benchmark revenue for each of
18 2025 through 2029 crop years” before the pe-
19 riod at the end;

20 (B) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking
21 “2023” and inserting “2029”;

22 (C) in paragraph (4)(B)—

23 (i) in the heading, by striking “2023”
24 and inserting “2029”; and

1 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
2 “2029”;

3 (D) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking
4 “2023” and inserting “2029”;

5 (3) by amending subsection (d)(1)(B) to read
6 as follows:

7 “(B)(i) for each of the crop years 2014
8 through 2024, 10 percent of the benchmark
9 revenue for the crop year applicable under sub-
10 section (c); and

11 “(ii) for each of the crop years 2025
12 through 2029, 12.5 percent of the bench-
13 mark revenue for the crop year applicable
14 under subsection (c).”;

15 (4) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding
16 paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and inserting
17 “2029”; and

18 (5) in subsection (g)(5), by striking “2023”
19 and inserting “2029”.

20 **Subtitle B—Marketing Loans**

21 **SEC. 1201. LOAN RATES FOR NONRECOURSE MARKETING** 22 **ASSISTANCE LOANS.**

23 (a) AVAILABILITY OF NONRECOURSE LOANS.—Sec-
24 tion 1201(b)(1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.

1 9031(b)(1) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
2 “2029”.

3 (b) LOAN RATES.—Section 1202 of the Agricultural
4 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9032) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
7 “2023” and inserting “2024”;

8 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
9 by striking “2023” and inserting “2024”;

10 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
11 subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(c) 2025 THROUGH 2029 CROP YEARS.—For pur-
15 poses of each of the 2025 through 2029 crop years, the
16 loan rate for a marketing assistance loan under section
17 1201 for a loan commodity shall be equal to the following:

18 “(1) In the case of wheat, \$3.72 per bushel.

19 “(2) In the case of corn, \$2.42 per bushel.

20 “(3) In the case of grain sorghum, \$2.42 per
21 bushel.

22 “(4) In the case of barley, \$2.75 per bushel.

23 “(5) In the case of oats, \$2.20 per bushel.

24 “(6) In the case of base quality of upland cot-
25 ton, \$0.55 per pound.

1 “(7) In the case of extra long staple cotton,
2 \$1.00 per pound.

3 “(8) In the case of long grain rice, \$7.70 per
4 hundredweight.

5 “(9) In the case of medium grain rice, \$7.70
6 per hundredweight.

7 “(10) In the case of soybeans, \$6.82 per bushel.

8 “(11) In the case of other oilseeds, \$11.10 per
9 hundredweight for each of the following kinds of oil-
10 seeds:

11 “(A) Sunflower seed.

12 “(B) Rapeseed.

13 “(C) Canola.

14 “(D) Safflower.

15 “(E) Flaxseed.

16 “(F) Mustard seed.

17 “(G) Crambe.

18 “(H) Sesame seed.

19 “(I) Other oilseeds designated by the Sec-
20 retary.

21 “(12) In the case of dry peas, \$6.87 per hun-
22 dredweight.

23 “(13) In the case of lentils, \$14.30 per hun-
24 dredweight.

1 “(14) In the case of small chickpeas, \$11.00
2 per hundredweight.

3 “(15) In the case of large chickpeas, \$15.40 per
4 hundredweight.

5 “(16) In the case of graded wool, \$1.60 per
6 pound.

7 “(17) In the case of nongraded wool, \$0.55 per
8 pound.

9 “(18) In the case of mohair, \$5.00 per pound.

10 “(19) In the case of honey, \$1.50 per pound.

11 “(20) In the case of peanuts, \$390 per ton.”;

12 and

13 (4) by amending subsection (e) (as so redesign-
14 nated) to read as follows:

15 “(e) SPECIAL RULE FOR SEED COTTON AND
16 CORN.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section
18 1116(b)(2) and paragraphs (1)(B)(ii) and
19 (2)(A)(ii)(II) of section 1117(b), the loan rate shall
20 be deemed to equal—

21 “(A) for seed cotton, \$0.30 per pound; and

22 “(B) for corn, \$3.30 per bushel.

23 “(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection au-
24 thorizes any nonrecourse marketing assistance loan
25 under this subtitle for seed cotton.”.

1 **SEC. 1202. REPAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON, LONG**
2 **GRAIN RICE, AND MEDIUM GRAIN RICE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1204 of the Agricultural
4 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9034) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding
6 paragraph (1), by inserting “(subject to subsection
7 (j))” after “section 1201 for upland cotton”; and

8 (2) in subsection (d)—

9 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
10 paragraph (3); and

11 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
12 following:

13 “(2) a formula to determine the prevailing
14 world market price for upland cotton that, during
15 any period which price quotations for Middling (M)
16 one and three-thirty-second inch cotton are available,
17 is based on the average of the 3 lowest-priced
18 growths that are quoted; and”.

19 (b) FLEXIBILITY FOR SEASONAL LOAN REDEMP-
20 TIONS.—Section 1204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
21 U.S.C. 9034) is further amended by adding at the end
22 the following:

23 “(j) REIMBURSEMENT FOR UPLAND COTTON.—In
24 the case of a marketing assistance loan under section 1201
25 for upland cotton that is repaid by a producer on or after
26 the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary

1 shall provide a reimbursement to such producer in an
2 amount equal to the difference obtained by subtracting—

3 “(1) the amount the producer would have paid
4 under such loan using the lowest prevailing world
5 market price during the 30-day period beginning on
6 the date on which such loan was repaid, from

7 “(2) the amount repaid by the producer.”.

8 **SEC. 1203. REPAYMENT RATES FOR EXTRA LONG STAPLE**
9 **COTTON.**

10 Section 1204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
11 U.S.C. 9034) is further amended—

12 (1) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) by striking “shall be at the” and in-
14 serting the following: “shall be the lesser of—

15 “(1) the”;

16 (B) by striking the period at the end and
17 inserting “; or”; and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(2) the prevailing world market price for the
20 commodity, as determined and adjusted by the Sec-
21 retary in accordance with this section.”;

22 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

23 (A) by striking “upland cotton” and in-
24 serting “extra long staple cotton”; and

25 (B) by striking “and” at the end; and

1 (3) in subsection (e)—

2 (A) in the heading, by inserting “EXTRA
3 LONG STAPLE COTTON,” after “UPLAND COT-
4 TON,”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) in the heading, by inserting “UP-
7 LAND” before “COTTON”; and

8 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
9 “2024” and inserting “2030”.

10 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
11 paragraph (4); and

12 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
13 following:

14 “(3) EXTRA LONG STAPLE COTTON.—The pre-
15 vailing world market price for extra long staple cot-
16 ton determined under subsection (d)—

17 “(A) shall be adjusted to United States
18 quality and location, with the adjustment to in-
19 clude the average costs to market the com-
20 modity, including average transportation costs,
21 as determined by the Secretary; and

22 “(B) may be further adjusted, during the
23 period beginning on the date of enactment of
24 this paragraph and ending on July 31, 2030, if

1 the Secretary determines the adjustment is nec-
2 essary—

3 “(i) to minimize potential loan forfeit-
4 ures;

5 “(ii) to minimize the accumulation of
6 stocks of extra long staple cotton by the
7 Federal Government;

8 “(iii) to ensure that extra long staple
9 cotton produced in the United States can
10 be marketed freely and competitively, both
11 domestically and internationally; and

12 “(iv) to ensure an appropriate transi-
13 tion between current-crop and forward-
14 crop price quotations, except that the Sec-
15 retary may use forward-crop price
16 quotations prior to July 31 of a marketing
17 year only if—

18 “(I) there are insufficient cur-
19 rent-crop price quotations; and

20 “(II) the forward-crop price
21 quotation is the lowest such quotation
22 available.”.

23 **SEC. 1204. MODIFICATIONS TO STORAGE CREDITS.**

24 Section 1204(g) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
25 U.S.C. 9034(g)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “Effective” and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(1) CROP YEARS 2014 THROUGH 2024.—Effec-
4 tive”;

5 (2) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by
6 striking “2023” and inserting “2024”; and

7 (3) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(2) PAYMENT OF COTTON STORAGE COSTS.—
9 Effective for each of the 2025 through 2029 crop
10 years, the Secretary shall make cotton storage pay-
11 ments for upland cotton and extra long staple cotton
12 available in the same manner as the Secretary pro-
13 vided storage payments for the 2006 crop of upland
14 cotton, except that the payment rate shall be equal
15 to the lesser of—

16 “(A) the submitted tariff rate for the cur-
17 rent marketing year; or

18 “(B) in the case of storage in—

19 “(i) California or Arizona, a payment
20 rate of \$4.90; and

21 “(ii) any other State, a payment rate
22 of \$3.00.”.

1 **SEC. 1205. ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR TEX-**
2 **TILE MILLS.**

3 Section 1207(c)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014
4 (7 U.S.C. 9037(c)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(2) VALUE OF ASSISTANCE.—The value of the
6 assistance provided under paragraph (1) shall be—

7 “(A) for the period beginning on August 1,
8 2013, and ending on July 31, 2024, 3 cents per
9 pound; and

10 “(B) beginning on August 1, 2024, 5 cents
11 per pound.”.

12 **Subtitle C—Sugar**

13 **SEC. 1301. LOAN RATE MODIFICATIONS.**

14 Section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement
15 and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “2023”
18 and inserting “2024”; and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(6) 24.00 cents per pound for raw cane sugar
21 for each of the 2025 through 2029 crop years.”; and

22 (2) in subsection (b)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

24 (B) in paragraph (2)—

25 (i) by striking “2023” and inserting
26 “2024”; and

1 (ii) by striking the period at the end
2 and inserting “; and”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(3) a rate that is equal to 136.55 percent of
5 the loan rate per pound of raw cane sugar under
6 subsection (a)(6) for each of the 2025 through 2029
7 crop years.”.

8 **SEC. 1302. ADJUSTMENTS TO COMMODITY CREDIT COR-**
9 **PORATION STORAGE RATES.**

10 Section 167 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement
11 and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7287) is amended—

12 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
15 vision of law, for the 2025 crop year and each subsequent
16 crop year thereafter, the Commodity Credit Corporation
17 shall establish rates for the storage of forfeited sugar in
18 an amount that is not less than—

19 “(1) in the case of refined sugar, 34 cents per
20 hundredweight per month; and

21 “(2) in the case of raw cane sugar, 27 cents per
22 hundredweight per month.”; and

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in the heading, by striking “SUBSE-
25 QUENT” and inserting “PRIOR”; and

1 (B) by striking “and subsequent” and in-
2 serting “through 2024”.

3 **SEC. 1303. MODERNIZING BEET SUGAR ALLOTMENTS.**

4 (a) ALLOCATION TO PROCESSORS.—Section
5 359c(g)(2) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7
6 U.S.C. 1359cc(g)(2)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “In” and inserting “(A) IN GEN-
8 ERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B),
9 in”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding sub-
12 paragraph (A), if the Secretary makes an up-
13 ward adjustment under paragraph (1)(A), in
14 adjusting allocations among beet sugar proc-
15 essors the Secretary shall give priority to such
16 processors with available sugar.”.

17 (b) TIMING OF REASSIGNMENT.—Section 359e(b)(2)
18 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C.
19 1359ee(b)(2)) is amended—

20 (1) by striking “If” and inserting “(A) IN GEN-
21 ERAL.—If”;

22 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B),
23 and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively;
24 and

25 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(B) TIMING.—In carrying out this para-
2 graph, the Secretary shall—

3 “(i) make an initial determination fol-
4 lowing the publication of the World Agri-
5 cultural Supply and Demand Estimates
6 (WASDE) by the World Agricultural Out-
7 look Board for the month of January that
8 is applicable to the crop year for which al-
9 lotments are required; and

10 “(ii) provide for an initial reassign-
11 ment under subparagraph (A)(i) not later
12 than 30 days after the announcement of
13 such WASDE.”.

14 **SEC. 1304. REALLOCATIONS OF TARIFF RATE QUOTA**
15 **SHORTFALL.**

16 Section 359k of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of
17 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359kk) is amended by adding at the end
18 the following:

19 “(c) REALLOCATION.—

20 “(1) INITIAL REALLOCATION.—Subject to para-
21 graph (3), following the establishment of the tariff-
22 rate quotas under subsection (a), the United States
23 Trade Representative, in consultation with the Sec-
24 retary, shall—

1 “(A) determine which countries do not in-
2 tend to fill their allocation for the quota year;
3 and

4 “(B) reallocate any forecasted shortfall as
5 soon as practicable.

6 “(2) SUBSEQUENT REALLOCATION.—Subject to
7 paragraph (3), not later than March 1 of a quota
8 year, the United States Trade Representative, in
9 consultation with the Secretary, shall reallocate any
10 additional forecasted shortfall in the fulfillment of
11 the minimum tariff-rate quotas for raw cane sugar
12 established under subsection (a)(1) for that quota
13 year.

14 “(3) EARLY CESSATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—
15 Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply if—

16 “(A) the Agreement Suspending the Coun-
17 tervailing Duty Investigation on Sugar from
18 Mexico (C-201-846) is terminated; and

19 “(B) the countervailing duty order on
20 sugar from Mexico is revoked.

21 “(d) REFINED SUGAR.—

22 “(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
24 days after the date of the enactment of the
25 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of

1 2024, the Secretary shall carry out a study on
2 whether additional terms and conditions with
3 respect to refined sugar imports are necessary
4 and appropriate.

5 “(B) ELEMENTS.—In conducting the study
6 required by subparagraph (A), the Secretary
7 shall examine the following:

8 “(i) The need for:

9 “(I) Defining ‘refined sugar’ as
10 having a minimum polarization of
11 99.8 degrees or higher.

12 “(II) Establishing a standard for
13 color or reflectance based units for re-
14 fined sugar such as those utilized by
15 the International Commission of Uni-
16 form Methods of Sugar Analysis.

17 “(III) Prescribing specifications
18 for packaging type for refined sugar.

19 “(IV) Prescribing specifications
20 for transportation modes for refined
21 sugar.

22 “(V) Requiring affidavits or
23 other evidence that sugar imported as
24 refined will not undergo further refin-
25 ing in the United States.

1 “(VI) Prescribing appropriate
2 terms and conditions to avoid the cir-
3 cumvention of United States law rel-
4 ative to any sugar imports.

5 “(VII) requiring other additional
6 definitions, terms and conditions, or
7 other requirements.

8 “(ii) The potential impact of each of
9 subclauses (I) through (VII) of clause (i)
10 on the domestic sugar industry.

11 “(iii) Whether, based on the need de-
12 scribed in clause (i) and the impact de-
13 scribed in clause (ii), additional terms and
14 conditions are appropriate.

15 “(C) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the
16 study required by paragraph (A), the Secretary
17 shall consult with representatives of the domes-
18 tic sugar industry, users of refined sugar, and
19 relevant State and Federal agencies.

20 “(D) REPORT.—Not later than one year
21 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,
22 and National Security Act of 2024, the Sec-
23 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
24 culture of the House of Representatives and the
25 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-

1 estry of the Senate a report that includes the
2 findings of the study required under subpara-
3 graph (A).

4 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL TERMS
5 AND CONDITIONS PERMITTED.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Based on the findings
7 in the report submitted under paragraph
8 (1)(D), the Secretary may establish through the
9 rulemaking authorized under subparagraph (B)
10 such additional terms and conditions after pro-
11 viding notice to the Committee on Agriculture
12 of the House of Representatives and the Com-
13 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
14 of the Senate.

15 “(B) PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—
16 The Secretary may issue regulations to estab-
17 lish and implement any additional terms and
18 conditions determined necessary and appro-
19 priate pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), so long as
20 such regulations—

21 “(i) do not have an adverse impact on
22 the domestic sugar industry; and

23 “(ii) are consistent with the require-
24 ments of this part, section 156 of the Fed-
25 eral Agriculture Improvement and Reform

1 Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272), and obliga-
2 tions under international trade agreements
3 that have been approved by Congress.

4 “(3) DOMESTIC SUGAR INDUSTRY.—In this
5 subsection, the term ‘domestic sugar industry’
6 means domestic—

7 “(A) sugar beet producers and processors;

8 “(B) producers and processors of sugar
9 cane; and

10 “(C) refiners of raw cane sugar.”.

11 **SEC. 1305. CLARIFICATION OF TARIFF RATE QUOTA AD-**
12 **JUSTMENTS.**

13 Section 359k(b)(1) of the Agricultural Adjustment
14 Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359kk(b)(1)) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “Before” and inserting “Not-
16 withstanding any other provision of law, before”;
17 and

18 (2) by striking “if there is an” and inserting
19 “for the sole purpose of responding directly to an”.

20 **Subtitle D—Dairy**

21 **SEC. 1401. DAIRY MARGIN COVERAGE PRODUCTION HIS-**
22 **TORY.**

23 (a) DEFINITION.—Section 1401(8) of the Agricul-
24 tural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9051(8)) is amended by strik-

1 ing “when the participating dairy operation first registers
2 to participate in dairy margin coverage”.

3 (b) PRODUCTION HISTORY OF PARTICIPATING DAIRY
4 OPERATIONS.—Section 1405 of the Agricultural Act of
5 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9055) is amended—

6 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
7 following:

8 “(a) PRODUCTION HISTORY.—Except as provided in
9 subsection (b), the production history of a dairy operation
10 for dairy margin coverage is equal to the highest annual
11 milk marketings of the participating dairy operation dur-
12 ing any one of the 2021, 2022, or 2023 calendar years.”;
13 and

14 (2) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

16 (B) by striking “OPERATIONS” in the sub-
17 section heading and all that follows through “In
18 the case” in the matter preceding subparagraph
19 (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the fol-
20 lowing: “OPERATIONS.—In the case”; and

21 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
22 and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively,
23 and indenting appropriately.

1 **SEC. 1402. PREMIUMS FOR DAIRY MARGINS.**

2 (a) TIER I.—Section 1407(b) of the Agricultural Act
3 of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9057(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in the heading, by striking “5,000,000” and
5 inserting “6,000,000”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “5,000,000”
7 and inserting “6,000,000”.

8 (b) TIER II.—Section 1407(c) of the Agricultural Act
9 of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9057(c)) is amended—

10 (1) in the heading, by striking “5,000,000” and
11 inserting “6,000,000”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “5,000,000”
13 and inserting “6,000,000”.

14 (c) PREMIUM DISCOUNTS.—Section 1407(g) of the
15 Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9057(g)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1)—

17 (A) by striking “2019 through 2023” and
18 inserting “2025 through 2029”; and

19 (B) by striking “January 2019” and in-
20 serting “January 2025”; and

21 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023” each
22 place it appears and inserting “2029”.

23 **SEC. 1403. MANDATORY REPORTING OF DAIRY PRODUCT**
24 **PROCESSING COSTS.**

25 Section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
26 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by strik-
4 ing “and” at the end;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
6 the period at the end and inserting “;
7 and”; and

8 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(C) for each manufacturer required to re-
11 port under subparagraph (A) for any product,
12 require that manufacturer to report production
13 cost and product yield information, as deter-
14 mined by the Secretary, for all products proc-
15 essed in the same facility or facilities.”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting
17 “products and” after “those”;

18 (2) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
20 “ELECTRONIC REPORTING” and inserting “RE-
21 PORTING”;

22 (B) in paragraph (1)—

23 (i) in the heading, by striking “ELEC-
24 TRONIC REPORTING” and inserting “RE-
25 PORTING”; and

1 (ii) by striking “this section” and in-
2 serting in its place “subparagraphs (A)
3 and (B) of subsection (b)(1)”;

4 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “this sec-
5 tion” and inserting in its place “subparagraphs
6 (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1)”;

7 (D) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(3) DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.—Not
9 later than 3 years after the date of enactment of
10 this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the
11 Secretary shall publish a report containing the infor-
12 mation obtained under subparagraph (C) of sub-
13 section (b)(1).”

14 **SEC. 1404. CLASS I SKIM MILK PRICE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8c(5)(A) of the Agricul-
16 tural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608c(5)(A)), reenacted
17 with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agree-
18 ment Act of 1937, is amended by striking the third sen-
19 tence and inserting “For the period beginning on the ear-
20 lier of the date that is 30 days after the date of the enact-
21 ment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
22 2024 and the date on which the Announcement of Ad-
23 vanced Prices and Pricing Factors is first published after
24 such date of enactment and ending on the effective date
25 of a modification by amendment to the order involved, for

1 purposes of determining prices for milk of the highest use
2 classification, the Class I skim milk price per hundred-
3 weight specified in section 1000.50(b) of title 7, Code of
4 Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), shall be
5 the sum of the adjusted Class I differential specified in
6 section 1000.52 of such title 7 (or successor regulations),
7 plus the adjustment to Class I prices specified in sections
8 1005.51(b), 1006.51(b), and 1007.51(b) of such title 7
9 (or successor regulations), plus the higher of the advanced
10 pricing factors computed in sections 1000.50(q)(1) and
11 1000.50(q)(2) of such title 7 (or successor regulations).”.

12 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Implementation of the
13 amendment made by subsection (a) shall not be subject
14 to any of the following:

15 (1) The notice and comment provisions of sec-
16 tion 553 of title 5, United States Code.

17 (2) The notice and hearing requirements of sec-
18 tion 8c(3) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7
19 U.S.C. 608c(3)), reenacted with amendments by the
20 Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937.

21 (3) The order amendment requirements of sec-
22 tion 8c(17) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 608c(17)).

23 (4) A referendum under section 8c(19) of that
24 Act (7 U.S.C. 608c(19)).

1 **SEC. 1405. EXTENSIONS.**

2 (a) FORWARD PRICING.—Section 1502 of the Food,
3 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8772)
4 is amended by striking subsection (e).

5 (b) INDEMNITY PROGRAM.—Section 3 of Public Law
6 90–484 (7 U.S.C. 4553) is amended by striking “2023”
7 and inserting “2029”.

8 (c) PROMOTION AND RESEARCH.—Section 113(e)(2)
9 of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7
10 U.S.C. 4504(e)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
11 inserting “2029”.

12 **SEC. 1406. DAIRY REPORTS.**

13 Section 301 of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act
14 of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4514) is amended by striking “Not
15 later” and all that follows through “an annual report,”
16 and inserting “With respect to each calendar year begin-
17 ning after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food,
18 and National Security Act of 2024, a report (which shall
19 be submitted not later than 18 months after the last day
20 of such calendar year)”.

21 **Subtitle E—Supplemental Agricultural**
22 **Disaster Assistance Pro-**
23 **grams**

24 **SEC. 1501. LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PAYMENT RATES.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1501(b) of the Agricul-
26 tural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(b)) is amended—

1 (1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(2) PAYMENT RATES.—

4 “(A) LOSSES DUE TO PREDATION.—In-
5 demnity payments to an eligible producer on a
6 farm under paragraph (1)(A) shall be made at
7 a rate of 100 percent of the market value of the
8 affected livestock on the applicable date, as de-
9 termined by the Secretary.

10 “(B) LOSSES DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER
11 OR DISEASE.—Indemnity payments to an eligi-
12 ble producer on a farm under subparagraph (B)
13 or (C) of paragraph (1) shall be made at a rate
14 of 75 percent of the market value of the af-
15 fected livestock on the applicable date, as deter-
16 mined by the Secretary.

17 “(C) DETERMINATION OF MARKET
18 VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the
19 market value described in paragraphs (A) and
20 (B)—

21 “(i) in coordination with the Adminis-
22 trator of the Agricultural Marketing Serv-
23 ice;

1 “(ii) using other appropriate re-
2 sources, as determined by the Secretary;
3 and

4 “(iii) on a quarterly basis.

5 “(D) APPLICABLE DATE DEFINED.—In
6 this paragraph, the term ‘applicable date’
7 means, with respect to livestock, as applicable—

8 “(i) the day before the date of death
9 of the livestock; or

10 “(ii) the day before the date of the
11 event that caused the harm to the livestock
12 that resulted in a reduced sale price.”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(5) ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR UNBORN LIVE-
15 STOCK.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of unborn
17 livestock death losses incurred on or after Janu-
18 ary 1, 2024, the Secretary shall make an addi-
19 tional payment to eligible producers on farms
20 that have incurred such losses in excess of the
21 normal mortality due to a condition specified in
22 paragraph (1).

23 “(B) PAYMENT RATE.—Additional pay-
24 ments under subparagraph (A) shall be made at
25 a rate—

1 “(i) determined by the Secretary; and

2 “(ii) less than or equal to 85 percent
3 of the payment rate established with re-
4 spect to the lowest weight class of the live-
5 stock, as determined by the Secretary, act-
6 ing through the Administrator of the Farm
7 Service Agency.

8 “(C) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The amount of
9 a payment to an eligible producer that has in-
10 curred unborn livestock death losses shall be
11 equal to the payment rate determined under
12 subparagraph (B) multiplied, in the case of live-
13 stock described in—

14 “(i) subparagraph (A), (B), or (F) of
15 subsection (a)(4), by 1;

16 “(ii) subparagraph (D) of such sub-
17 section, by 2;

18 “(iii) subparagraph (E) of such sub-
19 section, by 12; and

20 “(iv) subparagraph (G) of such sub-
21 section, by the average number of birthed
22 animals (for one gestation cycle) for the
23 species of each such livestock, as deter-
24 mined by the Secretary.

1 “(D) UNBORN LIVESTOCK DEATH LOSSES
2 DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘unborn
3 livestock death losses’ means losses of any live-
4 stock described in subparagraph (A), (B), (D),
5 (E), (F), or (G) of subsection (a)(4) that was
6 gestating on the date of the death of the live-
7 stock.”.

8 (b) DETERMINATION OF LOSSES.—

9 (1) LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM.—In de-
10 termining livestock death losses in excess of the nor-
11 mal mortality for purposes of livestock indemnity
12 payments under section 1501(b) of the Agricultural
13 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(b)), the Secretary
14 shall—

15 (A) with respect to eligible animal attacks
16 by animals or avian predators treat documenta-
17 tion showing probability or confirmation of such
18 an attack as sufficient to qualify for a payment
19 under such program; and

20 (B) calculate normal mortality as the nu-
21 merical amount, computed by a percentage, as
22 established for the area by the Farm Service
23 Agency State Committee, of expected livestock
24 deaths by category (except that such amount
25 shall not include attacks by animals reintro-

1 duced into the wild by the Federal Government
2 or protected by Federal law, including wolves
3 and avian predators), that normally occur dur-
4 ing a calendar year for a producer.

5 (2) LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM.—In deter-
6 mining grazing losses for covered livestock under the
7 livestock forage program section under 1501(c) of
8 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(c)), the
9 Secretary shall provide eligible livestock producers
10 not less than 90 days after the calendar year in
11 which such grazing losses occurred to submit a com-
12 pleted application for assistance and the required
13 supporting documentation relating to such losses.

14 (3) REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—The Sec-
15 retary shall issue or revise regulations in accordance
16 with this section and the amendment made by this
17 section, including sections 1416.302 and 1416.305
18 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect
19 on the date of the enactment of this Act).

20 (c) CODIFICATION OF BOVINE WEIGHT CAT-
21 EGORIES.—For purposes of determining payments under
22 subsection (b) of section 1501 of the Agricultural Act of
23 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081) with respect to livestock described
24 in subsection (a)(4)(A) of such section, the Secretary shall
25 use the following:

1 (1) Weight categories of either less than 400
2 pounds or 400 pounds or more.

3 (2) Such other weight categories as the Sec-
4 retary determines appropriate, except that such
5 weight categories may only be set at an amount that
6 is greater than 400 pounds.

7 **SEC. 1502. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR HONEYBEES.**

8 In determining honeybee colony losses eligible for as-
9 sistance under section 1501(d) of the Agricultural Act of
10 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(d)), the Secretary shall review the
11 normal mortality rate used for the calculation of such as-
12 sistance and adjust such rate as necessary to not include
13 losses caused by colony collapse disorder, as determined
14 by the Secretary.

15 **SEC. 1503. TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

16 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1501(e)(1) of the Agri-
17 cultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(1)) is amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or bien-
19 nial” after “annual”; and

20 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or pest”
21 after “insect”.

22 (b) LOWERING MORTALITY THRESHOLD.—Section
23 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
24 9081(e)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “15 per-
2 cent (adjusted for normal mortality)” and inserting
3 “normal mortality”;

4 (2) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking “15 per-
5 cent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality)” and
6 inserting “normal mortality”; and

7 (3) in paragraph (3)(B)—

8 (A) by striking “50 percent” and inserting
9 “65 percent”; and

10 (B) by striking “15 percent damage or
11 mortality (adjusted for normal tree damage and
12 mortality)” and inserting “normal tree damage
13 or mortality”.

14 (c) ASSISTANCE.—Section 1501(e)(3) of the Agricul-
15 tural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(3)) is amended in
16 the matter before subparagraph (A) by striking “and (5)”
17 and inserting “, (5), and (6)”.

18 (d) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ASSIST-
19 ANCE.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014
20 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended by adding at the end the
21 following:

22 “(6) TIMING REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible or-
23 chardist or nursery tree grower shall agree, as a
24 condition on receipt of assistance under this sub-
25 section, to replant new trees and salvage existing

1 trees for which such assistance is provided not later
2 than—

3 “(A) 12 months after the application for
4 such assistance is approved; or

5 “(B) if the period specified in subpara-
6 graph (A) is not adequate for tree survival, at
7 such time as is necessary to ensure tree sur-
8 vival.

9 “(7) ALTERNATIVES USED IN REPLANTING.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist
11 or nursery tree grower receiving assistance
12 under this subsection with respect to tree loss
13 may use such assistance to replant using—

14 “(i) an alternative variety;

15 “(ii) an alternative stand density; and

16 “(iii) an alternative location.

17 “(B) LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO AL-
18 TERNATIVES.—The assistance provided by the
19 Secretary to eligible orchardists and nursery
20 tree growers for losses described in clauses (i),
21 (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (A), may not be
22 greater than the amount the eligible orchardist
23 or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligi-
24 ble orchardist or nursery tree grower planted
25 the variety or stand density lost or planted in

1 the location in which the loss occurred, as appli-
2 cable.”.

3 (e) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION STATUS.—Section
4 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
5 9801(e)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(8) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION STATUS.—
8 Not later than 120 days after receiving an applica-
9 tion for assistance under this subsection, the Sec-
10 retary shall—

11 “(A) approve or deny such application; and

12 “(B) notify the applicant of such approval
13 or denial.”.

14 **SEC. 1504. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E of the Agricultural Act
16 of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081 et seq.) is amended by adding
17 at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 1502. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case additional funds
20 made available after the date of the enactment of this sec-
21 tion for covered losses, the Secretary may make assistance
22 for such losses available in the form of block grants.

23 “(b) COVERED LOSSES.—In this section, the term
24 ‘covered losses’ means losses—

1 “(1) of revenue, quality, or production of crops,
2 trees, bushes, vines, poultry or livestock as a con-
3 sequence of a natural disaster (as determined by the
4 Secretary); and

5 “(2) for which assistance is not available pursu-
6 ant to any other Federal law.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
8 for the Agricultural Act of 2014 is amended by inserting
9 after the item relating to section 1501 the following:

 “1502. Assistance in the form of block grants.”.

10 **Subtitle F—Administration**

11 **SEC. 1601. SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT**

12 **AUTHORITY.**

13 Section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
14 U.S.C. 9092) is amended by striking “2023” each place
15 it appears and inserting “2029”.

16 **SEC. 1602. IMPLEMENTATION.**

17 Section 1614 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
18 U.S.C. 9097) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at
21 the end;

22 (B) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking the
23 period at the end and adding “; and”; and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(5) establish a system that provides producers
2 the option to repay a marketing assistance loan
3 under section 1204 during a lapse in appropriations
4 regardless of whether an employee of the Depart-
5 ment is on furlough.”; and

6 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 “(5) FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY
9 ACT OF 2024.—The Secretary shall make available to
10 the Farm Service Agency to carry out titles I and
11 XI of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
12 2024 and the amendments made by those titles
13 \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended, of
14 which—

15 “(A) \$15,000,000 shall be used to carry
16 out the mandatory cost surveys required by
17 paragraph (3) of section 273(d) of the Agricul-
18 tural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
19 1637b(d)), as added by the Farm, Food, and
20 National Security Act of 2024;

21 “(B) not less than \$5,000,000 shall be
22 used to carry out paragraphs (3), (4), and (5)
23 of subsection (b);

24 “(C) \$3,000,000 shall be used for activities
25 described in paragraph (3)(A); and

1 “(D) \$3,000,000 shall be used for activi-
2 ties described in paragraph (3)(B).”.

3 **SEC. 1603. EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN ENTITIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1001 of the Food Security
5 Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 “(6) QUALIFIED PASS THROUGH ENTITY.—The
9 term ‘qualified pass through entity’ means—

10 “(A) a partnership (within the meaning of
11 subchapter K of chapter 1 of the Internal Rev-
12 enue Code of 1986);

13 “(B) a limited liability company that does
14 not affirmatively elect to be treated as a cor-
15 poration;

16 “(C) an S corporation (as defined in sec-
17 tion 1361 of such Code); or

18 “(D) a joint venture or general partner-
19 ship.”; and

20 (2) in subsections (b) and (c), by striking “ex-
21 cept a joint venture or general partnership” each
22 place it appears and inserting “except a qualified
23 pass through entity”.

1 (b) ATTRIBUTION OF PAYMENTS.—Section
2 1001(e)(3)(B)(ii) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7
3 U.S.C. 1308(e)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—

4 (1) in the heading, by striking “JOINT VEN-
5 TURES AND GENERAL PARTNERSHIPS” and inserting
6 “QUALIFIED PASS THROUGH ENTITIES”;

7 (2) by striking “joint venture or a general part-
8 nership” and inserting “qualified pass through enti-
9 ty”;

10 (3) by striking “joint ventures and general
11 partnerships” and inserting “qualified pass through
12 entities”; and

13 (4) by striking “joint venture or general part-
14 nership” and inserting “qualified pass through enti-
15 ty”.

16 (c) EXCLUSION FROM AGI CALCULATION.—Section
17 1001D(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C.
18 1308–3a(d)) is amended by striking “, general partner-
19 ship, or joint venture” both places it appears.

20 **SEC. 1604. PAYMENT LIMITATION.**

21 Section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7
22 U.S.C. 1308) is further amended—

23 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “The” and in-
24 serting “Subject to subsection (i), the”;

1 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “The” and in-
2 serting “Subject to subsection (i), the”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(i) LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN OPERATIONS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the 2025
6 crop year, in the case of a person or legal entity (ex-
7 cept a qualified pass through entity) for which
8 greater than or equal to 75 percent of the average
9 adjusted gross income of such person or legal entity
10 derives from farming, ranching, or silviculture activi-
11 ties, subsections (b) and (c) shall apply by sub-
12 stituting ‘\$155,000’ for ‘\$125,000’ each place it ap-
13 pears.

14 “(2) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary shall annu-
15 ally adjust the amount substituted under paragraph
16 (1) for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index
17 for all urban consumers published by the Depart-
18 ment of Labor.

19 “(3) FARMING, RANCHING, OR SILVICULTURE
20 ACTIVITIES.—In this subsection, the term ‘farming,
21 ranching, or silviculture activities’ includes agri-tour-
22 ism, direct-to-consumer marketing of agricultural
23 products, the sale of agricultural equipment owned
24 by such person or legal entity, and other agricul-

1 tural-related activities, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary.”.

3 **SEC. 1605. ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATION.**

4 Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
5 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph
7 (3)” and inserting “paragraphs (3) and (4)”; and
8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(4) EXCEPTION.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an ex-
11 cepted payment or benefit, the limitation estab-
12 lished by paragraph (1) shall not apply to a
13 person or legal entity during a crop, fiscal, or
14 program year, as appropriate, if greater than or
15 equal to 75 percent of the average adjusted
16 gross income of the person or legal entity de-
17 rives from farming, ranching, or silviculture ac-
18 tivities (as described in section 1001(i)).

19 “(B) EXCEPTED PAYMENT OR BENEFIT.—
20 For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘ex-
21 cepted payment or benefit’ means—

22 “(i) a payment or benefit under sub-
23 title E of title I of the Agricultural Act of
24 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081 et seq.);

1 “(ii) a payment or benefit under sec-
2 tion 196 of the Federal Agriculture Im-
3 provement and Reform Act of 1996 (7
4 U.S.C. 7333); and

5 “(iii) beginning October 1, 2024, a
6 payment or benefit described in paragraph
7 (2)(C).”.

8 **SEC. 1606. STORAGE FACILITY LOANS.**

9 Section 1614(a) of the Food, Conservation, and En-
10 energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8789(a)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking “funds for producers” and in-
12 serting the following: “funds for—

13 “(1) producers”; and

14 (2) by striking the period at the end and insert-
15 ing “; and”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(2) producers to construct or upgrade storage
18 facilities for propane that is primarily used for agri-
19 cultural production (as such term is defined in sec-
20 tion 4279.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations
21 (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this
22 paragraph)).”.

1 **SEC. 1607. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION**
2 **SUPPLY CHAINS.**

3 Subtitle C of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014
4 (Public Law 113–79) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 1302. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUC-**
7 **TION SUPPLY CHAINS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any Federal pol-
9 icy that would impact the administration of this subtitle,
10 the amendments made by this subtitle, or any rule, policy,
11 or guidance issued pursuant to such subtitle or amend-
12 ments, the preservation and strengthening of the domestic
13 production described in subsection (b) shall be a priority
14 objective of the President.

15 “(b) DOMESTIC PRODUCTION DESCRIBED.—The do-
16 mestic production described in this subsection is the pro-
17 duction of an agricultural commodity—

18 “(1) covered under this subtitle or an amend-
19 ment made by this subtitle; and

20 “(2) from which a food ingredient that serves
21 an important function throughout the domestic food
22 production supply chain is derived.”.

23 **SEC. 1608. LIMITATION ON CCC AUTHORITY.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 5 of the
25 Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C.
26 714e), during fiscal years 2025 through 2034, the Com-

1 modify Credit Corporation is authorized to use its general
2 powers only to carry out operations as the Congress may
3 specifically authorize or provide for.

4 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
5 section (a) shall be construed to impact funds obligated
6 before the date of the enactment of this Act.

7 **TITLE II—CONSERVATION**

8 **Subtitle A—Definitions**

9 **SEC. 2001. DEFINITIONS.**

10 Section 1201(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985
11 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)) is amended—

12 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
13 striking “subtitles A through I:” and inserting “sub-
14 titles A through J:”;

15 (2) in paragraph (14), by striking “term ‘In-
16 dian tribe’ has the meaning given the term” and in-
17 serting “terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘Indian Tribe’ have
18 the meaning given those terms”;

19 (3) by redesignating paragraph (20) through
20 (27) as paragraphs (22) through (29), respectively;
21 and

22 (4) by inserting after paragraph (19) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(20) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term
25 ‘precision agriculture’ means managing, tracking, or

1 reducing crop or livestock production inputs, includ-
2 ing seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time,
3 at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granu-
4 larity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and
5 maintain environmental quality.

6 “(21) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECH-
7 NOLOGY.—The term ‘precision agriculture tech-
8 nology’ means any technology (including equipment
9 that is necessary for the deployment of such tech-
10 nology) that directly contributes to a reduction in, or
11 improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or live-
12 stock production, including—

13 “(A) Global Positioning System-based or
14 geospatial mapping technology;

15 “(B) satellite or aerial imagery technology;

16 “(C) yield monitors;

17 “(D) soil mapping technology;

18 “(E) sensors for gathering data on crop,
19 soil, or livestock conditions;

20 “(F) Internet of Things and telematics
21 technologies;

22 “(G) data management software and ad-
23 vanced analytics;

24 “(H) network connectivity products and
25 solutions;

1 “(I) Global Positioning System guidance or
2 auto-steer systems;

3 “(J) variable rate technology for applying
4 inputs, such as section control; and

5 “(K) any other technology, as determined
6 by the Secretary, that directly contributes to a
7 reduction in, or improved efficiency of, the use
8 of crop or livestock production inputs, which
9 may include seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals,
10 water, and time.”.

11 **Subtitle B—Conservation Reserve** 12 **Program**

13 **SEC. 2101. DEFINITIONS.**

14 Subchapter B of chapter 1 of title XII of the Food
15 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.) is amended
16 by inserting before section 1231 the following:

17 **“SEC. 1230. DEFINITIONS.**

18 “In this subchapter:

19 “(1) CONSERVATION BUFFER.—The term ‘con-
20 servation buffer’ means a practice that, once estab-
21 lished, provides a benefit to water quality or another
22 resource concern, including—

23 “(A) a grass sod waterway;

24 “(B) a contour grass sod strip;

25 “(C) a prairie strip;

1 “(D) a filterstrip;

2 “(E) a field border;

3 “(F) a living snow fence;

4 “(G) a riparian buffer;

5 “(H) a shelterbelt or windbreak;

6 “(I) a wetland or a wetland buffer (includ-
7 ing a buffer for prairie potholes, a playa, or a
8 pocosin);

9 “(J) a saturated buffer;

10 “(K) a bioreactor;

11 “(L) a wellhead protection area; and

12 “(M) other similar practices, as determined
13 by the Secretary.

14 “(2) CONSERVATION RESERVE PLAN.—The
15 term ‘conservation reserve plan’ means a plan for
16 land enrolled in the conservation reserve under a
17 contract entered into under this subchapter that—

18 “(A) covers the full term of the contract;

19 “(B) details the practices to be imple-
20 mented under the contract and a schedule for
21 establishment, evaluation, and monitoring of
22 the applicable vegetative cover;

23 “(C) prescribes and schedules management
24 to be conducted on the established cover
25 throughout the term of the contract;

1 “(D) sets forth the commercial use, if any,
2 to be permitted on the land during the term of
3 the contract; and

4 “(E) may be modified, with the approval of
5 the Secretary, when necessary to achieve the
6 purposes of the program.

7 “(3) CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—The
8 term ‘conservation reserve program’ means the con-
9 servation reserve program established under this
10 subchapter.

11 “(4) CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT OPTION.—The
12 term ‘continuous enrollment option’ means the con-
13 tinuous enrollment option offered under section
14 1231(d)(1)(B).

15 “(5) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term ‘eligible land’
16 means land that is authorized to be included in the
17 conservation reserve program under section 1231(b).

18 “(6) ELIGIBLE PARTNER.—The term ‘eligible
19 partner’ means—

20 “(A) a State;

21 “(B) a political subdivision of a State;

22 “(C) an Indian Tribe; or

23 “(D) a nongovernmental organization.

24 “(7) GENERAL ENROLLMENT OPTION.—The
25 term ‘general enrollment option’ means the general

1 enrollment option offered under section
2 1231(d)(1)(A).

3 “(8) GRASSLANDS ENROLLMENT OPTION.—The
4 term ‘grasslands enrollment option’ means the grass-
5 lands enrollment option offered under section
6 1231(d)(1)(C).

7 “(9) LAND CAPABILITY CLASS.—The term ‘land
8 capability class’ means a soil classification assigned
9 using the land capability classification system in ef-
10 fect on December 23, 1985.

11 “(10) PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES ENROLLMENT
12 OPTION.—The term ‘partnership initiatives enroll-
13 ment option’ means the partnership initiatives en-
14 rollment option offered under section
15 1231(d)(1)(D).”.

16 **SEC. 2102. CONSERVATION RESERVE.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1231(a) of the Food Se-
18 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(a)) is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Through the 2029 fiscal year,
21 the Secretary shall formulate and carry out a conservation
22 reserve program in each State, to the maximum extent
23 practicable, under which eligible land is enrolled in the
24 conservation reserve through the use of contracts to assist

1 owners and operators of such land with the establishment
2 and maintenance of permanent cover for the purposes of—

3 “(1) conserving and improving the soil, water,
4 and wildlife resources of such land; and

5 “(2) addressing resource concerns raised by
6 Tribal, State, regional, and national conservation
7 initiatives.”.

8 (b) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Section 1231(b) of the Food
9 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(b)) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 “(b) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary may include in
12 the conservation reserve program the following, in accord-
13 ance with subsection (d)(1):

14 “(1) Cropland that—

15 “(A)(i) on a field level, consists of not less
16 than 85 percent soils with a dryland cropland
17 land capability class of III through VII; or

18 “(ii) cannot be farmed in accordance with
19 a plan that complies with the requirements of
20 subtitle B; and

21 “(B) the Secretary determines had a crop-
22 ping history or was considered to be planted for
23 not fewer than 4 of the 6 years preceding the
24 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
25 tional Security Act of 2024.

1 “(2) Cropland (including prairie potholes,
2 playas, and pocosins within cropland), grasslands,
3 and marginal pasture land (including marginal
4 pastureland converted to wetland or established as
5 wildlife habitat) to be—

6 “(A) devoted to conservation buffers;

7 “(B) established to ecologically appropriate
8 vegetation, including trees, in or near riparian
9 areas, intermittent, seasonal, or perennial
10 streams, wetlands (including prairie potholes,
11 playas, and pocosins), or saline-impaired soils;
12 or

13 “(C) devoted to similar water quality or
14 wildlife habitat practices.

15 “(3) Grasslands that—

16 “(A) contain forbs or shrubland (including
17 improved rangeland and pastureland) for which
18 grazing is the predominant use;

19 “(B) are located in an area historically
20 dominated by grasslands; and

21 “(C) could provide habitat for animal and
22 plant populations of significant ecological value
23 if the land is retained in its current use or re-
24 stored to a natural condition.

1 “(4) Land described in paragraph (1), (2), or
2 (3) that will address significant water quality, water
3 conservation, and wildlife habitat concerns, as pro-
4 posed by an eligible partner and agreed to by the
5 Secretary for purposes of section 1231A.

6 “(5) The portion of land in a field not enrolled
7 in the conservation reserve in a case in which—

8 “(A) more than 50 percent of the land in
9 the field is enrolled as a buffer or filterstrip, or
10 more than 75 percent of the land in the field
11 is enrolled as a conservation practice other than
12 as a buffer or filterstrip; and

13 “(B) the Secretary determines that the re-
14 mainder of the field is infeasible to farm.”.

15 (c) PLANTING STATUS OF CERTAIN LAND.—Section
16 1231(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
17 3831(c)) is amended to read as follows:

18 “(c) PLANTING STATUS OF CERTAIN LAND.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of deter-
20 mining the eligibility of land to be enrolled in the
21 conservation reserve established under this sub-
22 chapter, land shall be considered to be planted to an
23 agricultural commodity during a crop year if, during
24 the crop year, the land was devoted to a conserving
25 use.

1 “(2) MULTI-YEAR GRASSES AND LEGUMES.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
3 subchapter, alfalfa and other multi-year grasses
4 and legumes in a rotation practice, approved by
5 the Secretary, shall be considered agricultural
6 commodities.

7 “(B) CROPPING HISTORY.—Alfalfa, when
8 grown as part of a rotation practice, as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary, is an agricultural com-
10 modity subject to the cropping history criteria
11 under subsection (b)(1)(B) for the purpose of
12 determining whether eligible cropland has been
13 planted or considered planted for 4 of the 6
14 years referred to in such subsection.”.

15 (d) ENROLLMENT.—Section 1231(d) of the Food Se-
16 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)) is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 “(d) ENROLLMENT.—

19 “(1) ENROLLMENT OPTIONS.—The Secretary
20 shall offer enrollment in the conservation reserve
21 under this subchapter through the following enroll-
22 ment options:

23 “(A) A general enrollment option, for eligi-
24 ble land described in subsection (b)(1).

1 “(B) A continuous enrollment option, for
2 eligible land described in subsection (b)(2) and
3 any associated eligible land described in sub-
4 section (b)(5).

5 “(C) A grassland enrollment option, for el-
6 igible land described in subsection (b)(3).

7 “(D) A partnership initiatives enrollment
8 option, for eligible land described in subsection
9 (b)(4), and any associated eligible land de-
10 scribed in subsection (b)(5), that is to be en-
11 rolled pursuant to an agreement entered into
12 under section 1231A(b).

13 “(2) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—

14 “(A) GENERAL ENROLLMENT OPTION.—In
15 enrolling eligible land under the general enroll-
16 ment option, the Secretary shall make the con-
17 servation reserve program available to owners
18 or operators of eligible land on an annual en-
19 rollment basis with one or more ranking peri-
20 ods.

21 “(B) CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT OP-
22 TION.—In enrolling eligible land under the con-
23 tinuous enrollment option, the Secretary shall
24 make the conservation reserve program avail-

1 able to owners or operators of eligible land on
2 a continuous basis.

3 “(C) GRASSLANDS ENROLLMENT OP-
4 TION.—In enrolling eligible land under the
5 grasslands enrollment option, the Secretary
6 shall make the conservation reserve program
7 available to owners or operators of eligible land
8 on an annual enrollment basis with one or more
9 ranking periods.

10 “(D) PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES ENROLL-
11 MENT OPTION.—In enrolling eligible land under
12 the partnership initiatives enrollment option,
13 the Secretary shall make the conservation re-
14 serve program available to owners or operators
15 of eligible land using the methods and processes
16 for enrollment described in the applicable agree-
17 ment under section 1231A(b)(2)(A).

18 “(3) MAXIMUM ACREAGE ENROLLED.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
20 maintain in the conservation reserve at any one
21 time during fiscal years 2025 through 2029 not
22 more than 27,000,000 acres.

23 “(B) GRASSLANDS.—For purposes of ap-
24 plying the limitations in subparagraph (A)—

1 “(i) the Secretary shall enroll and
2 maintain in the conservation reserve not
3 fewer than 8,000,000 acres of the land de-
4 scribed in subsection (b)(3) by September
5 30, 2029; and

6 “(ii) in carrying out clause (i), to the
7 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary
8 shall maintain in the conservation reserve
9 at any one time during—

10 “(I) fiscal year 2025, 6,000,000
11 acres;

12 “(II) fiscal year 2026, 7,000,000
13 acres; and

14 “(III) fiscal years 2027 through
15 2029, 8,000,000 acres.”.

16 (e) TERM OF CONTRACT.—Section 1231(e) of the
17 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(e)) is amend-
18 ed to read as follows:

19 “(e) TERM OF CONTRACT.—The term of a contract
20 under this subchapter shall be—

21 “(1) 10 years for a contract entered into pursu-
22 ant to the general enrollment option or the grass-
23 lands enrollment option;

24 “(2) not fewer than 10 years nor more than 15
25 years, as determined by the Secretary, for a contract

1 entered into pursuant to the continuous enrollment
2 option or the partnership initiatives enrollment op-
3 tion; and

4 “(3) notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2),
5 upon request of the owner or operator of eligible
6 land, not fewer than 10 years nor more than 30
7 years, as determined by the Secretary, for a contract
8 to enroll eligible land devoted to conservation buffers
9 that improve water quality by reducing sediment
10 loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal
11 blooms.”.

12 (f) CONSERVATION PRIORITY AREAS.—Section
13 1231(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
14 3831(f)) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

15 (g) REENROLLMENT; PROVISIONS FOR LAND ESTAB-
16 LISHED TO TREES.—Section 1231 of the Food Security
17 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831) is amended by striking sub-
18 sections (g) through (i) and inserting the following:

19 “(g) REENROLLMENT.—

20 “(1) ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION.—Dur-
21 ing the final year of the term of a contract entered
22 into under this subchapter, the land subject to the
23 contract shall be eligible to be considered for re-
24 enrollment in the conservation reserve in accordance
25 with paragraph (2).

1 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—The eligibility of land for
2 reenrollment in the conservation reserve shall be
3 subject to the land meeting the applicable require-
4 ments of subsection (b).

5 “(h) PROVISIONS FOR LAND ESTABLISHED TO
6 TREES.—

7 “(1) RESTRICTED TREES.—In this subsection,
8 the term ‘restricted tree’ means a pine tree, other
9 than a shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) or a longleaf
10 pine (*Pinus palustris*).

11 “(2) REENROLLMENT.—

12 “(A) PROHIBITION FOR RESTRICTED
13 TREES.—Notwithstanding subsection (g), land
14 subject to a contract entered into under this
15 subchapter that is established predominately to
16 restricted trees is not eligible to be considered
17 for reenrollment in the conservation reserve.

18 “(B) LIMITATION ON OTHER TREES.—
19 Notwithstanding subsection (g), land subject to
20 a contract entered into under this subchapter
21 that is established predominately to trees that
22 are not restricted trees is eligible to be consid-
23 ered for reenrollment in the conservation re-
24 serve in accordance with such subsection only if
25 the land—

1 “(i) is devoted to shelterbelts, riparian
2 forest buffers, or trees of high conservation
3 value, as determined by the Secretary; or

4 “(ii) consists of forested wetlands.

5 “(3) SUBSEQUENT ENROLLMENT.—Land that
6 has previously been subject to a contract entered
7 into under this subchapter, and which was estab-
8 lished predominately to restricted trees during the
9 term of such contract, may be subsequently enrolled
10 in the conservation reserve in accordance with sub-
11 section (d) only if—

12 “(A) the restricted trees have been har-
13 vested; and

14 “(B) the new enrollment is for establish-
15 ment of a permanent cover other than re-
16 stricted trees.”.

17 **SEC. 2103. PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES.**

18 (a) PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES.—Section 1231A of
19 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a) is
20 amended in the header by striking “**CONSERVATION RE-**
21 **SERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**” and inserting
22 “**PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES**”.

23 (b) IN GENERAL.—Section 1231A(a) of the Food Se-
24 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a(a)) is amended to
25 read as follows:

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish the
2 conservation reserve enhancement program and the State
3 acres for wildlife enhancement program under this sub-
4 chapter in order to leverage Federal and non-Federal
5 funds to—

6 “(1) target specific State, regional, or nation-
7 ally significant conservation concerns; and

8 “(2) restore critical wildlife habitat.”.

9 (c) AGREEMENTS.—Section 1231A(b) of the Food
10 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a(b)) is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 “(b) AGREEMENTS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
14 into or modify an agreement with an eligible partner
15 to carry out the conservation reserve enhancement
16 program or the State acres for wildlife enhancement
17 program, within a defined geographic area—

18 “(A) to assist in enrolling eligible land in
19 the conservation reserve under this subchapter;
20 and

21 “(B) that the Secretary determines will ad-
22 vance the purposes of this subchapter.

23 “(2) CONTENTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An agreement entered
2 into or modified under paragraph (1) shall de-
3 scribe—

4 “(i) 1 or more specific State or na-
5 tionally significant resource concerns to be
6 addressed by the agreement;

7 “(ii) quantifiable environmental goals
8 for addressing the concerns under clause
9 (i);

10 “(iii) a suitable acreage goal for en-
11 rollment of eligible land under the agree-
12 ment, as determined by the Secretary;

13 “(iv) the location of eligible land to be
14 enrolled in the project area identified
15 under the agreement;

16 “(v) the payments to be offered by the
17 Secretary and eligible partner to an owner
18 or operator;

19 “(vi) an appropriate list of conserva-
20 tion reserve program conservation practices
21 that are appropriate to meeting the con-
22 cerns described under clause (i), as deter-
23 mined by the Secretary in consultation
24 with eligible partners; and

1 “(vii) methods and processes for en-
2 rollment of eligible land under the agree-
3 ment, as determined by the Secretary in
4 consultation with the eligible partner.

5 “(B) CREP MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—
6 An agreement entered into or modified under
7 paragraph (1) to carry out the conservation re-
8 serve enhancement program shall—

9 “(i) subject to clause (ii), require the
10 eligible partner to provide matching
11 funds—

12 “(I) in an amount determined
13 during a negotiation between the Sec-
14 retary and 1 or more eligible partners,
15 if the majority of the matching funds
16 to carry out the agreement are pro-
17 vided by 1 or more eligible partners
18 that are not nongovernmental organi-
19 zations; or

20 “(II) in an amount not less than
21 30 percent of the cost required to
22 carry out the conservation measures
23 and practices described in the agree-
24 ment, if a majority of the matching
25 funds to carry out the agreement are

1 provided by 1 or more nongovern-
2 mental organizations; and

3 “(ii) include procedures to allow for a
4 temporary waiver of the matching require-
5 ments under clause (i), or continued enroll-
6 ment with a temporary suspension of in-
7 centives or eligible partner contributions
8 for new agreements, during a period when
9 an eligible partner loses the authority or
10 ability to provide matching contributions,
11 if the Secretary determines that the tem-
12 porary waiver or continued enrollment with
13 a temporary suspension will advance the
14 purposes of this subchapter.”.

15 (d) PAYMENTS.—Section 1231A(c) of the Food Secu-
16 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a(c)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “under a
18 CREP” and inserting “under a contract entered into
19 pursuant to an agreement under this section”;

20 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “under a
21 CREP” each place it appears and inserting “under
22 a contract entered into pursuant to an agreement
23 under this section”;

24 (3) in paragraph (4)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “re-
2 serve” after “consistent with the conservation”;
3 and

4 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “The
5 amount of payments received by” and inserting
6 “The amount of payments made by the Sec-
7 retary to”.

8 (e) FORESTED RIPARIAN BUFFER PRACTICE.—Sec-
9 tion 1231A(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
10 U.S.C. 3831a(d)) is amended to read as follows:

11 “(d) FORESTED RIPARIAN BUFFER PRACTICE.—In
12 the case of an agreement under subsection (b)(1) that in-
13 cludes forested riparian buffers as an eligible practice, the
14 Secretary shall allow an owner or operator—

15 “(1) to plant food-producing woody plants in
16 the forested riparian buffers, on the conditions
17 that—

18 “(A) the plants shall contribute to the con-
19 servation of soil, water quality, and wildlife
20 habitat; and

21 “(B) the planting shall be consistent
22 with—

23 “(i) recommendations of the applica-
24 ble State technical committee established
25 under section 1261(a); and

1 “(ii) technical guide standards ap-
2 proved by the Natural Resources Conserva-
3 tion Service; and

4 “(2) to harvest from plants described in para-
5 graph (1), on the conditions that—

6 “(A) the harvesting shall not damage the
7 conserving cover or otherwise have a negative
8 impact on the conservation concerns targeted by
9 the agreement;

10 “(B) only native plant species appropriate
11 to the region shall be used within 35 feet of the
12 watercourse; and

13 “(C) the producer shall be subject to a re-
14 duction in the rental rate commensurate to the
15 value of the crop harvested.”.

16 (f) DROUGHT AND WATER CONSERVATION AGREE-
17 MENTS.—Section 1231A(e) of the Food Security Act of
18 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a(e)) is amended—

19 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
20 striking “In the case of an agreement under sub-
21 section (b)(1) to address regional drought concerns,
22 in accordance with the conservation purposes of the
23 CREP” and inserting “In the case of an agreement
24 under the conservation reserve enhancement pro-
25 gram to address regional drought concerns, in ac-

1 cordance with the conservation purposes of the
2 agreement”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “notwith-
4 standing subsection (a)(2)” and inserting “notwith-
5 standing section 1230(4)”.

6 (g) STATUS REPORT.—Section 1231A of the Food
7 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a) is amended by
8 striking subsection (f).

9 **SEC. 2104. DUTIES OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS.**

10 Section 1232 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
11 U.S.C. 3832) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “a plan”
14 and inserting “a conservation reserve plan”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “highly
16 erodible cropland” and inserting “eligible land”;

17 (C) in paragraph (5)—

18 (i) by striking “undertake” and in-
19 serting “conduct”; and

20 (ii) by striking “conservation plan”
21 and inserting “conservation reserve plan”;

22 and

23 (D) in paragraph (7), by inserting “con-
24 servation reserve” before “program”; and

1 (2) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating
2 subsection (c) as subsection (b).

3 **SEC. 2105. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

4 (a) **COST-SHARE AND RENTAL PAYMENTS.**—Section
5 1233(a)(2)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3833(a)(2)(A)) by striking “highly erodible crop-
7 land, marginal pastureland, or other eligible lands” and
8 inserting “eligible land”.

9 (b) **SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES PERMITTED.**—Section
10 1233(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
11 3833(b)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)—

13 (A) in subclause (I)(cc), by inserting “con-
14 servation reserve” before “program”;

15 (B) in subclause (II), by striking “if pay-
16 ments are authorized for a county under the
17 livestock forage disaster program under clause
18 (ii) of section 1501(c)(3)(D) of the Agricultural
19 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(c)(3)(D))” and in-
20 serting “if an owner or operator has received a
21 payment under the livestock forage disaster
22 program under clause (ii) of section
23 1501(c)(3)(D) of the Agricultural Act of 2014
24 (7 U.S.C. 9081(c)(3)(D)) in the fiscal year dur-

1 ing which the emergency grazing is conducted”;
2 and

3 (C) in subclause (V), by striking “under
4 paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 1231(b)” and
5 inserting “under a contract entered into pursu-
6 ant to the continuous enrollment option or the
7 partnership initiatives enrollment option”; and
8 (2) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii)—

9 (A) by amending subclause (I) to read as
10 follows:

11 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
12 provided in subclause (II), haying or
13 grazing described in paragraph (1)
14 shall not be permitted on land covered
15 by a contract entered into pursuant to
16 the partnership initiatives enrollment
17 option.”; and

18 (B) in subclause (II), by striking “con-
19 servation reserve enhancement program agree-
20 ment or other partnership agreement entered
21 into under this subchapter” and inserting
22 “agreement entered into under section 1231A”.

23 (c) RESOURCE CONSERVING USE.—Section 1233(d)
24 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3833(d))—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Beginning on
2 the date that is 1 year before the date of termi-
3 nation of a contract under the program” and insert-
4 ing “During the final year of the term of a contract
5 entered into under this subchapter”;

6 (2) in paragraph (2)—

7 (A) in the heading, by striking “CON-
8 SERVATION PLAN” and inserting “CONSERVA-
9 TION RESERVE PLAN”; and

10 (B) by striking “a conservation plan” and
11 inserting “a conservation reserve plan”; and

12 (3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(3) LIMITATION.—Land improved under para-
15 graph (1)—

16 “(A) shall not be eligible to be considered
17 for reenrollment in the conservation reserve
18 under section 1231(g), notwithstanding para-
19 graph (1) of such section; and

20 “(B) may not be subsequently enrolled in
21 the conservation reserve before the date that is
22 5 years after the date of expiration of the con-
23 tract.”.

24 (d) NATURAL DISASTER OR ADVERSE WEATHER AS
25 MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT.—Section 1233(e) of the

1 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3833(e)) is amend-
2 ed by inserting “reserve” after “conservation”.

3 (e) ALLOCATION TO STATES.—Section 1233 of the
4 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3833) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 “(f) ALLOCATION TO STATES.—The Secretary shall
7 allocate acres to States for enrollment of eligible land in
8 the conservation reserve under this subchapter, based—

9 “(1) primarily on the proportion of eligible land
10 in each State relative to the total acreage of eligible
11 land in all States; and

12 “(2) also on consideration of—

13 “(A) historical State enrollment rates;

14 “(B) the extent and magnitude in each
15 State of the conservation needs and of the im-
16 pact of agricultural production on water qual-
17 ity, water quantity, wetlands, and wildlife habi-
18 tat;

19 “(C) the degree to which implementation
20 of the conservation reserve program in each
21 State is, or will be, effective in helping pro-
22 ducers address such needs and mitigate such
23 impact; and

24 “(D) equitable geographic distribution of
25 acres, as determined by the Secretary.”.

1 **SEC. 2106. PAYMENTS.**

2 (a) **COST SHARING PAYMENTS.**—Section 1234(b) of
3 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(b)) is
4 amended—

5 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
6 lows:

7 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In making cost sharing
8 payments to an owner or operator under a contract
9 entered into under this subchapter, the Secretary
10 shall pay 50 percent of the cost of, as the Secretary
11 determines appropriate and in the public interest—

12 “(A) establishing permanent vegetation, in-
13 cluding site preparation, cover, fertilizer, seed-
14 ing, and planting;

15 “(B) carrying out erosion control practices
16 necessary to stabilize the site for vegetation es-
17 tablished under subparagraph (A);

18 “(C) installing fencing to protect riparian
19 areas and buffers;

20 “(D) carrying out water development prac-
21 tices associated with excluding livestock from
22 protected riparian areas;

23 “(E) installing fencing and carrying out
24 water development practices to facilitate transi-
25 tion to livestock grazing on lands enrolled under
26 the grasslands enrollment option;

1 “(F) conducting the necessary and appro-
2 priate mid-contract management activities to
3 maintain the permanent cover and associated
4 benefits; and

5 “(G) carrying out other water quality con-
6 servation measures and practices.”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (i) in the heading, by inserting “OR
10 HAYING” after “GRAZING”; and

11 (ii) by inserting “for grazing livestock
12 or harvesting hay” before “pursuant to”;
13 and

14 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
15 “made by the Secretary” before “under this
16 subchapter”;

17 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “the conserva-
18 tion reserve enhancement program under section
19 1231A” and inserting “section 1231A”; and

20 (4) by striking paragraph (4).

21 (b) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—Section 1234(c) of the
22 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(c)) is amend-
23 ed to read as follows:

24 “(c) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

1 “(1) PRACTICE INCENTIVES FOR CONTINUOUS
2 PRACTICES.—In addition to the cost sharing pay-
3 ment described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall
4 make a practice incentive payment to an owner or
5 operator of eligible land enrolled under the contin-
6 uous enrollment option, or of eligible land described
7 in section 1231(b)(2) (and any associated eligible
8 land described in section 1231(b)(5)) and enrolled
9 under the partnership initiatives enrollment option,
10 in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the actual
11 cost of establishing all measures and practices de-
12 scribed in subsection (b)(1), including seed costs re-
13 lated to the establishment of cover, as determined by
14 the Secretary.

15 “(2) SIGN-UP INCENTIVES FOR QUALIFYING
16 PRACTICES.—

17 “(A) AUTHORIZATION.—In addition to the
18 annual rental payment under subsection (d),
19 the Secretary may make an incentive payment
20 to an owner or operator for enrolling environ-
21 mentally sensitive eligible land in the conserva-
22 tion reserve to implement or establish a quali-
23 fying practice.

24 “(B) PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall—

1 “(i) for purposes of subparagraph (A),
2 establish an incentive payment amount for
3 each contract with an owner or operator
4 that does not exceed 50 percent of the first
5 annual rental payment made to the owner
6 or operator under subsection (d) for the el-
7 igible land; and

8 “(ii) make any incentive payment
9 under subparagraph (A) concurrent with
10 such first annual rental payment.

11 “(C) QUALIFYING PRACTICE.—In this
12 paragraph, the term ‘qualifying practice’ means
13 a practice the implementation or establishment
14 of which is appropriate to encourage on envi-
15 ronmentally sensitive eligible land—

16 “(i) as determined by the Secretary,
17 in consultation with the applicable State
18 technical committee, for environmentally
19 sensitive eligible land enrolled under the
20 continuous enrollment option; or

21 “(ii) as identified in an agreement
22 under section 1231A, for environmentally
23 sensitive eligible land enrolled pursuant to
24 such agreement.

1 “(3) FOREST MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE PAY-
2 MENTS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made
4 available under section 1241(a)(1)(A), the Sec-
5 retary may make incentive payments to an
6 owner or operator of eligible land in an amount
7 sufficient to encourage proper thinning and
8 other practices to improve the condition of re-
9 sources, promote forest management, or en-
10 hance wildlife habitat on the land.

11 “(B) LIMITATION.—A payment described
12 in subparagraph (A) may not exceed 100 per-
13 cent of the total cost of thinning and other
14 practices conducted by the owner or operator.

15 “(C) REDUCTION.—The Secretary shall re-
16 duce the amount of a payment under subpara-
17 graph (A) by an amount that is equal to any
18 income received by the owner or operator as a
19 result of the thinning or other practice, as de-
20 termined by the Secretary.”.

21 (c) ANNUAL RENTAL PAYMENTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1234(d)(1) of the
23 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(d)(1))
24 is amended—

1 (A) by striking “highly erodible cropland
2 or other eligible lands” each place it appears
3 and inserting “eligible land”; and

4 (B) by striking “the program established
5 by this subchapter” and inserting “the con-
6 servation reserve program”.

7 (2) METHODS OF DETERMINATION.—Section
8 1234(d)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
9 U.S.C. 3834(d)(2)) is amended—

10 (A) by amending subparagraph (B) to read
11 as follows:

12 “(B) MULTIPLE ENROLLMENTS.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
14 subparagraph (A), if land subject to a con-
15 tract entered into under this subchapter is
16 reenrolled pursuant to section 1231(g), the
17 annual rental payment shall be in an
18 amount that is not more than the applica-
19 ble percentage of the relevant county aver-
20 age soil rental rate for the year in which
21 the reenrollment occurs (as determined
22 under paragraph (4)(E)).

23 “(ii) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For
24 purposes of clause (i), the applicable per-
25 centage shall be—

1 “(I) for the first reenrollment
2 that occurs after the date of enact-
3 ment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
4 tional Security Act of 2024, 85 per-
5 cent; and

6 “(II) for each subsequent re-
7 enrollment, the percentage that is 10
8 percentage points less than the per-
9 centage that was applicable to the
10 preceding reenrollment.

11 “(iii) PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES.—
12 The limitations on annual rental payments
13 under clauses (i) and (ii) may be waived or
14 modified as part of the negotiation between
15 the Secretary and an eligible partner to
16 enter into an agreement under section
17 1231A.”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “sub-
19 paragraph (A)” and inserting “subparagraphs
20 (A) and (B)”;

21 (C) by striking subparagraph (D).

22 (3) ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—Sec-
23 tion 1234(d)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985
24 (16 U.S.C. 3834(d)(3)) is amended—

1 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
2 as follows:

3 “(A) NATURAL RESOURCE CONSIDER-
4 ATIONS.—In determining the acceptability of
5 contract offers, the Secretary shall—

6 “(i) with the advice of the applicable
7 State technical committee, take into con-
8 sideration the extent to which enrollment
9 of the land that is the subject of the con-
10 tract offer would improve soil resources,
11 water quality, or wildlife habitat or provide
12 other environmental benefits; and

13 “(ii) ensure, to the maximum extent
14 practicable, an equitable balance among
15 the conservation purposes of soil erosion,
16 water quality, and wildlife habitat.”;

17 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read
18 as follows:

19 “(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF DIFFERENT CRI-
20 TERIA IN VARIOUS STATES.—The Secretary,
21 with the advice of the applicable State technical
22 committee, shall establish different criteria for
23 determining the acceptability of contract offers
24 in various States based on the extent to which

1 water quality or wildlife habitat may be im-
2 proved or erosion may be abated.”;

3 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
4 subparagraph (E); and

5 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
6 the following:

7 “(C) CONSERVATION PRIORITY AREAS.—In
8 carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary
9 shall, to the extent practicable, maximize water
10 quality and habitat benefits in conservation pri-
11 ority areas designated under section 1231(f) by
12 promoting a significant level of enrollment of
13 land within such areas in the conservation re-
14 serve by—

15 “(i) giving additional weight to appli-
16 cations for the enrollment of land within
17 such areas that will maximize water qual-
18 ity and habitat benefits;

19 “(ii) holding a signup and enrollment
20 under the general enrollment option and
21 the grasslands enrollment option specific to
22 the designated areas; or

23 “(iii) whatever other means the Sec-
24 retary determines are appropriate and con-

1 sistent with the purposes of this sub-
2 chapter.

3 “(D) TRANSITION TO GRASSLAND USE.—

4 In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary,
5 in consultation with the applicable State tech-
6 nical committee, shall give priority to contract
7 offers for enrollment under the grasslands en-
8 rollment option for eligible land—

9 “(i) that has previously been enrolled
10 under the general enrollment option, the
11 continuous enrollment option, or the part-
12 nership initiatives enrollment option;

13 “(ii) with established cover that sup-
14 ports conservation objectives for a con-
15 servation priority area designated under
16 section 1231(f); and

17 “(iii) enrollment of which under the
18 grasslands enrollment option will extend
19 the protection of the established cover as
20 an alternative to cropping.”.

21 (4) RENTAL RATES.—Section 1234(d)(4) of the
22 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(d)(4))
23 is amended—

24 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “as a
25 factor”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

2 (i) in the header, by striking “FSA OF-
3 FICES AND CREP” and inserting “OFFICES
4 AND”;

5 (ii) by amending clause (i) to read as
6 follows:

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
8 shall, prior to finalizing a new soil rental
9 rate, provide a period of not fewer than 60
10 days for the County Operating Committees
11 of the Farm Service Agency, State Com-
12 mittees of the Farm Service Agency, State
13 conservationists, conservation districts,
14 State technical committees established
15 under section 1261(a), and eligible part-
16 ners to review such rate and concur or pro-
17 pose an alternative soil rental rate, on the
18 condition that documentation described in
19 clause (ii) is provided to support the pro-
20 posed alternative.”;

21 (iii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
22 clause (iv); and

23 (iv) by inserting after clause (ii) the
24 following:

1 “(iii) ACCEPTANCE OF ALTERNATIVE
2 RATES.—The Secretary shall accept and fi-
3 nalize an alternative soil rental rate pro-
4 posed in accordance with clause (i) unless
5 the Secretary finds that such alternative
6 rate is not appropriate, and publishes such
7 finding on a publicly accessible website, in-
8 cluding a justification for such finding.”;
9 and

10 (C) by amending subparagraph (E) to read
11 as follows:

12 “(E) RENTAL RATE LIMITATION.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The county aver-
14 age soil rental rate (before any adjust-
15 ments relating to specific practices, well-
16 head protection, or soil productivity) shall
17 not exceed—

18 “(I) for eligible land consisting of
19 soils with a dryland cropland land ca-
20 pability class of I or II that is enrolled
21 under the general enrollment option,
22 85 percent of the estimated rental
23 rate determined under this paragraph;

24 “(II) for eligible land consisting
25 of soils with a dryland cropland land

1 capability class of III that is enrolled
2 under the general enrollment option,
3 100 percent of the estimated rental
4 rate determined under this paragraph;

5 “(III) for eligible land consisting
6 of soils with a dryland cropland land
7 capability class of IV through VII
8 that is enrolled under the general en-
9 rollment option, 115 percent of the es-
10 timated rental rate determined under
11 this paragraph; and

12 “(IV) for eligible land enrolled
13 under the continuous enrollment op-
14 tion, 100 percent of the estimated
15 rental rate determined under this
16 paragraph, without regard to the land
17 capability class of the soil.

18 “(ii) PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES.—
19 For eligible land enrolled under the part-
20 nership initiatives enrollment option, the
21 county average soil rental rate (before any
22 adjustments relating to specific practices,
23 wellhead protection, or soil productivity)
24 shall not exceed—

1 “(I) for eligible land consisting of
2 soils with a dryland cropland land ca-
3 pability class of I or II, 85 percent of
4 the estimated rental rate determined
5 under this paragraph;

6 “(II) for eligible land consisting
7 of soils with a dryland cropland land
8 capability class of III, 100 percent of
9 the estimated rental rate determined
10 under this paragraph;

11 “(III) for eligible land consisting
12 of soils with a dryland cropland land
13 capability class of IV through VII,
14 115 percent of the estimated rental
15 rate determined under this paragraph;
16 and

17 “(IV) for eligible land that would
18 otherwise be enrolled under the con-
19 tinuous enrollment option, 100 per-
20 cent of the estimated rental rate de-
21 termined under this paragraph, with-
22 out regard to the land capability class
23 of the soil.”.

24 (d) PAYMENT SCHEDULE.—Section 1234(e)(2) of the
25 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(e)(2)) is

1 amended by striking “Payments” and inserting “As the
2 Secretary determines appropriate, payments”.

3 (e) PAYMENT LIMITATION FOR RENTAL PAY-
4 MENTS.—Section 1234(g)(1) of the Food Security Act of
5 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(g)(1)) is amended by striking
6 “\$50,000” and inserting “\$125,000”.

7 **SEC. 2107. CONTRACTS.**

8 (a) OWNERSHIP OR OPERATION REQUIREMENTS.—
9 Section 1235(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
10 U.S.C. 3835(a)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “placing
12 the land in the program established by” and insert-
13 ing “enrolling the land in the conservation reserve
14 under”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “agree-
16 ment” each place it appears and inserting “con-
17 tract”.

18 (b) SALES OR TRANSFERS.—Section 1235(b)(3) of
19 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3835(b)(3))
20 is amended by striking “program established by this sub-
21 chapter” and inserting “conservation reserve program”.

22 (c) EARLY TERMINATION BY OWNER OR OPER-
23 ATOR.—

24 (1) EARLY TERMINATION.—Section
25 1235(e)(1)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16

1 U.S.C. 3835(e)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “Dur-
2 ing fiscal year 2015, the” and inserting “The”.

3 (2) CERTAIN LAND EXCEPTED.—Section
4 1235(e)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
5 U.S.C. 3835(e)(2)) is amended—

6 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
7 “Filterstrips, waterways, strips adjacent to ri-
8 parian areas, windbreaks, and shelterbelts” and
9 inserting “Conservation buffers”;

10 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “an
11 erodibility index of more than 15” and inserting
12 “a dryland cropland land capability class of VI
13 through VII”;

14 (C) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “,
15 longleaf pine, or shortleaf pine” before “trees”;

16 (D) in subparagraph (D), by striking
17 “State acres for wildlife enhancement,”; and

18 (E) in subparagraph (J), by striking
19 “under the conservation reserve enhancement
20 program” and inserting “pursuant to section
21 1231A”.

22 (3) PRORATED COST RECOVERY.—Section
23 1235(e)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
24 U.S.C. 3835(e)(4)) is amended—

1 (A) in the heading, by striking “PRO-
2 RATED RENTAL PAYMENT” and inserting “PRO-
3 RATIONS”;

4 (B) by striking “If a contract” and insert-
5 ing the following:

6 “(A) PRORATED RENTAL PAYMENT.—If a
7 contract”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(B) PRORATED COST RECOVERY.—If a
10 contract entered into under this subchapter is
11 terminated under this subsection before the end
12 of the contract term, the Secretary shall require
13 repayment of the portion of the cost sharing
14 payments received that is proportional to the
15 percentage of the years remaining in the con-
16 tract term on the date of the termination.”.

17 (4) RENEWED ENROLLMENT.—Section
18 1235(e)(5) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
19 U.S.C. 3835(e)(5)) is amended—

20 (A) in the heading, by striking “RE-
21 NEWED” and inserting “SUBSEQUENT”; and

22 (B) by striking “a subsequent bid to enroll
23 the land” and inserting “an application for sub-
24 sequent enrollment of the land”.

1 (d) TRANSITION OPTION FOR CERTAIN FARMERS OR
2 RANCHERS.—

3 (1) TRANSITION TO COVERED FARMER OR
4 RANCHER.—Section 1235(f)(1)(C) of the Food Secu-
5 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3835(f)(1)(C)) is
6 amended by inserting “reserve” after “conserva-
7 tion”.

8 (2) REENROLLMENT.—Section 1235(f)(2) of
9 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
10 3835(f)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

11 “(2) REENROLLMENT.—To the extent that the
12 maximum number of acres permitted to be enrolled
13 under the conservation reserve program has not been
14 met, the Secretary shall approve the first reenroll-
15 ment requested by a covered farmer or rancher pur-
16 suant to section 1231(g), subject to the require-
17 ments of such section.”.

18 (e) DROUGHT AND EMERGENCY GRAZING ASSIST-
19 ANCE.—Section 1235 of the Food Security Act of 1985
20 (16 U.S.C. 3835) is further amended by adding at the
21 end the following:

22 “(i) DROUGHT AND EMERGENCY GRAZING ASSIST-
23 ANCE.—The Secretary may allow an owner or operator to
24 receive emergency cost-share assistance for livestock water
25 facilities and grazing infrastructure through the emer-

1 gency conservation program, authorized by section 402 of
2 the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2202),
3 with respect to land enrolled in the conservation reserve,
4 except that the Secretary shall ensure that there is no pay-
5 ment from the conservation reserve program for the same
6 assistance.”.

7 **Subtitle C—Environmental Quality** 8 **Incentives Program**

9 **SEC. 2201. DEFINITIONS.**

10 Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the Food Security Act of
11 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by in-
12 serting “(including the adoption of precision agriculture
13 practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-
14 nology)” after “planning”.

15 **SEC. 2202. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 1240B(a) of the
17 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(a)) is
18 amended by striking “2031” and inserting “2029”.

19 (b) PAYMENTS.—

20 (1) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6)
21 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
22 3839aa–2(d)(6)) is amended—

23 (A) by striking “A producer shall” and in-
24 serting the following:

1 “(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—

2 A producer shall”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN

5 GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiv-
7 ing payments for practices on eligible land
8 under the program may also receive a loan
9 or loan guarantee under section 304 of the
10 Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
11 ment Act to cover costs for the same prac-
12 tices on the same land.

13 “(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The
14 Secretary shall inform a producer partici-
15 pating in the program in writing that they
16 may apply to receive a loan or loan guar-
17 antee under section 304 of the Consoli-
18 dated Farm and Rural Development Act as
19 it relates to costs of implementing prac-
20 tices under this program.”.

21 (2) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR HIGH-PRIORITY
22 PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d)(7) of the Food Se-
23 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(7)) is
24 amended—

1 (A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting
2 “STATE-DETERMINED” before “HIGH-PRI-
3 ORITY”; and

4 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

5 (i) in clause (iii), by striking “or” at
6 the end;

7 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking the pe-
8 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

9 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(v) increases carbon sequestration or
12 reduces greenhouse gas emissions, includ-
13 ing emissions of methane and nitrous
14 oxide.”.

15 (3) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-
16 RICULTURE.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Secu-
17 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amend-
18 ed by adding at the end the following:

19 “(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-
20 RICULTURE PRACTICES.—Notwithstanding para-
21 graph (2), the Secretary may increase the amount
22 that would otherwise be provided for a practice
23 under this subsection to not more than 90 percent
24 of the costs associated with adopting precision agri-
25 culture practices and acquiring precision agriculture

1 technology for the purpose of implementing con-
2 servation practices.”.

3 (c) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1240B(f) of
4 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(f))
5 is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and
7 inserting “2029”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

9 (A) in the heading, by striking “2031” and
10 inserting “2029”; and

11 (B) by striking “2031” and inserting
12 “2029”.

13 (d) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFI-
14 CIENCY PRACTICE.—Section 1240B(h)(1) is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and
16 inserting a semicolon;

17 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period
18 and inserting “; or”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(D) the adoption of precision agriculture
21 practices or the acquisition of precision agri-
22 culture technology to achieve water conservation
23 and energy efficiency.”.

24 (e) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICE RE-
25 LATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section

1 1240B(i)(3)(A)(ii) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
2 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking
3 “2019 through 2023, \$140,000” and inserting “2025
4 through 2029, \$200,000”.

5 (f) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Section
6 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
7 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting
8 “(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture
9 practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-
10 nology)” after “incentive practices”.

11 (g) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—Section
12 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
13 3839aa–2) is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(k) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
16 payments under the program to producers to imple-
17 ment conservation practices on covered lands of such
18 producers that address and repair covered damage
19 that may contribute to a natural resource concern or
20 problem.

21 “(2) CONTRACT TERM.—In the case of a con-
22 tract under the program entered into for the imple-
23 mentation of practices described in paragraph (1),
24 such contract shall have a term of 1 year.

25 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) COVERED DAMAGE.—The term ‘cov-
2 ered damage’ means damage to agricultural
3 land or farming infrastructure.

4 “(B) COVERED LAND.—The term ‘covered
5 land’ means eligible land in a county at or near
6 the southern border of the United States, as de-
7 termined by the Secretary.”.

8 **SEC. 2203. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

9 Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
10 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is amended by striking “2019 through
11 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

12 **SEC. 2204. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAY-**
13 **MENTS.**

14 (a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE CON-
15 SERVATION APPROACHES.—Section 1240H(a) is amend-
16 ed—

17 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
18 lows:

19 “(1) GRANTS.—Out of the funds made available
20 to carry out this subchapter, the Secretary may
21 award competitive grants that are intended to stimu-
22 late development and evaluation of new and innova-
23 tive approaches to leveraging the Federal investment
24 in environmental enhancement and protection, in
25 conjunction with agricultural production or forest re-

1 source management, through the program, including
2 grants for the development and evaluation of new
3 and innovative technologies that may be incor-
4 porated into conservation practice standards.”; and

5 (2) in paragraph (2)(H), by inserting before the
6 period “(including precision agriculture practices
7 and precision agriculture technologies)”.

8 (b) AIR QUALITY CONCERNS FROM AGRICULTURAL
9 OPERATIONS.—Section 1240H(b)(2) of the Food Security
10 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(b)(2)) is amended by
11 striking “2031” and inserting “2029”.

12 (c) ON-FARM CONSERVATION INNOVATION
13 TRIALS.—Section 1240H(c) of the Food Security Act of
14 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(c)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)—

16 (A) in subclause (VI), by striking “and” at
17 the end; and

18 (B) by inserting after subclause (VII) the
19 following:

20 “(VIII) perennial production sys-
21 tems, including agroforestry and pe-
22 rennial forages and grain crops; and”;
23 and

24 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2031” and
25 inserting “2029”.

1 (d) REPORTING AND DATABASE.—Section
2 1240H(d)(2)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

4 (1) in clause (i)—

5 (A) by inserting “, including both manage-
6 ment and structural conservation practices,”
7 after “conservation practices”; and

8 (B) by striking “and” at the end;

9 (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);
10 (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

11 “(ii) data that may be used to evalu-
12 ate new and emerging technologies and
13 recommendations for State and regional
14 applications of such new and emerging
15 technologies; and”; and

16 (4) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by insert-
17 ing “for consideration under the streamlined process
18 developed under section 1242(h)(3)” before the pe-
19 riod at the end.

20 **Subtitle D—Conservation** 21 **Stewardship Program**

22 **SEC. 2301. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

23 Section 1240J(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985
24 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–22(a)) is amended by striking “2031”
25 and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 2302. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

2 (a) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Sec-
3 tion 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
4 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting before the
6 period “(including increased costs associated with
7 planning and adopting precision agriculture con-
8 servation activities and acquiring precision agri-
9 culture technology)”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(6) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—The amount of an
12 annual payment under the program shall be not less
13 than \$2,500.”.

14 (b) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-
15 CONSERVING CROP ROTATIONS AND ADVANCED GRAZING
16 MANAGEMENT.—Section 1240L(d) of the Food Security
17 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—

18 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND
19 ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting
20 “, ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECI-
21 SION AGRICULTURE”;

22 (2) in paragraph (2)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
24 or” and inserting a semicolon;

25 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
26 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(C) precision agriculture conservation ac-
3 tivities.”; and

4 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or advanced
5 grazing management” and inserting “, advanced
6 grazing management, or precision agriculture con-
7 servation activities”.

8 (c) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f) of
9 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f))
10 is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and insert-
11 ing “2025 through 2029”.

12 (d) ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.—Section
13 1240L(h)(2)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
14 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(h)(2)(A)) is amended by striking
15 “2031” and inserting “2029”.

16 **SEC. 2303. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

17 Subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII
18 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21
19 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 **“SEC. 1240L–2. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

21 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) ELIGIBLE INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘eligi-
23 ble Indian Tribe’ means an Indian Tribe that is—

1 “(A) implementing a soil health program
2 for the area over which the Indian Tribe has ju-
3 risdiction; and

4 “(B) meeting or exceeding performance
5 measures established by the Indian Tribe for
6 the soil health program.

7 “(2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term ‘eligible
8 State’ means a State that is—

9 “(A) implementing a soil health program
10 for the State; and

11 “(B) meeting or exceeding performance
12 measures established by the State for the soil
13 health program.

14 “(3) SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM.—The term ‘soil
15 health program’ means a program to improve soil
16 health on agricultural land that—

17 “(A) is broadly consistent with the soil
18 health principles of the Natural Resources Con-
19 servation Service, as determined by the Sec-
20 retary; and

21 “(B) may include—

22 “(i) technical assistance;

23 “(ii) financial assistance;

24 “(iii) on-farm research and dem-
25 onstration;

1 “(iv) education, outreach, and train-
2 ing;

3 “(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

4 “(vi) such other components as the
5 Secretary determines appropriate.

6 “(b) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—For
7 fiscal years 2025 through 2029, the Secretary shall make
8 grants to eligible States and eligible Indian Tribes for the
9 purpose of improving soil health on agricultural lands
10 through the implementation of State and Tribal soil health
11 programs.

12 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
14 this section, an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe
15 shall submit to the Secretary an application at such
16 time, in such a manner, and containing such infor-
17 mation as the Secretary shall require, which shall in-
18 clude—

19 “(A) a description of performance meas-
20 ures to be used to evaluate the State or Tribal
21 soil health program and the results of any ac-
22 tivities carried out using grant funds received
23 under this section; and

24 “(B) an assurance that grant funds re-
25 ceived under this section will supplement the

1 expenditure of State or Tribal funds in support
2 of soil health, rather than replace such funds.

3 “(2) TRIBAL OPTION.—An Indian Tribe shall
4 have the option, at the sole discretion of the Indian
5 Tribe, to be incorporated into the application of an
6 eligible State.

7 “(d) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this sec-
8 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible States and
9 eligible Indian Tribes with a climate action plan that in-
10 cludes soil health, as determined by the Secretary.

11 “(e) GRANTS.—

12 “(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant to an
13 eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe under this sec-
14 tion for a fiscal year may not exceed the lower of—

15 “(A) \$5,000,000; or

16 “(B) as applicable—

17 “(i) 50 percent of the cost of imple-
18 menting the State soil health program in
19 the fiscal year; or

20 “(ii) 75 percent of the cost of imple-
21 menting the Tribal soil health program in
22 the fiscal year.

23 “(2) TERM.—A grant under this section shall
24 be for 1 year, and may be renewed annually.

1 “(f) AUDITS AND REVIEWS.—An eligible State or eli-
2 gible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section
3 shall submit to the Secretary—

4 “(1) for each year for which the State or Indian
5 Tribe receives such a grant, the results of an audit
6 of the expenditures of the grant funds; and

7 “(2) at such intervals as the Secretary shall es-
8 tablish, a review and evaluation of the State or Trib-
9 al soil health program.

10 “(g) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Sec-
11 retary, after reasonable notice to an eligible State or eligi-
12 ble Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section, finds
13 that the State or Indian Tribe has failed to comply with
14 the terms of the grant, the Secretary may disqualify, for
15 1 or more years, the State or Indian Tribe from receipt
16 of future grants under this section.

17 “(h) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to
18 carry out this subchapter, \$100,000,000 shall be available
19 in each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out
20 this section.

21 “(i) ADMINISTRATION.—

22 “(1) DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary may not
23 use more than 3 percent of the funds made available
24 to carry out this section for a fiscal year for admin-
25 istrative expenses.

1 “(2) STATES OR INDIAN TRIBES.—An eligible
2 State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant
3 under this section may not use more than 7 percent
4 of the granted funds for a fiscal year for administra-
5 tive expenses.”.

6 **Subtitle E—Other Conservation**
7 **Programs**

8 **SEC. 2401. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.**

9 Section 1240M(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985
10 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking “2023” and
11 inserting “2029”.

12 **SEC. 2402. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-**
13 **GRAM.**

14 (a) FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-
15 GRAM.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of the Food Security Act
16 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amended by insert-
17 ing after section 1240M the following:

18 **“SEC. 1240N. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL**
19 **PROGRAM.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
21 feral swine eradication and control program (in this sec-
22 tion referred to as the ‘program’) to respond to the threat
23 feral swine pose to agriculture, native ecosystems, and
24 human and animal health.

1 “(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out
2 the program, the Secretary shall—

3 “(1) study and assess the nature and extent of
4 damage to the threatened areas caused by feral
5 swine;

6 “(2) develop methods to eradicate or control
7 feral swine in the threatened areas;

8 “(3) develop methods to restore damage caused
9 by feral swine; and

10 “(4) provide financial assistance to agricultural
11 producers in threatened areas.

12 “(c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide finan-
13 cial assistance to agricultural producers under the pro-
14 gram to implement methods to—

15 “(1) eradicate or control feral swine in the
16 threatened areas; and

17 “(2) restore damage caused by feral swine.

18 “(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure
19 that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the
20 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate for
21 purposes of this section through State technical commit-
22 tees established under section 1261(a).

23 “(e) COST SHARING.—

24 “(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
25 the costs of activities under the program may not

1 exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such activi-
2 ties.

3 “(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-
4 eral share of the costs of activities under the pro-
5 gram may be provided in the form of in-kind con-
6 tributions of materials or services.

7 “(f) THREATENED AREA DEFINED.—In this section,
8 the term ‘threatened area’ means an area of a State in
9 which feral swine have been identified as a threat to agri-
10 culture, native ecosystems, or human and animal health,
11 as determined by the Secretary.

12 “(g) FUNDING.—

13 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds
14 made available under section 1241(a)(3)(A), the
15 Secretary shall use to carry out this section
16 \$150,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025
17 through 2029.

18 “(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds
19 made available under paragraph (1)—

20 “(A) 40 percent shall be allocated to the
21 Natural Resources Conservation Service to
22 carry out the program, including the provision
23 of financial assistance to producers for on-farm
24 trapping and technology related to capturing
25 and confining feral swine; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(C) of the funds made available under
5 section 1241(a)(3)(A), \$1,000,000 beginning in
6 fiscal year 2025, to remain available until ex-
7 pended.”.

8 **SEC. 2404. VOLUNTARY PUBLIC ACCESS AND HABITAT IN-**
9 **CENTIVE PROGRAM.**

10 Section 1240R(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985
11 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–5(f)) is amended to read as follows:

12 “(f) FUNDING.—

13 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds
14 made available under section 1241(a)(3)(A), the
15 Secretary shall use to carry out this section
16 \$150,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025
17 through 2029.

18 “(2) ENHANCED PUBLIC ACCESS TO WETLAND
19 RESERVE EASEMENTS.—To the maximum extent
20 practicable, of the funds made available under para-
21 graph (1), the Secretary shall use \$3,000,000 for
22 the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to en-
23 courage public access to land covered by wetland re-
24 serve easements under section 1265C through agree-

1 ments with States and Tribal governments under
2 this section.”.

3 **SEC. 2405. WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVEN-**
4 **TION ACT.**

5 (a) ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the Water-
7 shed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16
8 U.S.C. 1003(a)) is amended by redesignating para-
9 graph (6) as paragraph (7) and inserting after para-
10 graph (5) the following:

11 “(6) to provide technical and financial assist-
12 ance for remedial actions in accordance with sub-
13 section (c); and”.

14 (2) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS;
15 STREAMLINING.—Section 3 of the Watershed Pro-
16 tection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1003)
17 is amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “(c) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection
20 (a)(6), the Secretary may provide technical and fi-
21 nancial assistance to local organizations for remedial
22 actions for a completed work of improvement in-
23 stalled under this Act with respect to which—

24 “(A) deterioration of a structural compo-
25 nent of the work of improvement is occurring at

1 an abnormal rate, including situations in which
2 such deterioration is due to a design deficiency
3 or to site conditions that were unknown at the
4 time of installation of the work of improvement;

5 “(B) the planned service life of the work of
6 improvement exceeds the service life of a struc-
7 tural component of such work of improvement;
8 or

9 “(C) structural damage to such work of
10 improvement, or to a structural component of
11 such work of improvement, was caused by a
12 storm event that exceeded the maximum storm
13 event for which the work of improvement was
14 designed.

15 “(2) COST SHARE.—Financial assistance pro-
16 vided under this subsection shall be provided in ac-
17 cordance with the cost-share rate established in the
18 agreement with the local organization for the work
19 of improvement.

20 “(d) STREAMLINING.—The Secretary shall, on an on-
21 going basis—

22 “(1) engage with relevant Federal agencies to
23 reduce or eliminate regulatory, policy, or procedural
24 barriers to timely provision of assistance under this
25 Act;

1 “(2) provide for streamlined procedures relating
2 to coordination with other Federal or State agencies
3 for required reviews and permitting of projects pur-
4 suant to this Act, and ensure such procedures are
5 commensurate with the size and scale of the
6 projects;

7 “(3) conduct an assessment of internal Depart-
8 ment of Agriculture planning, technical support, and
9 approvals to determine best practices to be used for
10 the purpose of maximizing the decisionmaking au-
11 thority of State conservationists with respect to ap-
12 provals required for projects under this Act; and

13 “(4) prioritize the use of agreements and con-
14 tracting authorities under this Act to provide fund-
15 ing to local organizations for the planning, design,
16 and construction of works of improvement.”.

17 (b) DATA.—Section 13 of the Watershed Protection
18 and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1010) is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 **“SEC. 13. DATA.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect and
22 maintain, and make publicly available—

23 “(1) data, on a national and State-by-State
24 basis, concerning—

1 “(A) expenditures for the individual flood
2 control and conservation measures for which as-
3 sistance is provided under this Act; and

4 “(B) the expected flood control or environ-
5 mental (including soil erosion) benefits that will
6 result from the implementation of such meas-
7 ures; and

8 “(2) data, with respect to each project for
9 which assistance is provided under this Act, con-
10 cerning—

11 “(A) total allocated and expended funds
12 for planning, design, construction, remedial ac-
13 tions, and rehabilitation; and

14 “(B) contracts and agreements entered
15 into by the Secretary with a local organization
16 to provide services, including—

17 “(i) the services provided through
18 such contracts and agreements;

19 “(ii) the total funds allocated to such
20 contracts and agreements; and

21 “(iii) any modifications or adjust-
22 ments made to such contracts and agree-
23 ments.

24 “(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not make
25 publicly available under this section an agreement entered

1 into with an individual landowner, operator, or occupier
2 under this Act, or any disaggregated information that
3 identifies such individual landowner, operator, or occu-
4 pier.”.

5 (c) REHABILITATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES
6 NEAR, AT, OR PAST THEIR EVALUATED LIFE EXPECT-
7 ANCY.—

8 (1) COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITA-
9 TION.—Section 14(b) of the Watershed Protection
10 and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(b)) is
11 amended—

12 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “65 per-
13 cent” and inserting “90 percent”; and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(4) RELATION TO REQUIREMENTS OF AU-
16 THORIZED PROJECTS.—A rehabilitation project for
17 which assistance is provided under this section shall
18 not be subject to—

19 “(A) the requirement under section 2 that
20 a project contain benefits directly related to ag-
21 riculture, including rural communities, that ac-
22 count for at least 20 percent of the total bene-
23 fits of the project; or

24 “(B) section 4(5).”.

1 (2) FUNDING.—Section 14(h)(2)(E) of the Wa-
2 tershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16
3 U.S.C. 1012(h)(2)(E)) is amended by striking
4 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

5 (d) FUNDING.—Section 15 of the Watershed Protec-
6 tion and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012a) is
7 amended—

8 (1) by striking “\$50,000,000 for fiscal year
9 2019” and inserting “\$150,000,000 for fiscal year
10 2025”; and

11 (2) by inserting before the period at the end “,
12 to remain available until expended”.

13 **SEC. 2406. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

14 Section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
15 (16 U.S.C. 2201) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
18 “AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION
19 MEASURES” after “FENCING”; and

20 (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
21 follows:

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a payment
23 to an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for
24 the repair or replacement of fencing, or for other
25 emergency measures to rehabilitate farmland or to

1 repair or replace a farmland or conservation struc-
2 ture, the Secretary shall give the agricultural pro-
3 ducer the option of receiving—

4 “(A) before carrying out such replacement
5 or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of
6 the payment for such replacement or rehabilita-
7 tion, which shall be based on the fair market
8 value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as
9 determined by the Secretary; and

10 “(B) before carrying out such repair, not
11 more than 50 percent of the payment for such
12 repair, which shall be based on the fair market
13 value of the repair, as determined by the Sec-
14 retary.”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(c) WILDFIRES.—A wildfire that causes damage
17 with respect to which a payment may be made under sub-
18 section (a) includes any wildfire that is not caused natu-
19 rally, including a wildfire that is caused by the Federal
20 Government, if the damage is caused by the spread of the
21 fire due to natural causes.”.

22 **SEC. 2407. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.**

23 (a) FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS.—Section 403(b) of
24 the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203(b))
25 is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
2 paragraphs (5) and (6);

3 (2) by inserting after the subsection header the
4 following:

5 “(1) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—The Secretary
6 is authorized to restore appropriate vegetative cover,
7 hydrological functions, and other functions and val-
8 ues of the land subject to a floodplain easement ac-
9 quired under subsection (a).

10 “(2) EASEMENT MAINTENANCE.—The Sec-
11 retary is authorized to monitor, maintain, and en-
12 hance appropriate vegetative cover, hydrological res-
13 toration measures, and other restoration measures
14 on land subject to a floodplain easement acquired
15 under subsection (a).

16 “(3) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—In car-
17 rying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary
18 may—

19 “(A) enter into contracts with landowners;
20 and

21 “(B) enter into agreements with States,
22 nongovernmental organizations, and Indian
23 Tribes.

24 “(4) COMPATIBLE USE AUTHORITY.—The Sec-
25 retary may authorize a landowner to carry out ac-

1 activities on land subject to a floodplain easement ac-
2 quired under subsection (a) that are—

3 “(A) compatible uses necessary to carry
4 out paragraph (1) or (2); or

5 “(B) compatible economic uses (including
6 such activities as hunting and fishing, managed
7 timber harvest, water management, or periodic
8 haying or grazing) if such uses are consistent
9 with the long-term protection of the floodplain
10 functions and values for which the easement
11 was acquired.”; and

12 (3) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by
13 striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph
14 (5)” each place it appears.

15 (b) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—Section 403 of the
16 Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) is
17 amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “(c) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—In carrying out this
19 section, the Secretary may undertake measures that in-
20 crease the level of protection above that which would be
21 necessary to address the immediate impairment of the wa-
22 tershed if the Secretary determines that such restoration
23 is in the best interest of the long-term health of the water-
24 shed and the long-term protection of the watershed from
25 repetitive impairments.”.

1 **SEC. 2408. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE FLOOD VULNER-**
2 **ABILITY STUDY.**

3 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee
5 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
6 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
7 Senate a national agriculture flood vulnerability report
8 containing the results of a Conservation Effects Assess-
9 ment Project assessment of flood risk on agricultural
10 lands, including—

11 (1) an analysis of economic losses of crops and
12 livestock resulting from flooding under different re-
13 currence scenarios;

14 (2) an analysis of the downstream effects of
15 mitigation activities carried out as part of a water-
16 shed management approach;

17 (3) an analysis of available Federal and State
18 data relating to flood risk, as applicable to agricul-
19 tural land, including data relating to riverine flood-
20 ing, coastal flooding, storm surge, extreme precipita-
21 tion, and flash flooding; and

22 (4) a description of ongoing producer-level con-
23 servation practices and broader government initia-
24 tives to manage the effects of flooding and flood risk
25 within and across watersheds, and recommendations

1 for additional practices and initiatives to further ad-
2 dress such effects and risk.

3 **Subtitle F—Funding and**
4 **Administration**

5 **SEC. 2501. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

6 (a) ANNUAL FUNDING.—Section 1241(a) of the Food
7 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended—

8 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
9 striking “2031” and inserting “2029”;

10 (2) in paragraph (1)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
12 “2019 through 2023 to provide payments under
13 section 1234(c)” and inserting “2025 through
14 2029 to provide payments under section
15 1234(c)(3)”; and

16 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
17 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025
18 through 2029”;

19 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs
20 (A) through (F) and inserting the following:

21 “(A) \$600,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

22 “(B) \$625,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

23 “(C) \$650,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

24 “(D) \$675,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

25 and

1 “(E) \$700,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.”;

2 (4) in paragraph (3)—

3 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
4 clauses (i) through (v) and inserting the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(i) \$2,400,000,000 for fiscal year
7 2025;

8 “(ii) \$2,600,000,000 for fiscal year
9 2026;

10 “(iii) \$2,800,000,000 for fiscal year
11 2027;

12 “(iv) \$3,100,000,000 for fiscal year
13 2028; and

14 “(v) \$3,120,000,000 for fiscal year
15 2029; and”;

16 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
17 clauses (i) through (v) and inserting the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(i) \$1,275,000,000 for fiscal year
20 2025;

21 “(ii) \$1,300,000,000 for fiscal year
22 2026;

23 “(iii) \$1,325,000,000 for fiscal year
24 2027;

1 “(iv) \$1,350,000,000 for fiscal year
2 2028; and

3 “(v) \$1,375,000,000 for fiscal year
4 2029.”; and

5 (5) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) The forest conservation easement program
7 under subtitle I, using, to the maximum extent prac-
8 ticable—

9 “(A) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

10 “(B) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

11 “(C) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

12 “(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

13 and

14 “(E) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

15 “(6) The regional conservation partnership pro-
16 gram under subtitle J, using, to the maximum ex-
17 tent practicable—

18 “(A) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

19 “(B) \$425,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

20 “(C) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

21 “(D) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

22 and

23 “(E) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.”.

1 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Section 1241(b) of
2 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(b)) is
3 amended by striking “2031” and inserting “2029”.

4 (c) REGIONAL EQUITY.—Section 1241(e)(1) of the
5 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(e)(1)) is
6 amended by striking “subtitle I” and inserting “subtitle
7 J”.

8 (d) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
9 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 1241(f) of the
10 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (1) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii), by inserting “of”
13 before “any terms”;

14 (2) in paragraph (8), in the matter preceding
15 subparagraph (A), by striking “2031” and inserting
16 “2029”; and

17 (3) in paragraph (9)—

18 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
19 as follows:

20 “(A) subtitle D (except for subchapter B
21 of chapter 1 of such subtitle), subtitle H, sub-
22 title I, or subtitle J;”;

23 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
24 semicolon and inserting “; or”; and

25 (C) by striking subparagraph (C).

1 (e) ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN FARMERS OR RANCH-
2 ERS FOR CONSERVATION ACCESS.—Section 1241(h) of
3 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(h)) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

6 (A) in the heading, by striking “2031” and
7 inserting “2029”; and

8 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
9 striking “2031” and inserting “2029”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2031” and
11 inserting “2029”.

12 (f) REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS AND AS-
13 SISTANCE.—Section 1241(i) of the Food Security Act of
14 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(i)) is amended—

15 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
16 striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024
17 through 2029”; and

18 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “section
19 1265B(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “section
20 1265B(b)(2)(A)(iii)”.

21 **SEC. 2502. RESCISSIONS.**

22 The unobligated balances of amounts made available
23 by the following provisions of Public Law 117–169 (136
24 Stat. 2015–2016) are hereby rescinded:

1 (1) Clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of section
2 21001(a)(1)(A).

3 (2) Clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of section
4 21001(a)(2)(A).

5 (3) Subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of section
6 21001(a)(3).

7 (4) Clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of section
8 21001(a)(4)(A).

9 **SEC. 2503. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1242(a) of the Food Se-
11 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(a)) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
13 graph (3); and

14 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(2) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—The
17 term ‘non-Federal certifying entity’ means a non-
18 Federal entity, an Indian Tribe, or a State agency
19 described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of sub-
20 section (e)(4) that has entered into an agreement
21 under subsection (e)(5)(D).”.

22 (b) PURPOSE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section
23 1242(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
24 3842(b)) is amended by inserting “timely,” after “con-
25 sistent,”.

1 (c) NON-FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1242(d) of
2 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(d)) is
3 amended by inserting “(including private sector entities)”
4 after “Department or non-Federal entities”.

5 (d) CERTIFICATION OF THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—
6 Section 1242(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
7 U.S.C. 3842(e)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “Food, Con-
9 servation, and Energy Act of 2008” and inserting
10 “Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024”;

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

13 “(A) ensure that persons (including com-
14 mercial entities, nonprofit entities, State or
15 local governments or agencies, and other Fed-
16 eral agencies) with expertise in the technical as-
17 pects of conservation planning, watershed plan-
18 ning, environmental engineering, conservation
19 practice design, implementation, and evaluation,
20 and any other technical skills determined appro-
21 priate by the Secretary, are eligible to become
22 approved providers of the technical assistance;”;
23 and

24 (3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and in-
25 serting the following:

1 “(4) CERTIFICATION.—A third-party provider
2 may be certified to provide technical assistance
3 under this section only—

4 “(A) through a certification process admin-
5 istered by the Secretary, acting through the
6 Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation
7 Service;

8 “(B) by a non-Federal entity (other than
9 a State agency or an Indian Tribe) approved by
10 the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a
11 third-party provider;

12 “(C) by an Indian Tribe approved by the
13 Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a
14 third-party provider; or

15 “(D) by a State agency that—

16 “(i) has statutory authority to certify,
17 administer, or license professionals in one
18 or more fields of natural resources, agri-
19 culture, or engineering; and

20 “(ii) is approved by the Secretary
21 under paragraph (5) to certify a third-
22 party provider.

23 “(5) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—

24 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROVAL
25 PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the

1 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
2 tional Security Act of 2024, the Secretary shall
3 establish a process to approve a non-Federal
4 entity (including a State agency and an Indian
5 Tribe), to become a non-Federal certifying enti-
6 ty.

7 “(B) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 days
8 after the date on which the Secretary receives
9 an application by a non-Federal entity to certify
10 third-party providers under this section, the
11 Secretary shall make a decision on whether to
12 approve such application.

13 “(C) ELIGIBILITY.—In carrying out sub-
14 paragraph (B), the Secretary shall take into
15 consideration—

16 “(i) the ability of the applicable non-
17 Federal entity to assess the qualifications
18 of a third-party provider and to certify
19 third-party providers at scale;

20 “(ii) the experience of the applicable
21 non-Federal entity in working with third-
22 party providers and eligible participants;

23 “(iii) the expertise of the applicable
24 non-Federal entity in the technical skills
25 described in paragraph (3)(A); and

1 “(iv) such other qualifications as the
2 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

3 “(D) AGREEMENT.—Upon approving an
4 application under this paragraph, the Secretary
5 shall enter into an agreement with the non-Fed-
6 eral entity to become a non-Federal certifying
7 entity.

8 “(E) DUTIES OF NON-FEDERAL CERTI-
9 FYING ENTITIES.—In certifying third-party pro-
10 viders under this section, a non-Federal certi-
11 fying entity shall—

12 “(i) assess the ability of a third-party
13 provider to appropriately provide technical
14 assistance to eligible participants for speci-
15 fied practices and conservation activities;

16 “(ii) provide training to ensure that a
17 third-party provider is qualified to provide
18 technical assistance upon certification by
19 the non-Federal certifying entity; and

20 “(iii) submit to the Secretary, in a
21 timely manner, information on—

22 “(I) each third-party provider
23 certified by the non-Federal certifying
24 entity, for inclusion on the registry of

1 certified third-party providers main-
2 tained by the Secretary; and

3 “(II) each third-party provider
4 the certification of which is withdrawn
5 by the non-Federal certifying entity.

6 “(6) TIMELY DECISIONS.—

7 “(A) CERTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.—Not
8 later than 30 days after the date on which the
9 Secretary receives an application from a third-
10 party provider to be certified under the process
11 described in paragraph (4)(A) for particular
12 practices and conservation activities, the Sec-
13 retary shall—

14 “(i) make a final decision with respect
15 to such application; and

16 “(ii) if the final decision is to certify
17 the third-party provider, include the name
18 of the certified third-party provider on the
19 registry of certified third-party providers
20 maintained by the Secretary.

21 “(B) CERTIFICATION BY NON-FEDERAL
22 CERTIFYING ENTITY.—Not later than 10 days
23 after the date on which the Secretary receives
24 a notification from a non-Federal certifying en-
25 tity that a third-party provider was certified,

1 pursuant to subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of
2 paragraph (4), for particular practices and con-
3 servation activities, the Secretary shall include
4 the name of the certified third-party provider
5 on the registry of certified third-party providers
6 maintained by the Secretary.

7 “(7) STREAMLINED CERTIFICATION.—Not later
8 than 180 days after the date of enactment of the
9 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, the
10 Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for
11 the Secretary and non-Federal certifying entities to
12 use to certify under this section a third-party pro-
13 vider that has a relevant professional certification
14 for particular practices and conservation activities,
15 as determined by the Secretary.”.

16 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 1242(f) of the Food
17 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(f)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “each of the
19 programs specified in section 1241” and inserting
20 “conservation programs administered by the Sec-
21 retary”;

22 (2) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding
23 subparagraph (A), by inserting “or a non-Federal
24 certifying entity” before “under this section”;

1 (3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(3) UPDATE OF CERTIFICATION PROCESS BY
4 THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National
6 Security Act of 2024, and periodically thereafter, the
7 Secretary shall—

8 “(A) review the certification processes
9 under paragraphs (4)(A) and (7) of subsection
10 (e);

11 “(B) make any adjustments considered
12 necessary by the Secretary to—

13 “(i) increase the number of third-
14 party providers delivering technical assist-
15 ance; and

16 “(ii) improve the quality of technical
17 assistance delivered by third-party pro-
18 viders;

19 “(C) conduct outreach to, and receive
20 input on the barriers for third-party providers
21 to become certified under this section from—

22 “(i) third-party providers that are, or
23 have been, certified under this section; and

24 “(ii) other interested parties associ-
25 ated with eligible participants; and

1 “(D) set a target rate of utilization of
2 third-party providers to deliver technical assist-
3 ance across all conservation programs adminis-
4 tered by the Secretary.”;

5 (4) in paragraph (4)(A)(i), by inserting “(in-
6 cluding maintenance)” after “implementation”;

7 (5) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the
8 following:

9 “(5) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For payments pro-
11 vided by the Secretary under paragraph (2) or
12 (3) of subsection (c), the Secretary shall deter-
13 mine payment amounts for technical assistance
14 provided by third-party providers, which shall
15 be at rates equivalent to, but that do not ex-
16 ceed, the cost to the Secretary of providing
17 technical assistance directly to an eligible par-
18 ticipant.

19 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining
20 payment amounts under subparagraph (A), the
21 Secretary shall consider specialized equipment,
22 frequency of site visits, training, travel and
23 transportation, and such other factors as the
24 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

1 “(C) EXCLUSION.—A payment provided
2 under subsection (c)(3) shall be excluded from
3 calculations relating to any cost-sharing re-
4 quirements of the applicable conservation pro-
5 gram under which the payment was provided.

6 “(6) TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
8 National Security Act of 2024, and periodically
9 thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly avail-
10 able information on—

11 “(A) funds obligated to third-party pro-
12 viders through—

13 “(i) contracts entered into between el-
14 igible participants and individual third-
15 party providers; and

16 “(ii) agreements with public and pri-
17 vate sector entities to secure third-party
18 technical assistance;

19 “(B) the certification process under this
20 section, including—

21 “(i) the number of third-party pro-
22 viders certified by the Secretary;

23 “(ii) the number of non-Federal certi-
24 fying entities approved by the Secretary;

1 “(iii) the number of third-party pro-
2 viders certified by non-Federal certifying
3 entities (other than State agencies and In-
4 dian Tribes);

5 “(iv) the number of third-party pro-
6 viders certified by Indian Tribes;

7 “(v) the number of third-party pro-
8 viders certified by State agencies; and

9 “(vi) the number of third-party pro-
10 viders certified through the streamlined
11 certification process described in sub-
12 section (e)(7);

13 “(C) how third-party providers contribute
14 to the quality and effectiveness of conservation
15 practices implemented and adopted through
16 conservation programs administered by the Sec-
17 retary, and what improvements are needed; and

18 “(D) the target rate of utilization of third-
19 party providers set under paragraph (3)(D) and
20 how actual rate of utilization compares to the
21 target rate.”; and

22 (6) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(7) SOIL HEALTH PLANNING.—The Secretary
24 shall emphasize the use of third-party providers in
25 providing technical assistance for soil health plan-

1 ning, including planning related to the use of cover
2 crops, precision agriculture practices, comprehensive
3 nutrient management planning, and other innovative
4 plans.”.

5 (f) REVIEW OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE STAND-
6 ARDS.—Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985
7 (16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended—

8 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “RE-
9 VIEW” and inserting “ESTABLISHMENT AND RE-
10 VIEW”;

11 (2) in paragraph (1)—

12 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
13 as follows:

14 “(A) not later than 1 year after the date
15 of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National
16 Security Act of 2024, and at least every 5 years
17 thereafter, complete a review of each conserva-
18 tion practice standard, including engineering
19 design specifications;”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking
21 “and” at the end;

22 (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking the
23 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
24 and

25 (D) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(E) provide a process for public input on
2 each conservation practice standard under such
3 review, including a process for consideration of
4 State and local input;

5 “(F) publicly post a summary of any input
6 received under subparagraph (E) and any deci-
7 sions made relating to such input; and

8 “(G) revise any conservation practice
9 standard based on the results of such review, as
10 determined appropriate by the Secretary, and
11 publish any such revised standard.”;

12 (3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(3) PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF IN-
15 TERIM AND NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICE STAND-
16 ARDS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
18 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,
19 and National Security Act of 2024, the Sec-
20 retary shall develop a streamlined process under
21 which the Secretary shall establish interim con-
22 servation practice standards and new conserva-
23 tion practice standards.

1 “(B) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the
2 streamlined process under subparagraph (A),
3 the Secretary shall—

4 “(i) ensure that the public can engage
5 with the Department of Agriculture, in-
6 cluding by recommending interim conserva-
7 tion practice standards; and

8 “(ii) establish—

9 “(I) the types of data, metrics,
10 and other relevant information that
11 are necessary for the establishment of
12 interim conservation practice stand-
13 ards and new conservation practice
14 standards;

15 “(II) the process by which an in-
16 terim conservation practice standard
17 may become a new conservation prac-
18 tice standard; and

19 “(III) specific requirements for
20 an expedited review of a new con-
21 servation practice for the purpose of
22 establishing a new conservation prac-
23 tice standard for such practice.

24 “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing
25 an interim conservation practice standard or a

1 new conservation practice standard under this
2 subsection, the Secretary shall consider—

3 “(i) input from State technical com-
4 mittees on recommendations that identify
5 innovations or advancements in conserva-
6 tion practices;

7 “(ii) technological advancements, in-
8 cluding advancements from projects devel-
9 oped under section 1240H; and

10 “(iii) State and local input in the
11 form of—

12 “(I) recommendations for interim
13 conservation practice standards; and

14 “(II) partnership-led proposals
15 for new and innovative techniques to
16 facilitate implementing agreements
17 and grants under this title; and

18 “(iv) input from native entities in the
19 form of information relating to native tra-
20 ditional ecological knowledge that can in-
21 form conservation practice standards.

22 “(D) **TRANSPARENCY.**—The Secretary
23 shall make available on a public website a de-
24 tailed description of the process for recom-
25 mending, reviewing, and establishing interim

1 conservation practice standards and new con-
2 servation practice standards under this para-
3 graph.”;

4 (4) in paragraph (4)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
6 (A)—

7 (i) by striking “Agriculture Improve-
8 ment Act of 2018” and inserting “Farm,
9 Food, and National Security Act of 2024”;
10 and

11 (ii) by striking “a report on” and in-
12 serting “a report detailing”;

13 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “ad-
14 ministrative” and inserting “streamlined”;

15 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking
16 “and” at the end;

17 (D) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
18 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

19 (E) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(D) any other information the Secretary
21 determines useful to improve such streamlined
22 process for reviewing and establishing conserva-
23 tion practice standards.”; and

24 (5) by adding at the end the following:

25 “(5) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 establish within the Office of the Chief of the
3 Natural Resources Conservation Service an Of-
4 fice of Conservation Innovation (referred to in
5 this paragraph as the ‘Office’) which shall be
6 under the direct supervision of the Chief.

7 “(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

8 “(i) provide support to the Chief in
9 meeting the requirements of this sub-
10 section; and

11 “(ii) encourage innovation in con-
12 servation practices through—

13 “(I) revisions of existing con-
14 servation practice standards;

15 “(II) recommendations of interim
16 conservation practice standards; and

17 “(III) recommendations of new
18 conservation practice standards.

19 “(C) STAFF.—The Chief shall detail to the
20 Office not more than 6 employees of the De-
21 partment of Agriculture who are technical spe-
22 cialists that possess an understanding of con-
23 ventional, organic, and other production tech-
24 niques representing—

25 “(i) agronomy and agroecology;

1 “(ii) grazing lands ecology (including
2 rangeland, pastureland, and grazed forest
3 land);

4 “(iii) animal husbandry (including
5 animal nutrition and feed management);

6 “(iv) water conservation, drainage
7 water management, and irrigation engi-
8 neering technology;

9 “(v) agricultural engineering (includ-
10 ing animal waste management, energy, and
11 structural measures); and

12 “(vi) forest ecology and agroforestry.

13 “(6) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use fund-
14 ing from the annual appropriations for conservation
15 operations of the Natural Resources Conservation
16 Service to carry out this subsection.”.

17 (g) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—Section 1242 of the
18 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is amended
19 by adding at the end the following:

20 “(j) NRCS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may ap-
22 point, without regard to the provisions of subchapter
23 I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other
24 than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title), qualified
25 candidates, as described in paragraph (2), directly to

1 positions within the Natural Resources Conservation
2 Service that provide technical assistance under con-
3 servation programs administered by the Natural Re-
4 sources Conservation Service.

5 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Paragraph (1) applies
6 to a candidate who—

7 “(A) is qualified to provide the technical
8 assistance described in paragraph (1), as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary; and

10 “(B) meets qualification standards estab-
11 lished by the Office of Personnel Manage-
12 ment.”.

13 **SEC. 2504. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-**
14 **SERVATION PROGRAMS.**

15 (a) TENANT PROTECTIONS.—Section 1244(d) of the
16 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(d)) is amend-
17 ed by striking “I.” and inserting “J.”.

18 (b) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—Section 1244(f) of the
19 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(f)) is amend-
20 ed—

21 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
22 lows:

23 “(1) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not en-
24 roll more than 25 percent of the cropland in any
25 county in the conservation reserve program estab-

1 lished under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle
2 D and wetland reserve easements under section
3 1265C.”;

4 (2) in paragraph (2)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
6 (A), by striking “paragraph (1)(A)” and insert-
7 ing “paragraph (1)”; and

8 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking
9 “and” at the end and inserting “or”;

10 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “paragraph
11 (1)(A)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”; and

12 (4) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “classes
13 IV” and inserting “classes III”.

14 (c) REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICE COSTS
15 AND PAYMENT RATES.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1244(j)(1) of the
17 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(j)(1))
18 is amended—

19 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
20 (A), by striking “Not later than 1 year after
21 the date of enactment of the Agriculture Im-
22 provement Act of 2018, and not later than Oc-
23 tober 1 of each year thereafter, the Secretary
24 shall” and inserting “The Secretary shall estab-

1 lish a process under which the Secretary shall
2 annually”;

3 (B) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
4 as follows:

5 “(A) review, with respect to each State,
6 the actual practice costs and rates of payments
7 (or, where actual practice costs and rates of
8 payments are not available, estimates of such
9 practice costs and rates) made to producers
10 pursuant to programs under this title for prac-
11 tices on eligible land; and”;

12 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at
14 the end;

15 (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
16 clause (iv);

17 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
18 following:

19 “(iii) accounts for the variability in
20 costs of implementing practices on eligible
21 land under this title; and”;

22 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
23 by striking “regional, State, and” and in-
24 serting “State and”.

1 (2) GUIDANCE; REVIEW.—Section 1244(j)(2) of
2 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
3 3844(j)(2)) is amended—

4 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “esti-
5 mates for”; and

6 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

7 (i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at
8 the end;

9 (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as
10 clause (iii);

11 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the
12 following:

13 “(ii) monitoring for and identifying
14 significant variability in practice costs in
15 each year; and”;

16 (iv) in clause (iii), as so redesignated,
17 by inserting “and, when appropriate,
18 adopting any recommendations made by
19 such State technical committee” after
20 “that State”.

21 (3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Sec-
22 tion 1244(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
23 U.S.C. 3844(j)) is amended by adding at the end the
24 following:

1 “(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—In
2 order to provide rates of payments that are commen-
3 surate with the costs of implementing practices pur-
4 suant to programs under this title, the Secretary
5 shall establish processes and procedures for updating
6 rates of payments under a contract or agreement in
7 effect under this title to reflect the appropriate prac-
8 tice costs and rates of payments determined under
9 paragraph (2)(B) for the year in which the practice
10 is implemented.”.

11 (d) SOURCE WATER PROTECTION THROUGH TAR-
12 GETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.—Section 1244(n)
13 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(n))
14 is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (i) by redesignating clause (ii) as
18 clause (iii);

19 (ii) in clause (i), by striking the
20 “and” at the end; and

21 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the
22 following:

23 “(ii) identify in each State a source
24 water protection coordinator who shall be
25 responsible for coordinating such collabora-

1 tion with community water systems under
2 this subsection; and”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
4 “under subparagraph (A)(ii)” and inserting
5 “under subparagraph (A)(iii)”;

6 (2) in paragraph (3), strike “2031” and insert
7 “2029”; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(4) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—Be-
10 ginning on the date of enactment of the Farm,
11 Food, and National Security Act of 2024, the Sec-
12 retary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Re-
13 sources Conservation Service, shall make publicly
14 available—

15 “(A) an annual report that details—

16 “(i) for each local priority area identi-
17 fied under paragraph (2)(A)(i)—

18 “(I) the conservation programs
19 under which assistance is provided
20 pursuant to paragraph (1);

21 “(II) the practices implemented
22 pursuant to paragraph (1); and

23 “(III) the number of contracts
24 and acres devoted to such practices;

1 “(ii) for each conservation program
2 administered by the Secretary—

3 “(I) the amount of funds obli-
4 gated and expended for practices im-
5 plemented pursuant to paragraph (1);
6 and

7 “(II) information regarding the
8 status of compliance with paragraph
9 (3); and

10 “(iii) the practices, by State, that are
11 receiving increased incentives and higher
12 payment rates under paragraph (2)(A)(iii);
13 and

14 “(B) through an interactive map, aggre-
15 gated data detailed under subparagraph (A).”.

16 (e) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY
17 AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—Section 1244 of the Food
18 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by
19 adding at the end the following:

20 “(q) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY
21 AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—In carrying out any con-
22 servation program administered by the Secretary, the Sec-
23 retary may, as appropriate, encourage the use of conserva-
24 tion practices that support the development, restoration,

1 and maintenance of habitat connectivity and wildlife cor-
2 ridors.”.

3 **SEC. 2505. EXPERIENCED SERVICES PROGRAM.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—Section
5 1252(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
6 3851(a)) is amended to read as follows:

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Sec-
8 retary shall establish an experienced services program (re-
9 ferred to in this section as the ‘program’) for the purpose
10 of utilizing the talents of individuals who are age 55 or
11 older, but who are not employees of the Department of
12 Agriculture or a State agriculture department, to provide
13 technical, professional, and administrative services in sup-
14 port of conservation programs administered by the Sec-
15 retary, including conservation planning assistance, tech-
16 nical consultation, and assistance with design and imple-
17 mentation of conservation practices.”.

18 (b) FUNDING SOURCE.—Section 1252(c) of the Food
19 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851(c)) is amended—

20 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
21 lows:

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
23 graph (2), with respect to subsection (a), the Sec-
24 retary may carry out the program using funds made

1 available to carry out each conservation program ad-
2 ministered by the Secretary.”; and

3 (2) by striking paragraph (3).

4 **Subtitle G—Agricultural** 5 **Conservation Easement Program**

6 **SEC. 2601. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 1265A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
8 U.S.C. 3865a) is amended—

9 (1) by striking paragraph (2);

10 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through
11 (7) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively; and

12 (3) in paragraph (3)(A), as so redesignated, by
13 amending clause (i) to read as follows:

14 “(i) that is subject to a pending offer
15 for purchase of an agricultural land ease-
16 ment from an eligible entity;”.

17 **SEC. 2602. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.**

18 (a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—Section
19 1265B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
20 3865b) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “in eligible
22 land;” and inserting “on eligible land; and”;

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(iv); and”
24 and inserting “(iii).”; and

25 (3) by striking paragraph (3).

1 (b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

2 (1) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—Sec-
3 tion 1265B(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985
4 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(2)) is amended—

5 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
6 as follows:

7 “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An agreement de-
9 scribed in paragraph (4) shall provide for
10 a Federal share determined by the Sec-
11 retary of an amount not to exceed 65 per-
12 cent of the fair market value of the agri-
13 cultural land easement, as determined by
14 the Secretary using—

15 “(I) the Uniform Standards of
16 Professional Appraisal Practice;

17 “(II) an areawide market anal-
18 ysis or survey; or

19 “(III) another industry-approved
20 method.

21 “(ii) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED
22 FARMERS AND RANCHERS EXCEPTION.—In
23 the case of eligible land with respect to
24 which a socially disadvantaged farmer or
25 rancher holds an ownership interest of not

1 less than 50 percent, the Secretary may
2 provide an amount not to exceed 90 per-
3 cent of the fair market value of the agri-
4 cultural land easement.

5 “(iii) GRASSLANDS EXCEPTION.—In
6 the case of grassland of special environ-
7 mental significance, as determined by the
8 Secretary, the Secretary may provide an
9 amount not to exceed 75 percent of the
10 fair market value of the agricultural land
11 easement.”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (i) by amending clause (i) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the agree-
16 ment, the eligible entity shall provide a
17 non-Federal share that is equivalent to the
18 remainder of the fair market value of the
19 agricultural land easement not provided by
20 the Secretary under subparagraph (A).”;

21 (ii) by striking clause (ii);

22 (iii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
23 clause (ii); and

24 (iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated,
25 in the matter preceding subclause (I), by

1 striking “subparagraph” and inserting
2 “paragraph”; and

3 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)

4 the following:

5 “(C) LOWER COST-SHARE OPTION.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
7 paragraph (4)(C)(v), an eligible entity may
8 elect to enter into an agreement under
9 paragraph (4) in which the terms and con-
10 ditions of an agricultural land easement
11 funded under the agreement do not include
12 a right of enforcement for the Secretary if
13 the eligible entity agrees to a Federal
14 share that does not exceed 25 percent of
15 the fair market value of the agricultural
16 land easement, as determined by the Sec-
17 retary under subparagraph (A).

18 “(ii) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDI-
19 TIONS.—Under an agreement described in
20 clause (i), an eligible entity shall be au-
21 thorized to use its own terms and condi-
22 tions for agricultural land easements so
23 long as the Secretary determines such
24 terms and conditions—

1 “(I) are consistent with the pur-
2 poses of the program; and

3 “(II) permit effective enforce-
4 ment of the conservation purposes of
5 such easements.

6 “(iii) ENTITY ENFORCEMENT.—Under
7 an agreement described in clause (i), the
8 Secretary shall require the terms and con-
9 ditions for the agricultural land easement
10 to include a right of enforcement for the
11 eligible entity.

12 “(iv) CASH CONTRIBUTION.—Under
13 an agreement described in clause (i), the
14 eligible entity shall provide cash resources
15 in an amount that is not less than 50 per-
16 cent of the fair market value of the agri-
17 cultural land easement, as determined by
18 the Secretary under subparagraph (A).”.

19 (2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICA-
20 TIONS.—Section 1265B(b)(3) of the Food Security
21 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(3)) is amended by
22 adding at the end the following:

23 “(F) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The
24 Secretary may evaluate and rank applications
25 submitted by eligible entities for the purchase

1 of agricultural land easements from landowners
2 who are socially disadvantaged farmers or
3 ranchers separately from applications submitted
4 for the purchase of agricultural land easements
5 from other landowners.”.

6 (3) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—
7 Section 1265B(b)(4) of the Food Security Act of
8 1985 (42 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(4)) is amended—

9 (A) in subparagraph (C)—

10 (i) by striking clause (iii);

11 (ii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and
12 (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

13 (iii) in clause (iii), as so redesignated,
14 by striking the “and” at the end;

15 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
16 by striking the period at the end and in-
17 serting “;”; and

18 (v) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(v) include a right of enforcement for
20 the Secretary that—

21 “(I) may be used only if the
22 terms and conditions of the easement
23 are not enforced by the eligible entity;
24 and

1 “(II) does not extend to a right
2 of inspection unless—

3 “(aa)(AA) the holder of the
4 easement fails to provide moni-
5 toring reports in a timely man-
6 ner; or

7 “(BB) the Secretary has a
8 reasonable and articulable belief
9 that the terms and conditions of
10 the easement have been violated;
11 and

12 “(bb) prior to the inspection,
13 the Secretary notifies the eligible
14 entity and the landowner of the
15 inspection and provides a reason-
16 able opportunity for the eligible
17 entity and the landowner to par-
18 ticipate in the inspection; and

19 “(vi) include a right of the Secretary
20 to require the transfer of the easement to
21 a different eligible entity if the eligible en-
22 tity that holds the easement ceases to exist
23 or is no longer eligible to participate in the
24 program, as determined by the Secretary.”;

25 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

- 1 (i) in clause (ii)—
- 2 (I) in subclause (I)(ff), by strik-
- 3 ing “(v)” and inserting “(iv)”; and
- 4 (II) in subclause (II), by striking
- 5 the “and” at the end;
- 6 (ii) in subclause (iii), by striking the
- 7 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
- 8 and
- 9 (iii) by inserting at the end the fol-
- 10 lowing:
- 11 “(iv) do not conflict with any min-
- 12 imum terms or conditions under subpara-
- 13 graph (C) that may be required.”.
- 14 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
- 15 and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respec-
- 16 tively; and
- 17 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
- 18 the following:
- 19 “(E) MODIFICATION OF TERMS AND CON-
- 20 DITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be authorized
- 21 to modify a term or condition of an agricultural
- 22 land easement funded under an agreement
- 23 under subparagraph (A) if such modification
- 24 does not conflict with any minimum term or

1 condition required by the Secretary under sub-
2 paragraph (C).”.

3 (4) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—
4 Section 1265B(b)(5) of the Food Security Act of
5 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(5)) is amended—

6 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

7 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
8 by striking “under which the Secretary
9 may” and inserting “, to minimize admin-
10 istrative burdens on the Secretary and rec-
11 ognize the ability of experienced eligible
12 entities to administer easements with mini-
13 mal oversight by the Secretary, under
14 which the Secretary shall”; and

15 (ii) in clause (iv), by inserting “, and
16 modify,” after “entity to use”;

17 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (i) in clause (ii)—

19 (I) in subclause (II), by striking
20 “10” and inserting “5”; and

21 (II) in subclause (III), by strik-
22 ing the “or” at the end;

23 (ii) in clause (iii)—

24 (I) in subclause (I), by striking
25 “10” and inserting “5”; and

1 (II) in subclause (II), by striking
2 the period at the end and inserting “;
3 or”;

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(iv) is an eligible entity not described
7 in clause (ii) or (iii) that has—

8 “(I) acquired not fewer than 10
9 agricultural land easements under the
10 program or any predecessor program;
11 and

12 “(II) successfully met the respon-
13 sibilities of the eligible entity under
14 the applicable agreements with the
15 Secretary, as determined by the Sec-
16 retary, relating to agricultural land
17 easements that the eligible entity has
18 acquired under the program or any
19 predecessor program.”; and

20 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

21 (i) in the header, by striking “REVIEW
22 AND REVISION” and inserting “REVIEW
23 AND REVOCATION”;

1 (ii) in the header of clause (i) by
2 striking “REVIEW” and inserting “CER-
3 TIFIED ENTITY REVIEW”; and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(iii) EASEMENT REVIEW.—The Sec-
7 retary shall establish and conduct an an-
8 nual quality review process to—

9 “(I) review a sample set of ease-
10 ments acquired by certified eligible en-
11 tities;

12 “(II) ensure the integrity of the
13 easement acquisition process under
14 this section;

15 “(III) establish and enforce a
16 process for corrective actions; and

17 “(IV) provide for a waiver of suc-
18 cessive easement reviews based on
19 demonstrated compliance.”.

20 **SEC. 2603. WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

21 (a) EASEMENTS.—Section 1265C(b) of the Food Se-
22 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c(b)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “tribes”
24 and inserting “Tribes and landowners who are so-
25 cially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers”; and

1 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3)(C) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(D) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The
4 Secretary may evaluate and rank offers from
5 landowners who are socially disadvantaged
6 farmers or ranchers separately from offers from
7 other landowners.”.

8 (b) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—Section 1265C(e)(1)
9 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865e(e)(1))
10 is amended by striking “subsection (f)” and inserting
11 “subsection (g)”.

12 (c) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—Section 1265C of
13 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865e) is
14 amended—

15 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g)
16 as subsections (e) through (h); and

17 (2) by inserting after subsection (c), the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(d) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
21 financial assistance to owners of eligible land en-
22 rolled under this section for the repair, necessary
23 maintenance, and enhancement activities described
24 in the wetland reserve easement plan developed for
25 the eligible land under subsection (g)(1).

1 “(2) EVALUATION OF STEWARDSHIP NEED.—

2 The Secretary shall—

3 “(A) regularly assess land enrolled under
4 this section to identify maintenance and man-
5 agement needs, including any needed repair or
6 enhancement of existing structural practices, in
7 accordance with the applicable wetland reserve
8 easement plan;

9 “(B) consistent with the purposes of the
10 program, create, execute, and update as nec-
11 essary based on the assessments carried out
12 under subparagraph (A), a stewardship strategy
13 for—

14 “(i) prioritizing and addressing the
15 needs identified under subparagraph (A);
16 and

17 “(ii) projecting the amount of annual
18 funding needed for financial and technical
19 assistance to address such needs; and

20 “(C) establish a 5-year schedule to address
21 such needs.

22 “(3) PAYMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph
23 (1), the Secretary shall make payments in an
24 amount that is not more than 100 percent of the eli-
25 gible costs, as determined by the Secretary.

1 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
2 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National
3 Security Act of 2024, the Secretary shall submit to
4 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
6 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that in-
7 cludes—

8 “(A) an inventory of the existing steward-
9 ship needs of all wetland reserve easements,
10 based on the assessments carried out under
11 paragraph (2);

12 “(B) the stewardship strategy created
13 under paragraph (2)(B);

14 “(C) the amounts the Secretary plans to
15 allocate to address such stewardship needs,
16 based on projections made pursuant to para-
17 graph (2)(B)(ii); and

18 “(D) the planned use of compatible uses
19 under subsection (b)(5)(C), contracts or agree-
20 ments under subsection (e)(2), or wetland re-
21 serve easement plans under subsection (g)(1) to
22 ensure that each such stewardship need is ad-
23 dressed.”.

1 (d) ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (e) of section 1265C of
2 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c), as so
3 redesignated, is amended—

4 (1) in the header, by striking “TECHNICAL AS-
5 SISTANCE” and inserting “ASSISTANCE”; and

6 (2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-
9 retary may enter into 1 or more contracts or agree-
10 ments with a Federal, State, or local agency, a non-
11 governmental organization, an Indian Tribe, or a
12 private entity to carry out necessary restoration, en-
13 hancement, maintenance, repair, assessment, or
14 monitoring of a wetland reserve easement if the Sec-
15 retary determines that the contract or agreement
16 will advance the purposes of the program.”.

17 (e) WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT OPTION.—
18 Subsection (f) of section 1265C of the Food Security Act
19 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c), as so redesignated, is amend-
20 ed—

21 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting
22 the following:

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(2) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available
2 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall reserve
3 not less than 15 percent to carry out this sub-
4 section.”.

5 **SEC. 2604. ADMINISTRATION.**

6 (a) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION,
7 AND TERMINATION.—Section 1265D(c) of the Food Secu-
8 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865d(c)) is amended—

9 (1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE.—

12 “(A) MODIFICATION.—

13 “(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
14 approve a modification of any interest in
15 land, or portion of such interest, adminis-
16 tered by the Secretary, either directly or
17 on behalf of the Commodity Credit Cor-
18 poration, under the program if the Sec-
19 retary determines that the modification—

20 “(I) will support the long-term
21 agricultural viability of the applicable
22 farm or ranch operation and the con-
23 servation values of the applicable
24 easement;

1 “(II) will result in equal or in-
2 creased conservation values;

3 “(III) is consistent with the origi-
4 nal intent of the easement;

5 “(IV) is consistent with the pur-
6 poses of the program; and

7 “(V) is in the public interest or
8 furtheres the practical administration
9 of the program, including correcting
10 errors, exercising reserved rights, and
11 increasing flexibility to recognize
12 changes in water availability or ad-
13 ministration.

14 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an
15 interest in land, or portion of such inter-
16 est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-
17 retary may not, except in the case of a
18 modification that includes a change to an
19 easement to add acreage, increase any pay-
20 ment to an eligible entity.

21 “(iii) NEPA COMPLIANCE.—An action
22 taken pursuant to this subparagraph may
23 not be considered a major Federal action
24 under section 102(2)(C) of the National

1 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
2 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

3 “(B) EXCHANGE.—

4 “(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
5 approve an exchange of any interest in
6 land, or portion of such interest, adminis-
7 tered by the Secretary, either directly or
8 on behalf of the Commodity Credit Cor-
9 poration, under the program if the Sec-
10 retary determines that—

11 “(I) no reasonable alternative ex-
12 ists and the effect on the interest in
13 land is avoided or minimized to the
14 extent practicable; and

15 “(II) the exchange—

16 “(aa) results in equal or in-
17 creased conservation values;

18 “(bb) results in equal or
19 greater economic value to the
20 United States;

21 “(cc) is consistent with the
22 original intent of the easement;

23 “(dd) is consistent with the
24 purposes of the program; and

1 “(ee) is in the public inter-
2 est or furthers the practical ad-
3 ministration of the program.

4 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an
5 interest in land, or portion of such inter-
6 est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-
7 retary may not increase any payment to an
8 eligible entity.”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(6) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
12 approve and make de minimis adjustments to
13 any interest in land, or a portion of such inter-
14 est, administered by the Secretary, directly or
15 on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation,
16 under the program if the Secretary determines
17 that the adjustment—

18 “(i) furthers the practical administra-
19 tion of the program; and

20 “(ii) is not a subordination, modifica-
21 tion, exchange, or termination, as deter-
22 mined by the Secretary.

23 “(B) TYPES OF DE MINIMIS ADJUST-
24 MENTS.—De minimis adjustments made under

1 this paragraph may include title corrections and
2 other minor adjustments, including—

3 “(i) typographical error corrections;

4 “(ii) minor changes in legal descrip-
5 tions as a result of survey or mapping er-
6 rors;

7 “(iii) the transfer of an interest of an
8 eligible entity to another eligible entity;

9 “(iv) changes to a building envelope
10 boundary;

11 “(v) relocation of easement access;

12 “(vi) authorization of temporary work
13 areas not associated with other easement
14 administration actions; and

15 “(vii) other adjustments determined
16 necessary by the Secretary.”.

17 (b) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME EXEMPTION.—Section
18 1265D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
19 3865D) is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(f) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME EXEMPTION.—The
21 adjusted gross income limitation described in section
22 1001D(b)(1) shall not apply to any payment or other as-
23 sistance under this subtitle.”.

1 **Subtitle H—Forest Conservation**
2 **Easement Program**

3 **SEC. 2701. FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM.**

4 Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
5 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subtitle I (16 U.S.C. 3871
7 et seq.) as subtitle J; and

8 (2) by inserting after subtitle H (16 U.S.C.
9 3865 et seq.) the following:

10 **“Subtitle I—Forest Conservation**
11 **Easement Program**

12 **“SEC. 1267. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.**

13 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
14 lish a forest conservation easement program for the con-
15 servation and restoration of eligible land and natural re-
16 sources through the acquisition of conservation easements
17 or other interests in land.

18 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program
19 are—

20 “(1) to protect the viability and sustainability
21 of working forest land, and related conservation val-
22 ues of eligible land, by limiting the negative effects
23 of nonforest land uses of such land;

24 “(2) to protect and enhance forest ecosystem
25 and landscape functions and values;

1 “(3) to promote the restoration, protection, and
2 improvement of habitat of species that are threat-
3 ened, endangered, or otherwise at risk; and

4 “(4) to carry out the purposes and functions of
5 the healthy forests reserve program established
6 under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
7 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.), as in effect on the
8 day before the date of enactment of this section.

9 **“SEC. 1267A. DEFINITIONS.**

10 “In this subtitle:

11 “(1) ACREAGE OWNED BY AN INDIAN TRIBE.—

12 The term ‘acreage owned by an Indian Tribe’
13 means—

14 “(A) land that is held in trust by the
15 United States for Indian Tribes or individual
16 Indians;

17 “(B) land, the title to which is held by In-
18 dian Tribes or individual Indians subject to
19 Federal restrictions against alienation or en-
20 cumberance;

21 “(C) land that is subject to rights of use,
22 occupancy, and benefit of certain Indian Tribes;

23 “(D) land that is held in fee title by an In-
24 dian Tribe;

1 “(E) land that is owned by a native cor-
2 poration formed under—

3 “(i) section 17 of the Act of June 18,
4 1934 (commonly known as the ‘Indian Re-
5 organization Act’) (25 U.S.C. 5124); or

6 “(ii) section 8 of the Alaska Native
7 Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1607);
8 and

9 “(F) a combination of 1 or more types of
10 land described in subparagraphs (A) through
11 (E).

12 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
13 tity’ means—

14 “(A) an agency of State or local govern-
15 ment or an Indian Tribe (including a land re-
16 source council established under State law); or

17 “(B) an organization that is—

18 “(i) organized for, and at all times
19 since the formation of the organization has
20 been operated principally for, 1 or more of
21 the conservation purposes specified in
22 clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section
23 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code
24 of 1986;

1 “(ii) an organization described in sec-
2 tion 501(c)(3) of that Code that is exempt
3 from taxation under section 501(a) of that
4 Code; or

5 “(iii) described in—

6 “(I) paragraph (1) or (2) of sec-
7 tion 509(a) of that Code; or

8 “(II) section 509(a)(3) of that
9 Code and is controlled by an organiza-
10 tion described in section 509(a)(2) of
11 that Code.

12 “(3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term ‘eligible land’
13 means private land or acreage owned by an Indian
14 Tribe—

15 “(A) that is—

16 “(i) forest land; or

17 “(ii) being restored to forest land;

18 “(B) in the case of a forest land ease-
19 ment—

20 “(i) the enrollment of which would
21 protect working forests and related con-
22 servation values by conserving land; or

23 “(ii) the protection of which will fur-
24 ther a State or local policy consistent with
25 the purposes of the program; and

1 “(C) in the case of a forest reserve ease-
2 ment, the enrollment of which will maintain, re-
3 store, enhance, or otherwise measurably—

4 “(i) increase the likelihood of recovery
5 of a species that is listed as endangered or
6 threatened under section 4 of the Endan-
7 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
8 1533); or

9 “(ii) improve the well-being of a spe-
10 cies that is—

11 “(I) not listed as endangered or
12 threatened under that section; and

13 “(II)(aa) a candidate for that
14 listing, a State-listed species, or a spe-
15 cial concern species; or

16 “(bb) designated as a species of
17 greatest conservation need by a State
18 wildlife action plan.

19 “(4) FOREST LAND EASEMENT.—The term ‘for-
20 est land easement’ means an easement or other in-
21 terest in eligible land that—

22 “(A) is conveyed to an eligible entity for
23 the purpose of protecting natural resources and
24 the forest nature of the eligible land; and

1 “(B) permits the landowner the right to
2 continue working forest production and related
3 uses, consistent with an applicable forest man-
4 agement plan.

5 “(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term
6 ‘forest management plan’ means—

7 “(A) a forest stewardship plan described in
8 section 5(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
9 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a(f));

10 “(B) another plan approved by the applica-
11 ble State forester or State forestry agency;

12 “(C) a plan developed under a third-party
13 certification system determined appropriate by
14 the Secretary; or

15 “(D) another plan determined appropriate
16 by the Secretary.

17 “(6) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT.—The term
18 ‘forest reserve easement’ means an easement or
19 other interest in eligible land that—

20 “(A) is conveyed to the Secretary for the
21 purpose of protecting natural resources and the
22 forest nature of the eligible land; and

23 “(B) permits the landowner the right to
24 continue working forest production and related
25 uses consistent with the applicable forest re-

1 serve easement plan developed under section
2 1267C(e)(1)(A).

3 “(7) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means
4 the forest conservation easement program estab-
5 lished under this subtitle.

6 “(8) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FOREST LAND-
7 OWNER.—The term ‘socially disadvantaged forest
8 landowner’ means a forest landowner who is a mem-
9 ber of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in
10 section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
11 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))).

12 **“SEC. 1267B. FOREST LAND EASEMENTS.**

13 “(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
14 shall facilitate and provide funding for—

15 “(1) the purchase by eligible entities of forest
16 land easements on eligible land;

17 “(2) the development of a forest management
18 plan; and

19 “(3) technical assistance to implement this sec-
20 tion.

21 “(b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall protect
23 working forests, and related conservation values of
24 eligible land, through cost-share assistance to eligible
25 entities for purchasing forest land easements.

1 “(2) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—

2 “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
4 vided in clause (ii), an agreement described
5 in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Fed-
6 eral share of 50 percent of the fair market
7 value of the forest land easement, as deter-
8 mined by the Secretary.

9 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—An agreement de-
10 scribed in paragraph (4) may provide for a
11 Federal share of not more than 75 percent
12 of the fair market value of a forest land
13 easement in the case of eligible land that
14 is—

15 “(I) a forest of special environ-
16 mental significance, as determined by
17 the Secretary; or

18 “(II) owned by a socially dis-
19 advantaged forest landowner.

20 “(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under an agree-
22 ment described in paragraph (4), the eligi-
23 ble entity shall provide a non-Federal
24 share that is equivalent to the remainder
25 of the fair market value of the forest land

1 easement not provided by the Secretary
2 under subparagraph (A).

3 “(ii) PERMISSIBLE FORMS.—The non-
4 Federal share provided by an eligible entity
5 under this paragraph may comprise—

6 “(I) cash resources;

7 “(II) a charitable donation or
8 qualified conservation contribution (as
9 defined in section 170(h) of the Inter-
10 nal Revenue Code of 1986) from the
11 private forest landowner from which
12 the forest land easement will be pur-
13 chased;

14 “(III) costs associated with se-
15 curing a deed to the forest land ease-
16 ment, including the cost of appraisal,
17 survey, inspection, and title; and

18 “(IV) other costs, as determined
19 by the Secretary.

20 “(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET
21 VALUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the
22 Secretary shall determine the fair market value
23 of a forest land easement using—

24 “(i) the Uniform Standards of Profes-
25 sional Appraisal Practice;

1 “(ii) an areawide market analysis or
2 survey; or

3 “(iii) another industry-approved meth-
4 od.

5 “(3) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICA-
6 TIONS.—

7 “(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall es-
8 tablish evaluation and ranking criteria to maxi-
9 mize the benefit of Federal investment under
10 the program.

11 “(B) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applica-
12 tions under the program, the Secretary shall
13 give priority to an application for the purchase
14 of a forest land easement—

15 “(i) that maintains the viability of a
16 working forest, as determined by the Sec-
17 retary; and

18 “(ii) on eligible land for which a forest
19 management plan has been developed at
20 the time of application.

21 “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing
22 the criteria under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
23 retary shall emphasize support for—

24 “(i) protecting working forests and re-
25 lated conservation values of eligible land;

1 “(ii) reducing fragmentation of forest
2 land; and

3 “(iii) maximizing the areas protected
4 from conversion to nonforest uses.

5 “(4) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
7 enter into agreements with eligible entities to
8 stipulate the terms and conditions under which
9 the eligible entity is permitted to use cost-share
10 assistance provided under this section.

11 “(B) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An
12 agreement under subparagraph (A) shall be for
13 a term that is not less than 3, but not more
14 than 5, years, unless the Secretary determines
15 that a longer term is justified.

16 “(C) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—
17 An eligible entity shall be authorized to use its
18 own terms and conditions for forest land ease-
19 ments so long as the Secretary determines such
20 terms and conditions—

21 “(i) are consistent with—

22 “(I) the purposes of the program;
23 and

24 “(II) the forestry activities to be
25 conducted on the eligible land;

1 “(ii) permit effective enforcement of
2 the conservation purposes of the forest
3 land easements;

4 “(iii) include a requirement to imple-
5 ment a forest management plan on eligible
6 land subject to a forest land easement;

7 “(iv) include a limit on the impervious
8 surfaces to be allowed that is consistent
9 with the forestry activities to be conducted;
10 and

11 “(v) include a right of enforcement for
12 the Secretary that—

13 “(I) may be used only if the
14 terms and conditions of the forest
15 land easement are not enforced by the
16 eligible entity; and

17 “(II) does not extend to a right
18 of inspection unless—

19 “(aa)(AA) the holder of the
20 forest land easement fails to pro-
21 vide monitoring reports in a
22 timely manner; or

23 “(BB) the Secretary has a
24 reasonable and articulable belief
25 that the terms and conditions of

1 the forest land easement have
2 been violated; and

3 “(bb) prior to the inspection,
4 the Secretary notifies the eligible
5 entity and the landowner of the
6 inspection and provides a reason-
7 able opportunity for the eligible
8 entity and the landowner to par-
9 ticipate in the inspection.

10 “(D) SUBSTITUTION OF QUALIFIED
11 PROJECTS.—An agreement under subparagraph
12 (A) shall allow, upon mutual agreement of the
13 parties, substitution of qualified projects that
14 are identified at the time of the proposed sub-
15 stitution.

16 “(E) EFFECT OF VIOLATION.—If a viola-
17 tion of a term or condition of an agreement
18 under subparagraph (A) occurs—

19 “(i) the Secretary may terminate the
20 agreement; and

21 “(ii) the Secretary may require the el-
22 igible entity to refund all or part of any
23 payments received by the eligible entity
24 under the program, with interest on the

1 payments as determined appropriate by the
2 Secretary.

3 “(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the eligible land
5 does not have a forest management plan at the
6 time of application, prior to the acquisition of
7 the forest land easement the landowner shall
8 develop, in partnership with the eligible entity,
9 a forest management plan for the land subject
10 to the forest land easement.

11 “(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary
12 may reimburse the landowner for the cost of
13 the development of a forest management plan
14 for eligible land enrolled under this section.

15 “(c) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary
16 shall enroll eligible land under this section through the use
17 of—

18 “(1) permanent easements; or

19 “(2) easements for the maximum duration al-
20 lowed under applicable State laws.

21 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
22 provide technical assistance, on request, to assist in com-
23 pliance with the terms and conditions of forest land ease-
24 ments.

1 **“SEC. 1267C. FOREST RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

2 “(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
3 shall provide assistance to owners of eligible land to re-
4 store, protect, and enhance eligible land through—

5 “(1) forest reserve easements and related forest
6 reserve easement plans; and

7 “(2) technical assistance to implement this sec-
8 tion.

9 “(b) EASEMENTS.—

10 “(1) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—

11 “(A) AUTHORIZED METHODS.—The Sec-
12 retary shall enroll eligible land under this sec-
13 tion—

14 “(i) through the use of—

15 “(I) permanent easements;

16 “(II) 30-year easements; and

17 “(III) easements for the max-
18 imum duration allowed under applica-
19 ble State laws; and

20 “(ii) in the case of acreage owned by
21 an Indian Tribe, through the use of—

22 “(I) 30-year contracts (the com-
23 pensation for which shall be equiva-
24 lent to the compensation for 30-year
25 easements); or

26 “(II) permanent easements.

1 “(B) LIMITATION.—Not more than 10 per-
2 cent of amounts made available to carry out
3 this section in a fiscal year may be used for 30-
4 year easements under this section.

5 “(2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF OFFERS.—

6 “(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall es-
7 tablish evaluation and ranking criteria for of-
8 fers from landowners under this section.

9 “(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give
10 priority to the enrollment of eligible land under
11 this section that provides the greatest conserva-
12 tion benefit to—

13 “(i) primarily, species listed as endan-
14 gered or threatened under section 4 of the
15 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
16 U.S.C. 1533); and

17 “(ii) secondarily, species that are—

18 “(I) not listed as endangered or
19 threatened under that section; and

20 “(II)(aa) candidates for that list-
21 ing, State-listed species, or special
22 concern species; or

23 “(bb) designated as species of
24 greatest conservation need by a State
25 wildlife action plan.

1 “(C) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The Sec-
2 retary may give additional consideration to eli-
3 gible land the enrollment under this section of
4 which will—

5 “(i) improve biological diversity;

6 “(ii) restore native forest ecosystems;

7 “(iii) conserve forest land that pro-
8 vides habitat for species described in sub-
9 paragraph (B);

10 “(iv) reduce fragmentation of forest
11 land; and

12 “(v) increase carbon sequestration.

13 “(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASE-
14 MENTS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A forest reserve ease-
16 ment shall include terms and conditions that—

17 “(i) are consistent with the purposes
18 of the program and the forestry activities
19 to be conducted on the eligible land;

20 “(ii) are consistent with the manage-
21 ment objectives of the owner of the eligible
22 land and the implementation of the forest
23 reserve easement plan developed under
24 subsection (c)(1)(A);

1 “(iii) permit effective enforcement of
2 the conservation purposes of the forest re-
3 serve easements;

4 “(iv) provide for the efficient and ef-
5 fective establishment or enhancement of
6 forest ecosystem functions and values; and

7 “(v) include such additional provisions
8 as the Secretary determines are desirable
9 to carry out the program or facilitate the
10 practical administration of the program.

11 “(B) REQUESTED TERMS AND CONDI-
12 TIONS.—An owner of eligible land may request
13 that a term or condition be included in a forest
14 reserve easement, and the Secretary may in-
15 clude such term or condition, if it—

16 “(i) is consistent with the manage-
17 ment objectives of the owner of the eligible
18 land and the implementation of the forest
19 reserve easement plan developed under
20 subsection (c)(1)(A); and

21 “(ii) does not conflict with any terms
22 or conditions included under subparagraph
23 (A).

24 “(4) COMPENSATION.—

1 “(A) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—In the
2 case of eligible land enrolled in a permanent
3 easement under this section, the Secretary shall
4 pay the owner of the eligible land an amount
5 equal to the difference between, as determined
6 by the Secretary—

7 “(i) the fair market value of the eligi-
8 ble land before the enrollment in the per-
9 manent easement; and

10 “(ii) the fair market value of the eligi-
11 ble land as encumbered by the permanent
12 easement.

13 “(B) OTHER.—The Secretary shall pay the
14 owner of eligible land enrolled under this sec-
15 tion in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement,
16 or an easement for the maximum duration al-
17 lowed under applicable State laws, not less than
18 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of
19 the compensation that would be paid under sub-
20 paragraph (A) if the land were being enrolled in
21 a permanent easement.

22 “(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET
23 VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair
24 market value of eligible land for purposes of
25 this paragraph using the Uniform Standards of

1 Professional Appraisal Practice or another in-
2 dustry-approved method.

3 “(c) EASEMENT RESTORATION AND MANAGE-
4 MENT.—

5 “(1) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT PLAN.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Land enrolled in a
7 forest reserve easement shall be subject to a
8 forest reserve easement plan, to be developed
9 jointly by the landowner and the Secretary, that
10 describes such activities to be carried out on the
11 land as are necessary to restore, maintain, and
12 enhance habitat for species described in sub-
13 section (b)(2)(B).

14 “(B) PRACTICES AND MEASURES.—A for-
15 est reserve easement plan developed under sub-
16 paragraph (A) shall require implementation of
17 such practices and measures as are necessary to
18 accomplish the activities described in the plan
19 under such subparagraph, which may include—

20 “(i) vegetative management and
21 silviculture practices;

22 “(ii) structural practices and meas-
23 ures;

24 “(iii) practices to increase carbon se-
25 questration;

1 “(iv) practices to improve biological
2 diversity; and

3 “(v) other practices and measures, as
4 determined by the Secretary.

5 “(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
7 provide financial assistance to owners of eligible
8 land to carry out the activities, practices, and
9 measures described in the forest reserve ease-
10 ment plan developed for the eligible land under
11 paragraph (1).

12 “(B) PAYMENTS.—With respect to finan-
13 cial assistance provided under subparagraph
14 (A), the Secretary shall pay—

15 “(i) in the case of a forest reserve
16 easement plan for eligible land enrolled in
17 a permanent easement, an amount that is
18 not more than 100 percent of the eligible
19 costs described in subparagraph (C), as de-
20 termined by the Secretary; and

21 “(ii) in the case of a forest reserve
22 easement plan for eligible land enrolled in
23 a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or
24 an easement for the maximum duration al-
25 lowed under applicable State laws, an

1 amount that is not less than 50 percent,
2 and not more than 75 percent, of the eligi-
3 ble costs described in subparagraph (C), as
4 determined by the Secretary.

5 “(C) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—Costs eligible for
6 payments under this paragraph are the costs of
7 activities, practices, and measures referred to in
8 subparagraph (A) that are associated with the
9 restoration or enhancement of the habitat con-
10 ditions specified for the applicable species in the
11 forest reserve easement plan.

12 “(D) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—Payments
13 under this paragraph shall be made—

14 “(i) only on a determination by the
15 Secretary that an activity, practice, or
16 measure described in subparagraph (C)
17 has been established in compliance with
18 appropriate standards and specifications,
19 which determination shall be made as soon
20 as practicable after establishment; and

21 “(ii) as soon as possible after such de-
22 termination is made.

23 “(E) LIMITATIONS.—Financial assistance
24 provided by the Secretary under this paragraph

1 to an owner of eligible land may not exceed
2 \$500,000 per easement or contract.

3 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
5 to owners of eligible land technical assistance to as-
6 sist the owners in—

7 “(A) developing a forest reserve easement
8 plan; and

9 “(B) complying with the terms and condi-
10 tions of a forest reserve easement, including the
11 implementation of a forest reserve easement
12 plan.

13 “(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-
14 retary may enter into 1 or more contracts with pri-
15 vate entities or agreements with a State, nongovern-
16 mental organization, or Indian Tribe to provide tech-
17 nical assistance described in paragraph (1), if the
18 Secretary determines that the contract or agreement
19 will advance the purposes of the program.

20 “(e) PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES.—

21 “(1) PROTECTIONS.—In the case of a land-
22 owner who enrolls eligible land in a forest reserve
23 easement, and whose conservation activities under
24 the forest reserve easement plan developed for such
25 land result in a net conservation benefit for a species

1 described in subsection (b)(2)(B), the Secretary shall
2 make available to the landowner safe harbor or simi-
3 lar assurances and protection under—

4 “(A) section 7(b)(4) of the Endangered
5 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4)); or

6 “(B) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16
7 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)).

8 “(2) MEASURES.—If protection under para-
9 graph (1) requires the taking of measures that are
10 in addition to the measures covered by the forest re-
11 serve easement plan developed for the eligible land,
12 the cost of the additional measures, and the cost of
13 any permit, shall be considered costs eligible for pay-
14 ments under subsection (c)(2).

15 “(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

16 “(1) DELEGATION OF EASEMENT ADMINISTRA-
17 TION.—

18 “(A) FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.—

19 The Secretary may delegate any of the manage-
20 ment, monitoring, and enforcement responsibil-
21 ities of the Secretary under this section to other
22 Federal or State agencies that have the appro-
23 priate authority, expertise, and resources nec-
24 essary to carry out those delegated responsibil-
25 ities.

1 “(B) CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.—
2 The Secretary may delegate any of the manage-
3 ment responsibilities of the Secretary under this
4 section to a nonprofit conservation organization
5 if the Secretary determines the organization has
6 the appropriate expertise and resources nec-
7 essary to carry out those delegated responsibil-
8 ities.

9 “(2) INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND
10 ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the
11 Secretary may consult with—

12 “(A) private forest landowners;

13 “(B) other Federal agencies;

14 “(C) State forestry agencies;

15 “(D) State fish and wildlife agencies;

16 “(E) State environmental quality agencies;

17 “(F) other State conservation agencies;

18 and

19 “(G) nonprofit conservation organizations.

20 **“SEC. 1267D. ADMINISTRATION.**

21 “(a) INELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary shall not use
22 amounts made available to carry out the program for the
23 purposes of acquiring an easement on—

1 “(1) land owned by a Federal agency, other
2 than such land that is acreage owned by an Indian
3 Tribe;

4 “(2) land owned in fee title by a State, includ-
5 ing an agency or a subdivision of a State, or a unit
6 of local government;

7 “(3) land subject to an easement or deed re-
8 striction that, as determined by the Secretary, pro-
9 vides similar protection as would be provided by en-
10 rollment in the program; or

11 “(4) land the enrollment in the program of
12 which would undermine the purposes of the program
13 due to on-site or off-site conditions, such as risk of
14 hazardous substances, permitted or existing rights of
15 way, infrastructure development, or adjacent land
16 uses.

17 “(b) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION,
18 AND TERMINATION.—

19 “(1) SUBORDINATION.—The Secretary may
20 subordinate any interest in eligible land, or portion
21 of such an interest, administered by the Secretary
22 (including for the purposes of utilities and energy
23 transmission services) directly or on behalf of the
24 Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if
25 the Secretary determines that the subordination—

1 “(A) increases conservation values or has a
2 limited negative effect on conservation values;

3 “(B) minimally affects the acreage subject
4 to the interest in eligible land; and

5 “(C) is in the public interest or furthers
6 the practical administration of the program.

7 “(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE.—

8 “(A) MODIFICATION.—

9 “(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
10 approve a modification of any interest in
11 land, or portion of such interest, adminis-
12 tered by the Secretary, either directly or
13 on behalf of the Commodity Credit Cor-
14 poration, under the program if the Sec-
15 retary determines that the modification—

16 “(I) will support the viability and
17 sustainability of working forests and
18 the conservation values of the applica-
19 ble easement;

20 “(II) will result in equal or in-
21 creased conservation values;

22 “(III) is consistent with the origi-
23 nal intent of the easement;

24 “(IV) is consistent with the pur-
25 poses of the program; and

1 “(V) is in the public interest or
2 further the practical administration
3 of the program, including correcting
4 errors and exercising reserved rights.

5 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an
6 interest in land, or portion of such inter-
7 est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-
8 retary may not, except in the case of a
9 modification that includes a change to an
10 easement to add acreage, increase any pay-
11 ment to an eligible entity.

12 “(B) EXCHANGE.—

13 “(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
14 approve an exchange of any interest in
15 land, or portion of such interest, adminis-
16 tered by the Secretary, either directly or
17 on behalf of the Commodity Credit Cor-
18 poration, under the program if the Sec-
19 retary determines that—

20 “(I) no reasonable alternative ex-
21 ists and the effect on the interest in
22 land is avoided or minimized to the
23 extent practicable; and

24 “(II) the exchange—

1 “(aa) results in equal or in-
2 creased conservation values;

3 “(bb) results in equal or
4 greater economic value to the
5 United States;

6 “(cc) is consistent with the
7 original intent of the easement;

8 “(dd) is consistent with the
9 purposes of the program; and

10 “(ee) is in the public inter-
11 est or furthers the practical ad-
12 ministration of the program.

13 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an
14 interest in land, or portion of such inter-
15 est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-
16 retary may not increase any payment to an
17 eligible entity.

18 “(3) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may ap-
19 prove a termination of any interest in eligible land,
20 or portion of such an interest, administered by the
21 Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity
22 Credit Corporation under the program if the Sec-
23 retary determines that—

24 “(A) termination is in the interest of the
25 Federal Government;

1 “(B) the United States will be fully com-
2 pensated for—

3 “(i) the value of the interest in the
4 land, as determined by the Secretary;

5 “(ii) any costs relating to the termi-
6 nation; and

7 “(iii) any damages determined appro-
8 priate by the Secretary; and

9 “(C) the termination will—

10 “(i) address a compelling public need
11 for which there is no practicable alter-
12 native even with avoidance and minimiza-
13 tion; and

14 “(ii) further the practical administra-
15 tion of the program.

16 “(4) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall obtain
17 consent from the landowner and eligible entity, if ap-
18 plicable, for any subordination, exchange, modifica-
19 tion, or termination of an interest in eligible land, or
20 portion of such an interest, under this subsection.

21 “(5) NOTICE.—Not fewer than 90 days before
22 taking any termination action described in para-
23 graph (3), the Secretary shall provide written notice
24 of that action to the Committee on Agriculture of

1 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
2 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

3 “(c) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—In
4 accordance with the provisions of section 2902 of the
5 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, land en-
6 rolled in the healthy forests reserve program established
7 under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
8 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) on the day before the date
9 of enactment of this section shall be considered enrolled
10 in the program.”.

11 **Subtitle I—Regional Conservation** 12 **Partnership Program**

13 **SEC. 2801. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.**

14 Section 1271(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985
15 (16 U.S.C. 3871(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(2) To address natural resource concerns on
17 eligible land on a regional or watershed scale, includ-
18 ing through—

19 “(A) the conservation, protection, restora-
20 tion, and sustainable use of soil;

21 “(B) the conservation and protection of
22 water, including sources of drinking water and
23 groundwater;

1 “(C) the prevention and mitigation of the
2 effects of flooding and drought, and the im-
3 provement or expansion of flood resiliency; and

4 “(D) the conservation of wildlife, agricul-
5 tural land, and related natural resources.”.

6 **SEC. 2802. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 1271A(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985
8 (16 U.S.C. 3871a(1)) is amended by striking subpara-
9 graph (D) and inserting the following:

10 “(D) The forest conservation easement
11 program established under subtitle I.”.

12 **SEC. 2803. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.**

13 (a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

14 Section 1271B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
15 U.S.C. 3871b(a)) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
18 into a partnership agreement with an eligible part-
19 ner to implement a project that will assist producers
20 with installing and maintaining an eligible activity
21 on eligible land.

22 “(2) STREAMLINING REQUIRED.—The Sec-
23 retary shall ensure that a partnership agreement
24 under paragraph (1)—

1 “(A) is entered into not later than 180
2 days after the date on which an application is
3 selected under subsection (e); and

4 “(B) contains only—

5 “(i) the information, described under
6 subsection (e)(3), necessary to fund and
7 initiate the project to be implemented
8 under the partnership agreement; and

9 “(ii) any adjustments to the require-
10 ments of a covered program determined
11 necessary by the Secretary under para-
12 graph (2) of section 1271E(f), and any
13 waiver provided under paragraph (3) of
14 such section.

15 “(3) PROCESS FOR REQUESTING WAIVERS AND
16 ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall make available
17 information on the process for requesting a waiver
18 or an adjustment to the requirements of a covered
19 program pursuant to section 1271E(f).”.

20 (b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—Section 1271B(d) of
21 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(d)) is
22 amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “how the
24 Secretary used amounts reserved by the Secretary
25 for that year for technical assistance under section

1 1271D(f); and” and inserting “the use of funds for
2 technical assistance under section 1271D(e);”;

3 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(6) ensure payments to eligible partners under
7 a partnership agreement are made not later than 30
8 days after the date on which the eligible partner
9 submits to the Secretary a request for payment.”.

10 (c) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271B(e)(3) of the
11 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(e)(3)) is
12 amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at
14 the end;

15 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-
16 paragraph (F); and

17 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(E) any requests by an eligible partner
20 for a waiver or an adjustment to the require-
21 ments of a covered program pursuant to section
22 1271E(f); and”.

23 **SEC. 2804. ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.**

24 Section 1271C(d)(3) of the Food Security Act of
25 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c(d)(3)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
2 paragraph (C);

3 (2) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by striking the
4 “and” at the end; and

5 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A)(iv) the
6 following:

7 “(B) provide, under section 1271B(c)(2),
8 not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of
9 the scope of the project that is the subject of
10 a partnership agreement funded pursuant to
11 paragraph (1) in direct funding; and”.

12 **SEC. 2805. FUNDING.**

13 (a) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1271D of
14 the Food Security Act of 1985 (3871d) is amended—

15 (1) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

16 (2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and
17 (e) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively; and

18 (3) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by
19 striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “section
20 1241(a)(6)”.

21 (b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

22 Subsection (b) of section 1271D of the Food Security Act
23 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d), as so redesignated, is amend-
24 ed to read as follows:

25 “(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made avail-
2 able to implement a project under a partnership
3 agreement, the Secretary may use not more than ten
4 percent to reimburse the eligible partner for admin-
5 istrative expenses relating to the project.

6 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—Any amounts expended
7 by an eligible partner for administrative expenses
8 that are not reimbursed under paragraph (1) may be
9 considered to be a part of the contribution of the eli-
10 gible partner under section 1271B(c)(2).”.

11 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (c) of sec-
12 tion 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
13 3871d), as so redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

14 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall,
16 through a partnership agreement, identify—

17 “(A) the total amount of funds that will be
18 used for technical assistance; and

19 “(B) the share of such funds that will be
20 provided to eligible partners under paragraph
21 (2).

22 “(2) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

23 “(A) REIMBURSEMENT.—Under a partner-
24 ship agreement that is not funded through an
25 alternative funding arrangement or grant agree-

1 ment under section 1271C(d), the Secretary
2 may reimburse eligible partners for the costs of
3 technical assistance provided through such part-
4 nership agreement, including—

5 “(i) the costs of technical assistance
6 needed to facilitate the maximum conserva-
7 tion benefit of the applicable project;

8 “(ii) the costs of providing outreach
9 and education to producers for potential
10 participation in the applicable project;

11 “(iii) the costs of establishing baseline
12 metrics to support the development of the
13 assessment required under section
14 1271B(e)(1)(E); and

15 “(iv) other costs necessary to support
16 the implementation of eligible activities, as
17 determined by the Secretary.

18 “(B) ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS.—The
19 Secretary may advance to eligible partners rea-
20 sonable amounts of funds for costs that may be
21 reimbursed under subparagraph (A), as deter-
22 mined by the Secretary.

23 “(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit
24 costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to

1 costs necessary to carry out the objectives of the
2 program.

3 “(4) REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BAR-
4 RIERS.—The Secretary shall provide a single, sim-
5 plified process for reimbursements or advancements
6 to eligible partners for the costs of technical assist-
7 ance under this subsection.

8 “(5) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretary
9 shall develop and implement strategies to encourage
10 third-party technical service providers to provide
11 technical assistance to eligible partners pursuant to
12 a partnership agreement.”.

13 **SEC. 2806. ADMINISTRATION.**

14 (a) REPORTING.—Section 1271E(b) of the Food Se-
15 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e(b)) is amended in
16 the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “make
17 publicly available and” after “the Secretary shall”.

18 (b) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM
19 RULES.—Section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985
20 (16 U.S.C. 3871e) is amended by adding at the end the
21 following:

22 “(f) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM RE-
23 QUIREMENTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this
25 subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that the terms

1 and conditions of a program contract are consistent
2 with the requirements of the applicable covered pro-
3 gram to be used as part of the applicable partner-
4 ship agreement.

5 “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, if
7 the Secretary determines necessary, adjust a
8 regulatory requirement of a covered program to
9 be used as a part of a partnership agreement,
10 or related guidance, as it applies to an eligible
11 activity carried out under a program contract
12 entered into pursuant to the partnership agree-
13 ment—

14 “(i) to provide a simplified process; or

15 “(ii) to better reflect unique local cir-
16 cumstances.

17 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall
18 not adjust the application of statutory require-
19 ments for a covered program to be used as a
20 part of a partnership agreement, including re-
21 quirements governing appeals, payment limits,
22 and conservation compliance.

23 “(3) WAIVER.—With respect to a program con-
24 tract for an eligible activity under the agricultural
25 conservation easement program, the Secretary may,

1 in the applicable partnership agreement, waive the
2 application of clauses (ii) or (iii)(III) of section
3 1265A(4)(A) for purposes of determining the eligi-
4 bility of land.

5 “(4) CERTIFICATION APPLICABILITY.—With re-
6 spect to a partnership agreement entered into for ac-
7 quisition of easements, the Secretary shall apply the
8 authorities applicable to the eligible partner under
9 section 1265B(b)(5)(A) if the eligible partner is an
10 eligible entity certified under such section.

11 “(5) EXEMPTION.—With respect to a program
12 contract that includes an eligible activity under the
13 environmental quality incentives program to be in-
14 stalled and maintained in a State in which irrigation
15 has not been used significantly for agricultural pur-
16 poses, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary
17 may not consider prior irrigation history when deter-
18 mining the eligibility of land.

19 “(6) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
20 apply to partnership agreements funded pursuant to
21 section 1271C(d).”.

22 **SEC. 2807. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1271F(a)(2)(C) of the
24 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(a)(2)(C)) is
25 amended by inserting “, including restoration and en-

1 hancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife mi-
2 gration corridors” before the semicolon at the end.

3 (b) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271F(b) of the Food
4 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(b)) is amended
5 by striking “funds under section 1271D(d)(2)” and insert-
6 ing “funds allocated under section 1271D(a)(2)”.

7 **Subtitle J—Repeals and** 8 **Transitional Provisions**

9 **SEC. 2901. SUPERSEDED CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-** 10 **GRAM AUTHORITIES.**

11 (a) REPEALS.—

12 (1) FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM.—Section
13 1231B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
14 3831b) is repealed.

15 (2) PILOT PROGRAMS.—Section 1231C of the
16 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831c) is re-
17 pealed.

18 (b) TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

19 (1) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS AND
20 AGREEMENTS.—Subject to paragraph (2), this title,
21 and the amendments made by this title, shall not af-
22 fect the validity or terms of any contract or agree-
23 ment entered into by the Secretary under subchapter
24 B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
25 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.) be-

1 fore the date of enactment of this Act, or any pay-
2 ments or technical assistance required to be made in
3 connection with the contract or agreement.

4 (2) MODIFICATION OF EXISTING CONTRACTS
5 AND AGREEMENTS.—The signatories to a contract
6 or an agreement entered into under subchapter B of
7 chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Se-
8 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.) before
9 the date of enactment of this Act may mutually
10 agree to a modification of the contract or agreement
11 to implement this title, and the amendments made
12 by this title.

13 (3) EXTENSION PERMITTED.—Notwithstanding
14 the repeal of sections 1231B and 1231C of the Food
15 Security Act of 1985 made by subsection (a), the
16 Secretary may extend for 1 year a contract or agree-
17 ment entered into under either such section before
18 the date of enactment of this Act, if that contract
19 or agreement expires on or before September 30,
20 2025, under the terms and payment rate of the ex-
21 isting contract or agreement and in accordance with
22 section 1231B or 1231C of the Food Security Act
23 of 1985 (as in effect on the day before the date of
24 enactment of this Act), as applicable.

25 (4) FUNDING.—

1 (A) USE OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDS.—Not-
2 withstanding the amendments made by this
3 title, any funds made available from the Com-
4 modity Credit Corporation to carry out sub-
5 chapter B of chapter 1 of title XII of the Food
6 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.)
7 (as in effect on the day before the date of en-
8 actment of this Act) for any of fiscal years
9 2019 through 2024 shall be made available to
10 carry out contracts and agreements that were
11 entered into under such subchapter prior to the
12 date of enactment of this Act, subject to the
13 condition that no such contract or agreement
14 may be modified so as to increase the amount
15 of land enrolled or the amount of the payment
16 received.

17 (B) OTHER.—The Secretary may use
18 funds made available to carry out subchapter B
19 of chapter 1 of title XII of the Food Security
20 Act of 1985 to continue to carry out contracts
21 or agreements that were entered into under
22 such subchapter prior to the date of enactment
23 of this Act using the provisions of law (includ-
24 ing regulations) applicable to those contracts or

1 agreements as in existence on the day before
2 the date of enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 2902. HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.**

4 (a) REPEAL.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Healthy For-
6 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et
7 seq.) is repealed.

8 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of
9 contents in section 1(b) of the Healthy Forests Res-
10 toration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–148; 117
11 Stat. 1887) is amended by striking the items relat-
12 ing to title V.

13 (b) TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

14 (1) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS, AGREE-
15 MENTS, AND EASEMENTS.—The repeal made by sub-
16 section (a) shall not affect the validity or terms of
17 any contract, agreement, or easement entered into
18 by the Secretary under title V of the Healthy For-
19 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et
20 seq.) before the date of enactment of this Act, or
21 any payments or technical assistance required to be
22 made in connection with the contract, agreement, or
23 easement.

24 (2) FUNDING.—

1 (A) USE OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDS.—Not-
2 withstanding the repeal made by subsection (a),
3 any funds made available from the Commodity
4 Credit Corporation to carry out the healthy for-
5 ests reserve program established under title V
6 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
7 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) (as in effect on the
8 day before the date of enactment of this Act)
9 for any of fiscal years 2019 through 2024 shall
10 be made available to carry out contracts, agree-
11 ments, or easements referred to in paragraph
12 (1), subject to the condition that no such con-
13 tract, agreement, or easement may be modified
14 so as to increase the amount of any payment
15 received.

16 (B) OTHER.—The Secretary may use
17 funds made available to carry out the forest
18 conservation easement program established
19 under subtitle I of the Food Security Act of
20 1985 to continue to carry out contracts, agree-
21 ments, or easements referred to in paragraph
22 (1) using the provisions of law (including regu-
23 lations) applicable to those contracts, agree-
24 ments, and easements as in existence on the
25 day before the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **TITLE III—TRADE**
2 **Subtitle A—Food for Peace Act**

3 **SEC. 3101. FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.**

4 Section 202 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1722) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by striking “any other provision of
8 law” and inserting “any other provision of this
9 Act”;

10 (B) by inserting “, in consultation with the
11 Secretary,” after “Administrator”; and

12 (C) by striking “as the Administrator de-
13 termines appropriate” and inserting “as the
14 Secretary determines appropriate”;

15 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “assist-
16 ance, including in the form of” before “agricultural
17 commodities”;

18 (3) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “; or”
20 and inserting a semicolon;

21 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
22 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph:

1 “(3) a nongovernmental organization, as deter-
2 mined by the Administrator.”;

3 (4) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the
4 following new paragraph:

5 “(5) LIMITATION ON DIVERSION OF FUNDS.—
6 Of the funds made available in each fiscal year
7 under this title to the Administrator, not more than
8 50 percent may be made available for expenses other
9 than the procurement of United States-grown agri-
10 cultural commodities and ocean transportation of
11 such commodities.”; and

12 (5) in subsection (h)(3), by striking “2023”
13 and inserting “2029”.

14 **SEC. 3102. MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.**

15 Section 204(a) of the Food for Peace Act (7
16 U.S.C.1724(a)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “Committees
18 on International Relations” and inserting “Commit-
19 tees on Foreign Affairs”;

20 (2) by striking paragraph (2); and

21 (3) by redesignating paragraph (3), as amend-
22 ed, as paragraph (2).

1 **SEC. 3103. FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.**

2 Section 205(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
3 13 1725(f)) is amended by striking “December 31, 2023”
4 and inserting “December 31, 2029”.

5 **SEC. 3104. ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS; OVERSIGHT, MONI-**
6 **TORING, AND EVALUATION.**

7 Section 207 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
8 1726a) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “the Agri-
10 culture Improvement Act of 2018” and inserting “the
11 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024”;
12 and

13 (2) in subsection (f)(4), by striking “2023”
14 each place it appears and inserting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 3105. INTERNATIONAL FOOD RELIEF PARTNERSHIP.**

16 Section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1726b(f)) is amended to read as follows:

18 “(f) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
19 tion to amounts otherwise made available to carry out this
20 section, of the funds made available in each fiscal year
21 under this title to the Administrator, not less than
22 \$15,000,000 shall be made available in each of fiscal years
23 2025 through 2029 to carry out this section, to remain
24 available until expended.”.

1 **SEC. 3106. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

2 Subsection (b) of section 406 of the Food for Peace
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736) is amended to read as follows:

4 “(b) INCLUDED EXPENSES.—With respect to com-
5 modities made available under titles II and III, the Com-
6 modity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and in-
7 cidental costs of such commodities.”.

8 **SEC. 3107. PRE-POSITIONING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-**
9 **ITIES AND ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING**
10 **FOOD AID PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**

11 Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
12 1736a) is amended—

13 (1) by amending subsection (c)(1) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(1) ACQUISITION.—The Administrator shall
16 transfer, arrange for the transportation, and take
17 other steps necessary to make available agricultural
18 commodities to be provided under title II and title
19 III.”;

20 (2) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking “2023”
21 each place it appears and inserting “2029”;

22 (3) in subsection (f)(2)—

23 (A) by striking subparagraph (I);

24 (B) by amending subparagraph (H) to
25 read as follows:

1 “(H) A statement of the amount of funds
2 provided to each eligible organization that re-
3 ceived assistance under this Act and the man-
4 ner in which those funds were used, including
5 whether such use was for commodity transpor-
6 tation or administrative costs.”;

7 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
8 through (H) (as amended) as subparagraphs
9 (F) through (I), respectively; and

10 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
11 the following new subparagraph:

12 “(E) An assessment of activities specifi-
13 cally targeting women and girls and the impact
14 of those activities in addressing the unique
15 needs of women and girls.”; and

16 (4) by striking subsection (f)(3).

17 **SEC. 3108. DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE**
18 **SALES OR TO PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.**

19 Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
20 1736b) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
21 “2029”.

22 **SEC. 3109. MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD AS-**
23 **SISTANCE.**

24 Section 412 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
25 1736f) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2029”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
4 section:

5 “(f) MINIMUM LEVELS OF FUNDING TO ADDRESS
6 CHILD WASTING.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years
8 2025 through 2029, if the most recent Joint Child
9 Malnutrition Estimates, published annually by the
10 World Health Organization, the World Bank, and
11 the United Nations Children’s Fund, report a rate
12 of children under 5 years of age affected by child
13 wasting above 5 percent for the year covered by such
14 report, not less than the minimum level described in
15 paragraph (2), to be derived from amounts otherwise
16 made available to carry out food assistance pro-
17 grams for such fiscal year and in addition to
18 amounts otherwise made available pursuant to this
19 Act, shall be expended for the procurement of ready-
20 to-use therapeutic foods.

21 “(2) MINIMUM LEVEL DESCRIBED.—The min-
22 imum level described in this paragraph is—

23 “(A) \$200,000,000; or

24 “(B) in the case of a fiscal year for which
25 the total amount made available to carry out

1 programs under title II is less than
2 \$1,925,000,000, the product of—

3 “(i) \$200,000,000, multiplied by

4 “(ii) the quotient of the total amount
5 made available to carry out programs
6 under title II for that fiscal year divided by
7 \$1,925,000,000.”.

8 **SEC. 3110. TERMINATION DATE FOR MICRONUTRIENT FOR-**
9 **TIFICATION PROGRAMS.**

10 Section 415(c) of the Food for Peace Act (7
11 U.S.C.1736g-2(c)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
12 serting “2029”.

13 **SEC. 3111. JOHN OGWOWSKI AND DOUG BEREUTER FARM-**
14 **ER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.**

15 Section 501 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
16 1737) is amended by striking “2023” each place it ap-
17 pears and inserting “2029”.

18 **Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act**
19 **of 1978**

20 **SEC. 3201. AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION AND FA-**
21 **CILITATION.**

22 (a) MODIFICATION TO FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOP-
23 MENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM.—Section 203(c) of the
24 Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(c)(3)) is

1 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
2 graph:

3 “(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE IN-
4 FRASTRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED
5 STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the pro-
7 gram established under this subsection, the Sec-
8 retary shall enter into contracts or other agree-
9 ments with eligible trade organizations to pro-
10 vide needs assessments, training, and other
11 technical assistance to enhance the capabilities
12 of infrastructure in new and developing foreign
13 markets, including infrastructure relating to
14 cold chain capacity, port improvements, and
15 other developments, to ensure that United
16 States agricultural commodities are not dam-
17 aged or lost due to deficiencies of such infra-
18 structure.

19 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
20 TIONS.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—There is author-
22 ized to be appropriated to carry out this
23 paragraph \$1,000,000 for each of the fis-
24 cal years 2025 through 2029.

1 “(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts au-
2 thorized to be appropriated under this sub-
3 paragraph that are not used to carry out
4 this paragraph are authorized to be made
5 available to carry out the program estab-
6 lished under this subsection.”.

7 (b) REPORT ON COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED
8 STATES SPECIALTY CROPS.—Section 203(e)(7) of the Ag-
9 ricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(e)(7)) is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 “(7) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-
13 sultation with the United States Trade Rep-
14 resentative, shall submit every two years to the
15 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
17 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report
18 detailing the competitiveness of United States
19 specialty crops.

20 “(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by
21 subparagraph (A) shall—

22 “(i) identify and analyze acts, policies,
23 or practices of foreign countries that con-
24 stitute significant barriers to, or distor-

1 tions of, United States exports of specialty
2 crops, including the imposition of—

3 “(I) tariffs (including retaliatory
4 tariffs) or quotas (including tariff-rate
5 quotas); and

6 “(II) non-tariff barriers, includ-
7 ing technical barriers to trade, sani-
8 tary and phytosanitary measures, im-
9 port licensing procedures, and sub-
10 sidies;

11 “(ii) identify and analyze acts, poli-
12 cies, or practices of foreign countries that
13 enhance the competitiveness of imported
14 specialty crops with domestic specialty crop
15 producers, including—

16 “(I) the subsidization of exports
17 from the producing country; and

18 “(II) the impact of any lack or
19 circumvention of labor and environ-
20 mental laws in the producing country;

21 “(iii) identify and analyze any dif-
22 ferences in applicable food safety regula-
23 tions of foreign countries that may result
24 in imported specialty crops posing a risk to
25 United States consumers;

1 “(iv) make an estimate—

2 “(I) of the impacts on the com-
3 petitiveness of United States specialty
4 crops of any act, policy, or practice
5 identified under clauses (i) and (ii);

6 “(II) if feasible, of the value of
7 additional specialty crops that would,
8 during the year preceding submission
9 of the report, have been exported from
10 the United States to each foreign
11 country an act, policy, or practice of
12 which is identified under clause (i) if
13 each such act, policy, or practice of
14 that country did not exist; and

15 “(III) if feasible, of the injury
16 caused to domestic specialty crop pro-
17 ducers for any acts, policies, or prac-
18 tices identified under clause (ii).

19 “(v) assess the extent to which each
20 act, policy, or practice identified under
21 clauses (i) and (ii) are subject to inter-
22 national agreements to which the United
23 States is a party;

24 “(vi) include information with respect
25 to any action taken by the executive or leg-

1 islative branches during the two years pre-
2 ceding submission of the report, or ex-
3 pected to be taken after submission of the
4 report, to eliminate any act, policy, or
5 practice identified under clauses (i) and
6 (ii), including—

7 “(I) any action under section
8 301;

9 “(II) negotiations or consulta-
10 tions with foreign governments, which
11 may include engagement through the
12 standing committee on sanitary and
13 phytosanitary matters established
14 under a free trade agreement to which
15 the United States is a party; and

16 “(III) action at the World Trade
17 Organization, including dispute settle-
18 ment actions, consultations, or nego-
19 tiations; and

20 “(vii) a description of—

21 “(I) any funds provided under
22 subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not
23 obligated in the fiscal year preceding
24 submission of the report; and

1 “(II) the reason such funds were
2 not obligated.

3 “(C) COMMENT PERIOD.—In preparing the
4 report required by subparagraph (A), the Sec-
5 retary, in coordination with the United States
6 Trade Representative, shall seek and consider
7 comments from the public and from the Agri-
8 cultural Technical Advisory Committee for
9 Trade in Fruits and Vegetables.

10 “(D) FORM OF REPORT.—The report re-
11 quired by subparagraph (A) shall be made
12 available to the public in machine-readable for-
13 mat.”.

14 (c) MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF FUNDING.—
15 Section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7
16 U.S.C. 5623(f)) is amended—

17 (1) by striking “2019 through 2023” each place
18 it appears and inserting “2025 through 2029”;

19 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking
20 “\$255,000,000” and inserting “\$489,500,000”;

21 (3) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking
22 “\$200,000,000” and inserting “\$400,000,000”;

23 (4) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking
24 “\$34,500,000” and inserting “\$69,000,000”; and

1 (5) in paragraph (4), by striking “during the
2 period in which that memorandum is in effect” and
3 inserting “during the period in which the directives
4 in such memorandum are in effect”.

5 (d) REPEAL.—Section 718 of title VII of the Agri-
6 culture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administra-
7 tion, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (as
8 enacted by section 101(a) of division A of Public Law
9 105–277; 7 U.S.C. 5623 note) is repealed.

10 **SEC. 3202. PRESERVING FOREIGN MARKETS FOR GOODS**
11 **USING COMMON NAMES.**

12 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Agricultural
13 Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—

14 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
15 striking “As used in this Act—” and inserting “In
16 this Act:”;

17 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
18 (8) as paragraphs (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and
19 (4), respectively, and reordering such paragraphs in
20 numerical sequence;

21 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(2) COMMON NAME.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘common
2 name’ means a name that, as determined by the
3 Secretary—

4 “(i) is ordinarily or customarily used
5 for an agricultural commodity or food
6 product;

7 “(ii) is typically placed on the pack-
8 aging and product label of the agricultural
9 commodity or food product;

10 “(iii) with respect to wine—

11 “(I) is—

12 “(aa) ordinarily or custom-
13 arily used for a wine grape vari-
14 etal name; or

15 “(bb) a traditional term or
16 expression that is typically placed
17 on the packaging and label of the
18 wine; and

19 “(II) does not mean any appella-
20 tion of origin for wine listed in sub-
21 part C of part 9 of title 27, Code of
22 Federal Regulations (or successor reg-
23 ulations); and

1 “(iv) the use of which is consistent
2 with standards of the Codex Alimentarius
3 Commission.

4 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a de-
5 termination under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
6 retary may take into account—

7 “(i) competent sources, such as dic-
8 tionaries, newspapers, professional journals
9 and literature, and information posted on
10 websites that are determined by the Sec-
11 retary to be reliable in reporting market
12 information;

13 “(ii) the use of the common name in
14 a domestic, regional, or international prod-
15 uct standard, including a standard promul-
16 gated by the Codex Alimentarius Commis-
17 sion, for the agricultural commodity or
18 food product; and

19 “(iii) the ordinary and customary use
20 of the common name in the production or
21 marketing of the agricultural commodity or
22 food product in the United States or in
23 other countries.”; and

24 (4) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), in
25 subparagraph (A)—

1 (A) in clause (v), by striking “or” at the
2 end;

3 (B) in clause (vi), by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting “; or”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(vii) prohibits or disallows the use of
7 the common name of an agricultural com-
8 modity or food product of the United
9 States.”.

10 (b) NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND USE OF COMMON
11 NAMES.—Title III of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978
12 (7 U.S.C. 5652 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
13 the following:

14 **“SEC. 303. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND THE USE OF COM-**
15 **MON NAMES.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate
17 efforts with the United States Trade Representative to se-
18 cure the right of United States agricultural producers,
19 processors, and exporters to use common names for agri-
20 cultural commodities or food products in foreign markets
21 through the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multi-
22 lateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or ex-
23 changes of letters that assure the current and future use
24 of each common name identified by the Secretary in con-

1 nection with United States agricultural commodities or
2 food products.

3 “(b) BRIEFING.—The Secretary and the United
4 States Trade Representative shall jointly provide to the
5 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
6 tives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
7 estry of the Senate, the Committee on Ways and Means
8 of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on
9 Finance of the Senate, a briefing, twice annually, on ef-
10 forts and successes in carrying out subsection (a).”.

11 **SEC. 3203. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE**
12 **FRUITS AND VEGETABLE WORKING GROUP.**

13 Subtitle B of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act
14 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5671 et seq.) is amended by adding
15 at the end the following:

16 **“SEC. 418. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE**
17 **FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WORKING GROUP.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary (acting through
19 the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign
20 Agricultural Affairs), the United States Trade Represent-
21 ative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other
22 Federal agencies or entities as determined to be appro-
23 priate by the Secretary, shall jointly establish an inter-
24 agency working group (referred to in this section as the
25 ‘working group’) composed of representatives from each

1 agency to monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, sea-
2 sonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and
3 related information.

4 “(b) CONSULTATION.—The working group shall con-
5 sult with the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, rel-
6 evant seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and
7 other relevant trade associations to identify threats that
8 imports pose to domestic producers of seasonal and perish-
9 able fruits and vegetables.

10 “(c) TRADE ACTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The
11 working group shall coordinate as appropriate regarding
12 potential additional trade actions and investigations with
13 respect to any seasonal or perishable fruits and vegetables,
14 as determined to be advisable by the working group.

15 “(d) RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY.—The
16 working group shall recommend programs or assistance
17 that the Secretary could provide to producers of seasonal
18 and perishable fruits and vegetables to address market im-
19 pacts.”.

20 **Subtitle C—Other Agricultural** 21 **Trade Laws**

22 **SEC. 3301. GROWING AMERICAN FOOD EXPORTS.**

23 Section 1543A of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
24 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5679) is amended

1 in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and inserting
2 “2029”.

3 **SEC. 3302. FOOD FOR PROGRESS ACT OF 1985.**

4 Section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (com-
5 monly referred to as the “Food for Progress Act of 1985”;
6 7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (c)—

8 (A) by striking “enter into” and inserting
9 “annually enter into two or more”; and

10 (B) by inserting “two or more” before “eli-
11 gible entities”;

12 (2) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “2023” and
13 inserting “2029”;

14 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
15 inserting “2029”;

16 (4) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and
17 inserting “2029”;

18 (5) in subsection (l)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
20 and inserting “2029”; and

21 (B) in the heading of paragraph (4), by
22 striking “HUMANITARIAN OR”;

23 (6) in subsection (m)(2), by striking “humani-
24 tarian and”; and

1 (7) in subsection (n)(2)(C), by striking “Com-
2 mittee on International Relations” and inserting
3 “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

4 **SEC. 3303. BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST ACT.**

5 Section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust
6 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), by striking
8 “2023” each place it appears and inserting “2029”;

9 (2) by amending the matter preceding subclause
10 (I) of subsection (c)(1)(B)(i) to read as follows:

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Without undue
12 delay, any funds or commodities held in
13 the trust may be released by the Secretary,
14 which shall be informed by information
15 provided by the Administrator regarding
16 the ongoing programs of the Adminis-
17 trator, to provide food, and cover any asso-
18 ciated costs, under title II of the Food for
19 Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.)—”;

20 (3) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking “the Ad-
21 ministrator” and inserting “the Secretary”;

22 (4) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by inserting “by the
23 Secretary” after “reimbursed”; and

24 (5) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” each
25 place it appears and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 3304. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO**
2 **EMERGING MARKETS.**

3 Section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
4 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5622 note; Public
5 Law 101–624) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-
6 ing “2029”.

7 **SEC. 3305. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**
8 **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

9 Section 3307 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
10 2018 (7 U.S.C. 3295) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (g)(1)), by striking “2019
12 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”;

13 (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
14 section (h); and

15 (3) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(g) PROGRAM CONTINUITY.—To assist eligible
18 countries in the long-term development of enduring,
19 school-based agricultural education and youth extension
20 programs, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent
21 practicable—

22 “(1) implement the fellowship program in each
23 participating host country for not fewer than 3 con-
24 secutive years; and

25 “(2) ensure that contracts awarded to outside
26 organizations are multi-year.”.

1 **SEC. 3306. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IM-**
2 **MERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

3 Title III of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
4 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 3313. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IM-**
7 **MERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE.—The term ‘eligible
10 candidate’ means an individual that—

11 “(A) is between the ages of 19 and 30
12 years;

13 “(B) has demonstrated experience in agri-
14 cultural sciences, food systems, and food and
15 nutrition education;

16 “(C) is prepared to live in 1 or more host
17 countries for at least 2 months or up to 6
18 months; and

19 “(D) is a resident of the United States.

20 “(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ‘eligible
21 country’ means a country that has agricultural trade
22 relations with the United States, as recognized by
23 the Foreign Agriculture Service.

24 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means
25 the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion

1 and Exchange Program established under subsection
2 (b).

3 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
6 lish an international cultural immersion and exchange pro-
7 gram, to be known as the ‘International Agriculture Cul-
8 tural Immersion and Exchange Program’, under which the
9 Secretary shall—

10 “(1) provide eligible candidates with inter-
11 national cultural exchange and immersion experi-
12 ences focused on agricultural sciences, food systems,
13 and food and nutrition education through placement
14 with host families in eligible countries; and

15 “(2) place in the United States with host fami-
16 lies individuals that meet the requirement of sub-
17 section (a)(1)(A) and are residents of eligible coun-
18 tries to experience United States agriculture, trade
19 relations, and culture.

20 “(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program
21 are—

22 “(1) to develop globally minded citizens of the
23 United States; and

1 “(2) to strengthen and enhance trade between
2 eligible countries and the United States in agricul-
3 tural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

4 “(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To administer the Pro-
6 gram, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative
7 agreement with a nonprofit organization that has ex-
8 perience in implementing international cultural ex-
9 change programs focused on agricultural sciences,
10 food and nutrition education, and cultural under-
11 standing through placement with host families.

12 “(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1),
13 the Secretary shall give priority to a nonprofit orga-
14 nization with which the Secretary has a memo-
15 randum of understanding dated not earlier than
16 January 1, 2019.

17 “(3) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of en-
18 tering into a cooperative agreement under this sub-
19 section, a nonprofit organization shall provide equal
20 matching funds from non-Federal sources.

21 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry
23 out this section for each of fiscal years 2025 through
24 2029.”.

1 **SEC. 3307. INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL**
2 **ASSISTANCE.**

3 Section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
4 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by striking
5 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 3308. MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR**
7 **EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PRO-**
8 **GRAM.**

9 Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
10 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting “or
12 lower-middle” before “income”;

13 (2) in subsection (h)(2), by striking “Com-
14 mittee on International Relations” and inserting
15 “Committee on Foreign Affairs”;

16 (3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking “2023” and
17 inserting “2029”; and

18 (4) in subsection (l)(4), by striking “not more
19 than 10 percent” and inserting “not less than 8 per-
20 cent, but not more than 15 percent”.

21 **SEC. 3309. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.**

22 Section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
23 Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2220a note; Public Law 110–246)
24 is amended—

25 (1) by amending subsection (b)(1) to read as
26 follows:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the period of fiscal
2 years 2025 through 2029, the aggregate contribu-
3 tions of funds of the Federal Government provided
4 to the Trust under this section shall not exceed 33
5 percent of the total amount of funds contributed to
6 the Trust from all sources and for all purposes.”;

7 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

8 (A) by inserting “under this section” after
9 “Trust”; and

10 (B) by striking “2023” and inserting
11 “2029”; and

12 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “2023” and
13 inserting “2029”.

14 **SEC. 3310. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCURE-**
15 **MENT PROJECTS.**

16 Section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and
17 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726c(e)(1)) is amended
18 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

19 **SEC. 3311. AGRICULTURAL TRADE ENFORCEMENT TASK**
20 **FORCE.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after
22 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
23 establish a joint task force, to be known as the “Agricul-
24 tural Trade Enforcement Task Force” (referred to in this
25 section as the “Task Force”).

1 (b) DUTIES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall—

3 (A) identify trade barriers to United States
4 agricultural exports that are vulnerable to dis-
5 pute settlement under the World Trade Organi-
6 zation (“WTO”) or other trade agreements;

7 (B) develop and implement a strategy for
8 enforcing violations of trade agreements related
9 to these trade barriers;

10 (C) identify like-minded trading partners
11 for specific trade barriers that could act as co-
12 complainants or primary complainants on dis-
13 putes that are systemically or economically im-
14 portant to the United States; and

15 (D) report quarterly to Congress on
16 progress towards resolving cases or filing dis-
17 putes.

18 (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its duties
19 under this subsection, the Task Force shall regularly
20 consult, to the extent necessary and appropriate,
21 with the following:

22 (A) Relevant stakeholders in the private
23 sector, including the agricultural trade advisory
24 committees.

1 (B) Federal departments and agencies that
2 are not represented on the Task Force.

3 (C) Like-minded trading partners that are
4 similarly concerned with trade barriers and are
5 potential participants in the dispute settlement
6 process.

7 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be
9 comprised of the following members:

10 (A) One or more employees of the Foreign
11 Agricultural Service, who shall be appointed by
12 the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Ag-
13 ricultural Affairs.

14 (B) One of more employees of the Office of
15 the United States Trade Representative, who
16 shall be appointed jointly by the General Coun-
17 sel for the Office of the United States Trade
18 Representative and the Chief Agricultural Ne-
19 gotiator.

20 (C) One or more employees of other Fed-
21 eral agencies as needed, who shall be appointed
22 jointly by the officials specified in subpara-
23 graphs (A) and (B).

24 (2) QUALIFICATION.—Employees of the Federal
25 agencies specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and

1 (C) of paragraph (1) may be appointed as members
2 of the Task Force only if such employees have ap-
3 propriate expertise in agricultural trade policy and
4 trade enforcement.

5 (d) REPORT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, and on a quar-
8 terly basis thereafter, the Task Force shall submit
9 to Congress a report on its progress in identifying
10 and addressing trade barriers to United States agri-
11 cultural exports.

12 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
13 required by this subsection shall include the fol-
14 lowing:

15 (A) A description of the systemic and eco-
16 nomically significant trade barriers that have
17 been identified.

18 (B) A justification for including the identi-
19 fied trade barriers.

20 (C) A description of the progress that has
21 been made in developing dispute settlement
22 cases and further information that is required.

23 (D) The current status of ongoing disputes
24 at the WTO and implementation of panel, arbi-
25 tration, or Appellate Body decisions.

1 (3) ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN
2 INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report required by this
3 subsection shall, in addition to the matters described
4 in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of para-
5 graph (2), include a plan to file a request under the
6 WTO dispute settlement process for consultations to
7 address India’s minimum price supports. The plan
8 shall include—

9 (A) an identification of like-minded trading
10 partners that could act as co-complainants or
11 primary complainants with respect to the re-
12 quest;

13 (B) a description of specific claims the
14 United States intends to make with respect to
15 the request; and

16 (C) a timeline to—

17 (i) request consultations; and

18 (ii) request the establishment of a
19 panel not later than 60 days after the date
20 of the request for consultations if India
21 does not provide assurances that it will ad-
22 dress its minimum price supports.

23 (e) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—The United States
24 Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture

1 shall provide briefings on the Task Force to appropriate
2 Members of Congress and congressional staff.

3 **TITLE IV—NUTRITION**
4 **Subtitle A—Supplemental**
5 **Nutrition Assistance Program**

6 **SEC. 4101. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

7 Section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
8 U.S.C. 2011) is amended—

9 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “It.”, and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(b) Congress recognizes the supplemental nutrition
12 assistance program allows low-income households to ob-
13 tain supplemental food for an active, healthy life that sup-
14 ports the prevention of—

15 “(1) diet-related chronic disease, including—

16 “(A) obesity;

17 “(B) diabetes;

18 “(C) hypertension;

19 “(D) heart disease; and

20 “(E) cancer;

21 “(2) disability;

22 “(3) premature death;

23 “(4) unsustainable health care costs; and

24 “(5) undermining of military readiness.

1 “(c) Accordingly, it is also the policy of the Congress
2 that the Secretary should administer the supplemental nu-
3 trition assistance program in a manner that will provide
4 participants, especially children, access to a variety of
5 foods essential to optimal health and well-being.”.

6 **SEC. 4102. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RES-**
7 **ERVATIONS.**

8 (a) SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SNAP.—Title I of
9 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
10 Act (25 U.S.C. 5321 et seq.) is amended by adding at
11 the end the following:

12 **“SEC. 112. SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SNAP.**

13 “(a) AGRICULTURE SELF-DETERMINATION AUTHOR-
14 IZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into self-
15 determination contracts, in accordance with subsection
16 (b), with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, on the
17 request of any Indian Tribe by Tribal resolution, to plan,
18 conduct, and administer any function, service, or activity
19 of the supplemental nutrition assistance program estab-
20 lished under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
21 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) for the Indian Tribe.

22 “(b) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—A self-de-
23 termination contract entered into under subsection (a)
24 shall have the same terms and conditions, and be subject
25 to the same procedures, regulations, and requirements, as

1 a self-determination contract entered into under section
2 102, except that the Secretary of Agriculture and the De-
3 partment of Agriculture shall be the appropriate Secretary
4 and agency for purposes of a self-determination contract
5 entered into under subsection (a).

6 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Office of Self-
7 Governance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall provide
8 technical assistance regarding the self-determination con-
9 tracts authorized under this section to—

10 “(1) the Secretary of Agriculture; and

11 “(2) Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations
12 that request that assistance.”.

13 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.— Section
14 4(b)(6)(E) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
15 U.S.C. 2013(b)(5)(E)) is amended by striking “2023” and
16 inserting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 4103. EXCLUSIONS FROM INCOME AND RESOURCES.**

18 (a) EXCLUSIONS FROM INCOME.—Section 5(d) of the
19 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(d)) is
20 amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (7)—

22 (A) by striking “a child who is”, and

23 (B) by striking “17” and inserting “21”,

24 and

1 (2) in paragraph (18) by striking “and” at the
2 end,

3 (3) in paragraph (19) by striking the period at
4 the end and by inserting “; and”, and

5 (4) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(20) Any payment, income, allowance, or earn-
7 ings made to household members derived from—

8 “(A) any program defined in section
9 6(o)(1), except any earnings made to a house-
10 hold member derived from any program estab-
11 lished under the Post-9/11 Veterans Edu-
12 cational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010
13 or the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational
14 Assistance Act of 2017;

15 “(B) any program established under sec-
16 tion 6(d)(4), any vocational rehabilitation pro-
17 gram established as defined in the Rehabilita-
18 tion Act of 1973; or

19 “(C) any refugee employment program es-
20 tablished under section 412(e) of the Immigra-
21 tion and Nationality Act.”.

22 (b) REPEAL OF CERTAIN EARNED INCOME INCLU-
23 SION.—Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
24 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended by striking subsection (l).

1 (c) EXCLUSION OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
2 PROGRAMS FROM ALLOWABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.—
3 Section 5(g) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
4 U.S.C. 2014(g)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(9) EXCLUSION OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAIN-
7 ING PROGRAMS FROM ALLOWABLE FINANCIAL RE-
8 SOURCES.—The Secretary shall exclude from finan-
9 cial resources under this subsection the value of any
10 earnings made to household members derived
11 from—

12 “(A) any program defined in section
13 6(o)(1), except any earnings derived from any
14 program established under the Post-9/11 Vet-
15 erans Educational Assistance Improvements Act
16 of 2010 or the Harry W. Colmery Veterans
17 Educational Assistance Act of 2017;

18 “(B) any program established under sec-
19 tion 6(d)(4) and any vocational rehabilitation
20 program established as defined in the Rehabili-
21 tation Act of 1973; or

22 “(C) any refugee employment program es-
23 tablished under section 412(c) of the Immigra-
24 tion and Nationality Act.”.

1 **SEC. 4104. EARNED INCOME DEDUCTION.**

2 Section 5(e)(2)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
3 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(2)(B)) is amended by striking
4 “20” and inserting “22”.

5 **SEC. 4105. SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROVIDER**
6 **SERVICE REFERRALS.**

7 Section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition act (7
8 U.S.C. 2015) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(P) SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
11 PROVIDER SERVICE REFERRALS.—In the case
12 of any individual who is a member of a house-
13 hold that received supplemental nutrition assist-
14 ance program benefits and who is exempt from
15 requirements by the State agency specified in
16 (d)(1)(A)(ii) of this section, the State may use
17 personnel exempt from Merit System require-
18 ments specified in section 11(e)(6)(B) to screen
19 the recipient for appropriateness for participa-
20 tion in the service program, notwithstanding
21 any determination otherwise by the State agen-
22 cy of eligibility of such individual for such serv-
23 ices.”.

1 **SEC. 4106. PROHIBITED FEES.**

2 Section 7(h)(13)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act
3 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(13)(B)) is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 “(B) OTHER FEES.—

6 “(i) PROHIBITION.—Neither a State,
7 nor any agent, contractor, or subcontractor
8 of a State who facilitates the provision of
9 supplemental nutrition assistance program
10 benefits in such State may impose a fee on
11 a SNAP authorized retailer for EBT
12 transactions including switching (as de-
13 fined in subsection (j)(1)(H)) or routing
14 such benefits, for costs to implement sub-
15 sections (d) and (f)(5)(B).

16 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition
17 against fees described in clause (i) shall
18 not apply towards costs associated with
19 equipment rentals.”.

20 **SEC. 4107. PROHIBITION ON BENEFIT REDEMPTION BY**
21 **OWNERS OF RETAIL FOOD STORES.**

22 Section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
23 U.S.C. 2016) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

25 “(1) OWNERS OF RETAIL FOOD STORES.—

1 “(1) DEFINITION OF COVERED PERSON.—In
2 this subsection, the term ‘covered person’ means a
3 person who—

4 “(A) is a member of a household that re-
5 ceives benefits under the supplemental nutrition
6 assistance program; and

7 “(B) owns or is a member of a household
8 in which another member owns a retail food
9 store that is authorized to accept and redeem
10 benefits under the supplemental nutrition as-
11 sistance program under section 9.

12 “(2) PROHIBITION.—A covered person shall not
13 redeem benefits under the supplemental nutrition as-
14 sistance program at a retail food store owned by the
15 covered person or a member of the household of the
16 covered person.”.

17 **SEC. 4108. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PRO-**
18 **GRAM BENEFIT TRANSFER TRANSACTION**
19 **DATA REPORT.**

20 Section 9 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
21 U.S.C. 2018) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and”
24 at the end,

1 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting “; and”, and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(C) parameters for third party coopera-
5 tion with the Secretary sufficient to carry out
6 subsection (k).”, and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(k) DATA COLLECTION FOR SNAP TRANS-
9 ACTIONS.—

10 “(1) COLLECTION OF DATA.—To assist in mak-
11 ing improvements to supplemental nutrition assist-
12 ance program design, for each interval not greater
13 than a 2-year period, the Secretary shall—

14 “(A) collect a statistically significant sam-
15 ple of transaction data consisting of an aggre-
16 gation of costs and a description of items pur-
17 chased for all customers including those using
18 supplemental nutrition assistance program ben-
19 efits, to the extent practicable and without af-
20 fecting retail food store confidential information
21 or document retention practices;

22 “(B) prioritize consumer single sourced
23 data as a component of the aggregate summary
24 with verified purchases to capture consumers
25 natural purchase behavior; and

1 “(C) make a summarized report of aggre-
2 gated data collected under subparagraph (A)
3 available to the public in a manner that pre-
4 vents identification of individual retail food
5 stores, individual retail food store chains, and
6 households that use such benefits.

7 “(2) NONDISCLOSURE.—Any data that contains
8 information specific to a retail food store, a retail
9 food store location, a person, or other entity shall be
10 exempt from the disclosure requirements of Section
11 552(a) of title 5 of the United States Code pursuant
12 to section 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5 of the United
13 States Code. The Secretary shall limit the use or
14 disclosure of information obtained under this sub-
15 section in a manner consistent with sections 9(c)
16 and 11(e)(8).”.

17 **SEC. 4109. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF STATE PLANS.**

18 Section 11(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act (7
19 U.S.C. 2020(d)) is amended by inserting after the 1st sen-
20 tence the following:

21 “The Secretary shall maintain a publicly available data-
22 base of the parts of each State agency approved plan of
23 operation in accordance with criteria established by the
24 Secretary not later than 180 days after the enactment of
25 the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024.”.

1 **SEC. 4110. NATIONAL ACCURACY CLEARINGHOUSE.**

2 Section 11(x) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
3 (7 U.S.C. 2020(x)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “an
6 interstate” and inserting “a centralized na-
7 tional”,

8 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read
9 as follows:

10 “(B) DATA MATCHING.—The Secretary
11 shall require that State agencies make available
12 to the National Accuracy Clearinghouse only
13 such information as is necessary for the pur-
14 pose described in subparagraph (A), including
15 the following for each member of a partici-
16 pating household—

17 “(i) the social security number or the
18 social security number substitute;

19 “(ii) the current residence of such
20 member;

21 “(iii) the employment status of such
22 member;

23 “(iv) the amount of income and
24 whether that income is earned or un-
25 earned;

1 “(v) that member’s portion of the
2 household monthly allotment; and

3 “(vi) the portion of the aggregate
4 value of household assets attributed to that
5 member.”,

6 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

7 (i) by striking clauses (i), (ii), and
8 (iii), and

9 (ii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and
10 (v) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and

11 (D) by adding at end the following:

12 “(D) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary
13 shall enter into a contract with a single national
14 contractor that may subcontract with other en-
15 tities as necessary to administer the National
16 Accuracy Clearinghouse established in this
17 paragraph.”,

18 (2) in paragraph (3)—

19 (A) by striking “18 months” and all that
20 follows through “promulgate regulations”, and
21 inserting the following:

22 “ 6 months after the date of the enactment of the
23 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, the
24 Secretary shall withdraw regulations promulgated to

1 implement the National Accuracy Clearinghouse and
2 promulgate new regulations”,

3 (B) in subparagraph (A) by striking “from
4 the” and inserting “since the implementation of
5 the”,

6 (C) in subparagraph (C) by inserting “and
7 subsection (e)(8)” before the semicolon at the
8 end, and

9 (D) by amending subparagraph (D) to
10 read as follows:

11 “(D) require a State agency, as determined
12 by the Secretary—

13 “(i) to conduct initial and ongoing
14 matches of participant and applicant data;

15 “(ii) to identify and act on all appar-
16 ent instances of duplicative participation
17 by participants or applicants in multiple
18 States; and

19 “(iii) to disenroll an individual who
20 has applied to participate in another State
21 in a manner sufficient to allow the State in
22 which the individual is currently applying
23 to comply with paragraphs (3) and (9) of
24 section 11(e); and”, and

25 (3) in paragraph (4)—

1 (A) by striking “3 years” and inserting “1
2 year”, and

3 (B) by striking “Agriculture Improvement
4 Act of 2018” and inserting “Farm, Food, and
5 National Security Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 4111. SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.**

7 Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act (7 U.S.C.
8 2020) is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(y) SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
11 11(e)(6)(B), a State agency (as defined in section 3
12 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008) may, by
13 contract with the State agency at a reasonable cost
14 in accordance with the State agency’s standard con-
15 tracting rules, hire a contractor to undertake supple-
16 mental nutrition assistance program certification or
17 carry out any other function of the State agency
18 under such program so long as—

19 “(A) the contract does not provide incen-
20 tives for the agency or contractor to delay eligi-
21 bility determinations or to deny eligibility for
22 individuals otherwise eligible for supplemental
23 nutrition assistance program benefits; and

1 “(B) the contractor has no direct or indi-
2 rect financial interest in an approved retail
3 store.

4 “(2) USE.—A State agency may use the au-
5 thority provided in paragraph (1) when the State ex-
6 periences increases in supplemental nutrition assist-
7 ance program applications or an inability to timely
8 process such applications from causes that include
9 but are not limited to—

10 “(A) pandemics and other health emer-
11 gencies,

12 “(B) seasonal workforce cycles,

13 “(C) temporary staffing shortages, and

14 “(D) weather or other natural disasters.

15 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A State agency that
16 hires a contractor under paragraph (1) shall ensure
17 such action—

18 “(A) is consistent with all principles under
19 section 900.603 of title 5 of the Code of Fed-
20 eral Regulations; and

21 “(B) is part of a blended workforce and
22 does not supplant existing merit-based per-
23 sonnel in the State.

24 “(4) NOTIFICATION.—A State agency shall no-
25 tify the Secretary of its intent to use the authority

1 provided in this section and shall provide any infor-
2 mation or data supporting State agency increases in
3 supplemental nutrition assistance program applica-
4 tions or any inability to timely process such applica-
5 tions.

6 “(5) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 10
7 days after the date of the receipt of a notification
8 submitted by a State agency under paragraph (4),
9 the Secretary shall make publicly available on the
10 website of the Department of Agriculture the notifi-
11 cation submitted by such State agency and any ac-
12 companying information or data supporting such no-
13 tification so submitted.

14 “(6) PROGRAM DESIGN.—Any action taken by a
15 State agency under paragraph (1) shall not be—

16 “(A) considered to be a major change in
17 the operations of such State agency for pur-
18 poses of section 11(a)(4) of this Act, or

19 “(B) subject to any requirement specified
20 in such section.

21 “(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall
22 submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
23 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
24 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, an
25 annual report that contains—

1 “(A) a description of measures taken to
2 address increases in supplemental nutrition as-
3 sistance program applications and any inability
4 to timely process such applications;

5 “(B) information or data supporting State
6 agency notifications provided pursuant to para-
7 graph (4); and

8 “(C) recommendations for changes to the
9 Secretary’s authority under this Act to assist
10 the Secretary, States, and local governments of
11 States in preparing for any future increases in
12 supplemental nutrition assistance program ap-
13 plications or inability to timely process such ap-
14 plications.

15 “(8) TEMPORARY STAFFING SHORTAGES.—In
16 cases of temporary staffing shortages, the authority
17 provided to State agencies under paragraph (1)
18 shall—

19 “(A) expire when the backlog of supple-
20 mental nutrition assistance program applica-
21 tions has been eliminated; and

22 “(B) not override any collective bargaining
23 agreement or memorandum of understanding in
24 effect between the State and employees of the
25 State or of a local government of such State.”.

1 **SEC. 4112. UPDATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR**
2 **SNAP RETAILERS.**

3 (a) ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS.—Section 14(a)
4 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2023(a))
5 is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2) by striking “by any” and
7 inserting “to each of the firm’s owners, officers, and
8 managers by email and via any other”,

9 (2) in paragraph (3) by striking “ten” and in-
10 sserting “30”,

11 (3) by amending subparagraph (4) to read as
12 follows:

13 “(4) If such a request is not made by such store, con-
14 cern, or State agency or if such store, concern, or State
15 agency otherwise fails to submit information in support
16 of its position after filing a request, the administrative de-
17 termination shall be a final determination, subject to the
18 provisions of judicial review.”, and

19 (4) by amending paragraph (5) to read as fol-
20 lows:

21 “(5) If such request is made by such store, concern,
22 or State agency, such information as may be submitted
23 by such store, concern, or State agency, as well as such
24 other information as may be available, shall be reviewed
25 by the person or persons designated by the Secretary, who
26 shall, subject to the right of judicial review hereinafter

1 provided, make a determination within 60 days after sub-
2 mission of such store's response. The agency's determina-
3 tion shall be final and shall take effect 30 days after the
4 date of the delivery or service of such final notice of deter-
5 mination. In all administrative proceedings involving the
6 denial, withdrawal, or disqualification of a retail food store
7 from the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the
8 agency shall bear the burden of proof of establishing that
9 the denial, withdrawal, or disqualification is based on a
10 preponderance of the evidence. The agency shall produce,
11 within 10 days of any request by such store or its counsel,
12 all records reviewed or relied upon by the agency in issuing
13 the charge letter or other notice. Notwithstanding any
14 other provision of this Act or of any other Act, the agency
15 shall produce information and records otherwise prohib-
16 ited from disclosure to counsel for such store subject to
17 a nondisclosure agreement.”.

18 (b) REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-
20 culture shall conduct a study and submit the Committee
21 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
22 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
23 Senate, a report that contains the results of such study,
24 including—

1 (1) the number of times first-time trafficking
2 offenders are given a penalty of permanent disquali-
3 fication in lieu of civil penalty, disaggregated by—

4 (A) the number of employees and revenue;

5 and

6 (B) the race and ethnicity of owners.

7 (2) an analysis of the Anti-Fraud Locator
8 Using Electronic Benefits Transfer System
9 (ALERT) including—

10 (A) the metrics of detecting fraudulent ac-
11 tivity;

12 (B) how the metrics of detecting fraudu-
13 lent activity were determined;

14 (C) how often these metrics are updated to
15 ensure they continue to be reliable; and

16 (D) what metrics are reviewed in addition
17 to ALERT findings to determine fraudulent ac-
18 tivity.

19 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
20 subsection (a) shall take effect 1 year after the date of
21 the enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 4113. ADJUSTMENT TO PERCENTAGE OF RECOVERED**
23 **FUNDS RETAINED BY STATES.**

24 Section 16(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
25 (7 U.S.C. 2025(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in the 1st sentence by striking “35 percent”
2 and inserting “50 percent”, and

3 (2) by inserting after the 1st sentence the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “A State agency shall use such funds retained only to
6 carry out the supplemental nutrition assistance program,
7 including investments in technology, improvements in ad-
8 ministration and distribution, and actions to prevent fraud
9 (including skimming).”.

10 **SEC. 4114. TOLERANCE LEVEL FOR PAYMENT ERRORS.**

11 Section 16(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the Food and Nutrition Act
12 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)(1)(A)(ii)) is amended—

13 (1) in subclause (I) by striking “and” at the
14 end,

15 (2) in subclause (II)—

16 (A) by striking “fiscal year thereafter” and
17 inserting “of the fiscal years 2015 through
18 2024”, and

19 (B) by striking the period at the end and
20 inserting “; and”, and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(III) for each fiscal year there-
23 after, \$0.”.

1 **SEC. 4115. PUBLIC COMMENT ON QUALITY CONTROL GUID-**
2 **ANCE.**

3 Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)) is amended by adding at the end the
5 following—

6 “(10) PUBLIC COMMENT ON QUALITY CONTROL
7 GUIDANCE.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
9 provide notice, and make available for public
10 comment for a period of not fewer than 60
11 days, any new or updated guidance proposing
12 substantive changes for conducting quality con-
13 trol reviews prior to any such guidance being fi-
14 nalized.

15 “(B) SCOPE.—The requirement in (A)
16 shall be applicable to any proposed guidance
17 reasonably expected to require State agencies to
18 make changes to systems, procedures, or staff-
19 ing pertaining to quality control reviews or that
20 impact verification requirements for supple-
21 mental nutrition assistance program benefits re-
22 cipients.

23 “(C) EXCEPTION.—In the case of an ur-
24 gent and immediate need, the Secretary may
25 issue interim final guidance simultaneous with

1 the notice and comment requirements required
2 in subparagraph (A).”.

3 **SEC. 4116. OFFICE OF PROGRAM INTEGRITY.**

4 Section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(1) OFFICE OF PROGRAM INTEGRITY.—

7 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18
8 months after enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
9 tional Security Act of 2024, the Secretary shall es-
10 tablish within the Food and Nutrition Service an Of-
11 fice of Program Integrity.

12 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, in consulta-
13 tion with the office of Inspector General, shall ap-
14 point a senior official to serve as the Director of the
15 Office of Program Integrity (referred to in this sec-
16 tion as the ‘Director’).

17 “(3) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of
18 Program Integrity shall be to reduce fraud, waste,
19 and abuse in nutrition programs administered by the
20 Food and Nutrition Service, and improve the devel-
21 opment, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring
22 of nutrition programs and policies administered by
23 the Food and Nutrition Service.

24 “(4) DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—The Director
25 of the Office of Program Integrity shall—

1 “(A) evaluate current program integrity
2 policies, and where applicable develop and im-
3 plement, in coordination with the Food and Nu-
4 trition Service and State agencies, program in-
5 tegrity policies, including reporting require-
6 ments, for all nutrition programs administered
7 by the agency, including but not limited to
8 the—

9 “(i) supplemental nutrition assistance
10 program;

11 “(ii) emergency food assistance pro-
12 gram; and

13 “(iii) commodity supplemental food
14 program;

15 “(B) continuously track and evaluate pro-
16 gram spending, participation, and outcomes;

17 “(C) monitor, evaluate, and work to miti-
18 gate, instances of program fraud, waste, and
19 abuse by the Food and Nutrition Service, State
20 agencies, and program participants;

21 “(D) annually prepare and submit to the
22 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
23 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
24 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, reports
25 on program trends, outcomes, recommenda-

1 tions, and instances of fraud, waste, and abuse
2 where enforcement action was not taken, which
3 shall be made publicly available; and

4 “(E) at the Director’s discretion, and after
5 informing the Secretary, refer instances of pro-
6 gram fraud by the Food and Nutrition Service,
7 State agencies, and program participants, to
8 appropriate law enforcement agencies.

9 “(5) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out the du-
10 ties required under paragraph (4), the Director shall
11 collaborate with other Federal Departments and
12 Agencies with offices or functions similar to the Of-
13 fice of Program Integrity to identify and incorporate
14 best practices.”.

15 **SEC. 4117. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 The 1st sentence of section 18(a)(1) of the Food and
17 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(1)) is amended
18 by striking “2023” and inserting “‘2029”.

19 **SEC. 4118. ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS.**

20 Section 25(b)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
21 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2034(b)(2)) is amended—

22 (1) in subparagraph (C) by striking “and” at
23 the end;

1 (2) in subparagraph (D) by striking “year 2019
2 and each fiscal year thereafter.” and inserting
3 “years 2019 through 2024; and”; and

4 (3) by adding at end the following:

5 “(E) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and
6 each fiscal year thereafter.”.

7 **SEC. 4119. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

8 (a) DIRECT PURCHASE OF COMMODITIES.—Section
9 202 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7
10 U.S.C. 7502) is amended by inserting after subsection (a)
11 the following:

12 “(b) DIRECT PURCHASE OF COMMODITIES.—

13 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

14 “(A) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term ‘eligible
15 State’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
16 tion 4206(b) of the Agriculture Improvement
17 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7518(b)).

18 “(B) ENTITLEMENT FUNDS.—The term
19 ‘entitlement funds’, with respect to an eligible
20 State, means the dollar amount used by the
21 Secretary to purchase commodities pursuant to
22 section 27 of the Food and Nutrition Act of
23 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036) to distribute to the eligi-
24 ble State in accordance with section 214.

1 “(2) DIRECT PURCHASE.—The Secretary shall
2 allow an eligible State to elect to receive all of the
3 entitlement funds of the eligible State as cash to
4 make direct purchases of commodities through the
5 private commercial marketplace.”.

6 (b) STATE AND LOCAL SUPPLEMENTATION OF COM-
7 MODITIES.—Section 203D(d)(5) of the Emergency Food
8 Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7507(d)(5)) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) by striking “ subsection” and inserting the
11 following:

12 “ subsection—

13 “(A”;

14 (2) by striking the period at the end and insert-
15 ing “; and”; and

16 (3) by adding at end the following:

17 “(B) \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years
18 2025 through 2029, to remain available until
19 the end of the subsequent fiscal year.”.

20 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
21 204(a)(1) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983
22 (7 U.S.C. 7508(a)(1)) is amended by striking “year 2008”
23 and inserting “years 2008 through 2024, and
24 \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2025”.

1 (d) EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE
2 GRANTS.—Section 209(d) of the Emergency Food Assist-
3 ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7511a(d)) is amended by
4 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

5 (e) AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITIES FOR THE EMER-
6 GENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 27(a) of
7 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a))
8 is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1) by striking “2023” and in-
10 sserting “2029”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (2)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (C) by striking
13 “2023” and inserting “2025”; and

14 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

15 (i) by striking “2023” the 1st place it
16 appears and inserting “2025”;

17 (ii) in clause (ix) by striking “fiscal
18 year 2023” and inserting “each of the fis-
19 cal years 2023 and 2024”; and

20 (iii) by adding at end the following:

21 “(x) for fiscal year 2025,
22 \$40,000,000; and”, and

23 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

24 (i) by striking “2024” and inserting
25 “2026”; and

1 (ii) by striking “(D)(ix)” and insert-
2 ing “(D)(x)”.

3 **SEC. 4120. NUTRITION EDUCATION.**

4 Section 28 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
5 (7 U.S.C. 2036a) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) by amending paragraph (1)(B) to read
8 as follows:

9 “(B) through agreements or partnerships
10 with other State or local agencies, nonprofit or-
11 ganizations, schools, Reserve Officers’ Training
12 Corps, or community organizations.”,

13 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

14 (i) in clause (i) by inserting “, includ-
15 ing how the projects will reach a broad age
16 range of individuals and how each local
17 project will be evaluated by the local part-
18 ner” before the semicolon at the end,

19 (ii) in clause (ii)—

20 (I) by inserting “of all ages”
21 after “individuals”, and

22 (II) by striking “constrained”,
23 and

24 (iii) in clause (iii)—

1 (I) in item (hh) by striking
2 “and” at the end, and

3 (II) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(JJ) cost of conducting re-
6 search to assess and evaluate the
7 projects; and”,

8 (C) in paragraph (3)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i) by inserting
10 “culinary and” after “group-based”, and

11 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

12 (I) in clause (iii) by striking
13 “and” at the end,

14 (II) in clause (iv) by striking the
15 period at the end and inserting a
16 semicolon, and

17 (III) by adding at end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(v) healthcare practitioners and com-
20 munity health workers; and

21 “(vi) educators.”,

22 (D) in paragraph (6) by inserting “evi-
23 dence-based and” after “section are”,

24 (E) in paragraph (9)—

1 (i) by inserting “, based on external
2 review by non-government experts with rec-
3 ognized expertise in quality of evidence
4 evaluation” after “report that”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (A)(iii) by strik-
6 ing “and” at the end;

7 (iii) in subparagraph (B) by striking
8 the period at the end and inserting “;
9 and”; and

10 (iv) by adding at end the following:

11 “(C) includes comprehensive analysis of
12 the impacts, outcomes, and efficacy of all
13 projects described in subparagraph (8).”, and

14 (F) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(10) PROJECT EVALUATION.—Project recipi-
16 ents shall use not less than 5 percent of funds re-
17 ceived for process and impact evaluation and may
18 contract with land-grant colleges and universities (as
19 defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural
20 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
21 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) to carry out this evalua-
22 tion.”,

23 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (E) by striking “and”
25 at the end, and

1 (B) in subparagraph (F)—

2 (i) by striking “2016 and each subse-
3 quent fiscal year” and inserting “fiscal
4 years 2016 through 2024”, and

5 (ii) by striking the period at the end
6 and inserting a semicolon, and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(G) for fiscal year 2025, \$521,000,000;
9 and

10 “(H) for fiscal year 2026 and each subse-
11 quent fiscal year, the applicable amount during
12 the preceding fiscal year, as adjusted to reflect
13 any increases for the 12-month period ending
14 the preceding June 30 in the Consumer Price
15 Index for All Urban Consumers published by
16 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Depart-
17 ment of Labor.””.

18 (3) by adding at end the following:

19 “(f) PROPOSED UNIFICATION OF NUTRITION EDU-
20 CATION PROGRAMS.—

21 “(1) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the
22 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National
23 Security Act of 2024, the Administrator of the Food
24 and Nutrition Service, in consultation with the Di-
25 rector of the National Institute of Food and Agri-

1 culture, and the Secretary of Health and Human
2 Services, shall issue recommendations to Congress
3 on how to unify the nutrition education and obesity
4 prevention grant program under this section with
5 the expanded food and nutrition education program
6 under section 1425 of the National Agricultural Re-
7 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977
8 (7 U.S.C. 3175). In developing these recommenda-
9 tions, the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition
10 Service, the Director of the National Institute of
11 Food and Agriculture, and the Secretary of Health
12 and Human Services shall consider the policy op-
13 tions described in the Comptroller General report de-
14 scribed in paragraph (2).

15 “(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than
16 2 years after the date of enactment of the Farm,
17 Food, and National Security Act of 2024, the Comp-
18 troller General of the United States shall finalize
19 and submit to the United States House of Rep-
20 resentatives Committees on Agriculture, and Energy
21 and Commerce, a report that examines policy op-
22 tions to unify the nutrition education and obesity
23 prevention grant program under this section with
24 the expanded food and nutrition education program
25 under section 1425 of the National Agricultural Re-

1 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977
2 (7 U.S.C. 3175).”.”.

3 **SEC. 4121. RETAIL FOOD STORE AND RECIPIENT TRAF-**
4 **FICKING.**

5 Section 29(c)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
6 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036b) is amended by striking “2023”
7 and inserting “2029”.

8 **SEC. 4122. REPEAL OF DENIAL OF BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN**
9 **DRUG-RELATED CONVICTIONS.**

10 (a) REPEALER.—Section 115 of the Personal Re-
11 sponsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
12 1996 (21 U.S.C. 862a) is amended—

13 (1) in the heading by striking “**AND BENE-**
14 **FITS**”,

15 (2) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “, or” at
17 the end and inserting a period,

18 (B) by striking “for—” and all that fol-
19 lows through “(1)”, and inserting “for”, and

20 (C) by striking paragraph (2),

21 (3) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) by striking “**AND BENEFITS FOR OTH-**
23 **ERS**” and all that follows through “**FAMILIES**”,
24 and

25 (B) by striking paragraph (2),

1 (4) in subsection (c) by striking “or benefits”,

2 and

3 (5) in subsection (e)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “, and”
5 at the end and inserting a period,

6 (B) by striking “it—” and all that follows
7 through “(1)”, and inserting “it”, and

8 (C) by striking paragraph (2).

9 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The Personal Re-
10 sponsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
11 1996 is amended in the table of contents by striking the
12 item relating to section 115 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 115. Denial of assistance for certain drug-related convictions.”.

13 (c) COMPARABLE TREATMENT FOR DISQUALIFICA-
14 TION.—Section 6(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
15 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(i) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(i) COMPARABLE TREATMENT FOR DISQUALIFICA-
17 TION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

19 “(A) DISQUALIFICATION.—Except as pro-
20 vided in subparagraph (B), if a disqualification
21 is imposed on a household member for a failure
22 of the member to perform an action required
23 under a Federal, State, or local law relating to
24 a means-tested public assistance program, the
25 State agency may impose the same disqualifica-

1 tion on the member of the household under the
2 supplemental nutrition assistance program.

3 “(B) EXCEPTION.—A State agency may
4 not impose a disqualification under subpara-
5 graph (A) for a felony-drug conviction or for a
6 failure to satisfy an action required under a
7 Federal, State, or local law relating to a means-
8 tested public assistance program that was re-
9 quired as a result of a felony drug conviction.

10 “(2) RULES AND PROCEDURES.—If a disquali-
11 fication is imposed under paragraph (1) for a failure
12 of a household member to perform an action re-
13 quired under part A of title IV of the Social Security
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the State agency may
15 use the rules and procedures that apply under part
16 A of title IV of the Act to impose the same disquali-
17 fication under the supplemental nutrition assistance
18 program, provided that there may be no disqualifica-
19 tion under the supplemental nutrition assistance
20 program for a felony-drug conviction or for a failure
21 to satisfy an action required under a Federal, State,
22 or local law relating to a means-tested public assist-
23 ance program that was required as a result of a fel-
24 ony drug conviction.

1 “(3) APPLICATION AFTER DISQUALIFICATION
2 PERIOD.—A household member disqualified under
3 paragraph (1) may, after the disqualification period
4 has expires, apply for supplemental nutrition assist-
5 ance program benefits and shall be treated as a new
6 applicant, except that a prior disqualification under
7 subsection (d) shall be considered in determining eli-
8 gibility.

9 “(4) FELONY DRUG CONVICTION.—In this sub-
10 section, the term ‘felony drug conviction’ means a
11 criminal conviction under a Federal or State law
12 that includes an element that is the possession, use,
13 or distribution of a controlled substance as defined
14 in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21
15 U.S.C. 802).”.

16 **SEC. 4123. RESIDENTS OF INSTITUTIONS.**

17 Section 3(m)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
18 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(m)(5)) is amended by adding at the
19 end the following:

20 “(F) Incarcerated individuals who are
21 scheduled to be released from an institution
22 within 30 days.”.

1 **SEC. 4124. BLOCK GRANTS FOR PUERTO RICO AND AMER-**
2 **ICAN SAMOA.**

3 Section 19(a)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
4 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028(a)(2)) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (A) in clause (i) by striking “2003,
7 \$1,401,000,000” and inserting “2025,
8 \$1,451,000,000”, and

9 (B) in clause (ii) by striking “2002” and
10 inserting “2024”,

11 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i) by striking “2003”
12 and inserting “2025”,

13 (3) in subparagraph (C) by striking “2003”
14 and inserting “2025”, and

15 (4) in subparagraph (D) by striking “2002”
16 and inserting “2024”.

17 **SEC. 4125. ELDERLY SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PROGRAM.**

18 The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011
19 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 **“SEC. 31. ELDERLY SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PROGRAM.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after
22 the effective date of this section, the Secretary shall estab-
23 lish a program, to be known as the ‘elderly simplified ap-
24 plication program’ (referred to in this section as ‘ESAP’),
25 under which a State, in carrying out the supplemental nu-
26 trition assistance program, may elect to implement a

1 streamlined application and certification process for
2 households in which all adult members—

3 “(1) are elderly or disabled members; and

4 “(2) have no earned income.

5 “(b) CERTIFICATION PERIOD.—The certification pe-
6 riod for participants in ESAP shall be 36 months.

7 “(c) INCOME AND OTHER DATA VERIFICATION.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State agency deter-
9 mining the eligibility for an applicant household
10 under ESAP shall, notwithstanding section
11 11(e)(3)—

12 “(A) to the maximum extent practicable,
13 use data matching for income verification and
14 household size; and

15 “(B) allow self-declaration by the house-
16 hold of the information required under section
17 273.2(f) of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regu-
18 lations (or successor regulations), subject to
19 household certification after verification of the
20 information provided that relates to eligibility
21 factors and that the State agency determines is
22 questionable.

23 “(2) ACCOUNTABILITY AND FRAUD PREVEN-
24 TION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), a State agen-
25 cy shall establish accountability and fraud protection

1 measures to deter fraud and ensure the integrity of
2 ESAP and the supplemental nutrition assistance
3 program.

4 “(d) INTERVIEWS.—Notwithstanding section
5 11(e)(6)(A), for recertification of a household under
6 ESAP, the State agency shall not require an interview un-
7 less requested by the household, which may be conducted
8 virtually.

9 “(e) GUIDANCE.—Before establishment of ESAP
10 under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Food and
11 Nutrition Service shall develop guidance for States, after
12 consultation with States, to carry out ESAP, including—

13 “(1) general implementation guidelines;

14 “(2) reporting requirements;

15 “(3) quality control requirements; and

16 “(4) best practices.”

17 **SEC. 4126. AMENDMENT TO CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIA-**
18 **TIONS ACT, 2023.**

19 Section 501 of title IV of division HH of the Consoli-
20 dated Appropriations Act, 2023, is amended by adding at
21 the end the following:

22 “(e) EXCLUSIVELY OUT-OF-STATE PURCHASES.—
23 The State agency shall review and, where appropriate, sus-
24 pend the accounts of households for which EBT card

1 transactions are made exclusively out-of-State for a period
2 longer than 90 days, until—

3 “(1) the household affirmatively provides sub-
4 stantiating evidence that the members of the house-
5 hold who are program participants still reside in the
6 State from which they receive benefits; or

7 “(2) an inquiry is conducted and conclusively
8 determines that the members of the household who
9 are program participants still reside in the State
10 from which they receive benefits.”.

11 **SEC. 4127. MODIFICATION OF STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.**

12 Section 11(e) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
13 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)) is amended—

14 (1) by striking paragraph (24); and

15 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (25) and (26)
16 as paragraphs (24) and (25), respectively.

17 **SEC. 4128. FOOD SECURITY AND DIET QUALITY REPORT.**

18 The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011
19 et seq.), as amended by section 4125, is amended by add-
20 ing at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 32. FOOD SECURITY AND DIET QUALITY REPORT.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
23 effective date of this section, and annually thereafter, the
24 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture,
25 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee

1 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report
2 on food security and diet quality in the United States.

3 “(b) CONTENTS.—The report required to be sub-
4 mitted under subsection (a) shall include—

5 “(1) an analysis of the food security and diet
6 quality of participants and nonparticipants in the
7 supplemental nutrition assistance program;

8 “(2)(A) a summary of legislative and Executive
9 branch changes made to the supplemental nutrition
10 assistance program in the year covered by the report
11 that are intended to improve food security and diet
12 quality; and

13 “(B) an analysis of the impact and effec-
14 tiveness of those changes on food security and
15 diet quality; and

16 “(3) recommendations to the Congress on how
17 to improve food security and diet quality for partici-
18 pants and nonparticipants in the supplemental nutri-
19 tion assistance program.”.

20 **SEC. 4129. NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES, ENGINEER-**
21 **ING, AND MEDICINE STUDY AND REPORT.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
23 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Secu-
24 rity Act of 2024, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
25 through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition

1 Service, shall contract with the National Academies of
2 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to carry out a study
3 to assess the efficacy of allowing hot foods or hot food
4 products ready for immediate consumption to be pur-
5 chased with supplemental nutrition assistance program
6 benefits issued under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
7 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), including the impact on diet qual-
8 ity, purchasing power, and access to food.

9 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The study pursuant to the con-
10 tract under subsection (a) shall include—

11 (1) an assessment of currently available data,
12 including data of instances of temporary emergency
13 standards which disrupt commercial channels of food
14 distribution where the prohibition on hot foods or
15 hot food products ready for immediate consumption
16 was temporarily lifted;

17 (2) an assessment of participating households'
18 diet quality, including whether diet quality would im-
19 prove or worsen upon the termination of the prohibi-
20 tion on hot foods or hot food products ready for im-
21 mediate consumption;

22 (3) an assessment of food access, including
23 changes in the types of foods accessed for eligible
24 households participating in the Supplemental Nutri-
25 tion Assistance Program upon the termination of the

1 prohibition on hot foods or hot food products ready
2 for immediate consumption;

3 (4) an assessment of participating households'
4 purchasing power of current supplemental nutrition
5 assistance program allotments compared with what
6 the purchasing power would be upon the termination
7 of the prohibition on hot foods or hot food products
8 ready for immediate consumption; and

9 (5) factors for the Congress to contemplate if
10 considering the authorization of a pilot to test the
11 termination of the prohibition on hot foods or hot
12 food products ready for immediate consumption.

13 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
14 of enactment of this Act, the National Academies of
15 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine shall submit to the
16 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
17 a report on the study carried out under subsection (a) to
18 determine whether a pilot program for the termination of
19 the prohibition on hot foods or hot food products ready
20 for immediate consumption is warranted.

21 (d) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
22 it Corporation, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make
23 available to carry out this section \$1,000,000, to remain
24 available until expended.

1 **Subtitle B—Commodity**
2 **Distribution Programs**

3 **SEC. 4201. COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.**

4 (a) SENIORS FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PRO-
5 GRAM.—Section 4402(a) of the Farm Security and Rural
6 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007(a)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “\$20,600,000” and inserting
8 “\$22,600,000”; and

9 (2) by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

10 (b) EXPANSION OF THE SENIORS FARMERS' MARKET
11 NUTRITION PROGRAM.—Section 4402(b)(1) of the Farm
12 Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C.
13 3007(b)(1)) is amended by striking “and herbs” and in-
14 serting “herbs, and maple syrup”.

15 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The 1st
16 sentence of section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer
17 Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note) is amended
18 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

19 **SEC. 4202. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.**

20 Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protec-
21 tion Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–
22 86) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “2023”
25 and inserting “2029”, and

1 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), in the matter
2 preceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and in-
3 serting “2029”,

4 (2) in subsection (d)(2), in the 1st sentence, by
5 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”; and

6 (3) by amending subsection (g)(1) to read as
7 follows—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
9 section (m)—

10 “(A) the States shall only provide assist-
11 ance under the commodity supplemental food
12 program to low-income persons aged 60 and
13 older; and

14 “(B) any amount deducted from social se-
15 curity payments for premiums paid under part
16 B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act shall
17 not be considered income for the purposes of
18 this section.”, and

19 (4) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(n) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM
21 DELIVERY PILOT PROGRAM.—

22 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
23 is to award grants for the operation of projects that
24 increase the access of low-income elderly persons to

1 commodities through home delivery or other means
2 and to evaluate such projects.

3 “(2) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award,
4 on a competitive basis, grants directly to State agen-
5 cies, or to State agencies on behalf of eligible enti-
6 ties, to carry out the activities described in para-
7 graph (5).

8 “(3) MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.—A grant
9 awarded to a State agency under this subsection
10 shall not exceed—

11 “(A) the greater of—

12 “(i) the State’s commodity supple-
13 mental food program caseload at time of
14 application multiplied by 60; or

15 “(ii) \$10,000; or

16 “(B) \$4,000,000;

17 whichever is less.

18 “(4) APPLICATION.—A State agency seeking a
19 grant under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-
20 retary an application in such form, at such time,
21 and containing such information as the Secretary
22 may require.

23 “(5) GRANT USES.—A State agency awarded a
24 grant under this subsection shall distribute grant
25 funds to eligible entities to operate projects that fa-

1 facilitate delivery of commodities to participants in the
2 commodity supplemental food program, including
3 with respect to costs associated with—

4 “(A) transportation and distribution of
5 commodities to participants in the commodity
6 supplemental food program, including transpor-
7 tation and distribution services provided by a
8 third party;

9 “(B) staffing required to operate delivery
10 services; and

11 “(C) outreach to participants or potential
12 participants in the commodity supplemental
13 food program with respect to home delivery.

14 “(6) PRIORITY.—A State agency awarded a
15 grant under this subsection must prioritize eligible
16 entities that serve participants in the commodity
17 supplemental food program who reside in a rural
18 area.

19 “(7) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later
20 than 180 days after the end of the fiscal year in
21 which a State agency is awarded a grant under this
22 subsection and has distributed grant funds to eligi-
23 ble entities, and in each succeeding fiscal year until
24 grant funds are expended, a State agency shall sub-
25 mit a report to the Secretary that includes—

1 “(A) a summary of the activities carried
2 out under the project, including the quantity of
3 commodities delivered, number of participants
4 in the commodity supplemental food program
5 served, and total number of deliveries;

6 “(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of
7 the project, including a calculation of the aver-
8 age cost per delivery, and an evaluation of any
9 services provided by a third party; and

10 “(C) best practices regarding use of home
11 delivery to improve the effectiveness of the com-
12 modity supplemental food program.

13 “(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

14 “(A) TERMS IN REGULATIONS.—The term
15 ‘State agency’, ‘local agency’, and ‘subdistrib-
16 uting agency’ have the meanings given such
17 terms in section 247.1 of title 7 of the Code of
18 Federal Regulations (or any successor regula-
19 tions).

20 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
21 ble entity’ means—

22 “(i) a local agency;

23 “(ii) a subdistributing agency;

24 “(C) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
25 has the meaning given such term in section

1 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
2 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

3 “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2025 through 2029 to remain available until ex-
7 pended.”.

8 **SEC. 4203. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES TO**
9 **SPECIAL NUTRITION PROJECTS.**

10 Section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food
11 Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e(a)(2)(A)) is amended by
12 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

13 **SEC. 4204. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM**
14 **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL OR-**
15 **GANIZATIONS.**

16 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANI-
17 ZATIONS.—

18 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

19 “(A) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The
20 term ‘demonstration project’ means the dem-
21 onstration project established under paragraph
22 (2).”.

23 (A) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.—The
24 term “food distribution program” means the
25 commodity supplemental food program identi-

1 fied in section 4 of the Agriculture and Con-
2 sumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c
3 note; Public Law 93–86).

4 (B) INDIAN RESERVATION.—The term “In-
5 dian reservation” has the meaning given the
6 term “reservation” in section 3 of the Food and
7 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

8 (C) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian
9 Tribe” has the meaning given the term in sec-
10 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
11 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

12 (D) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—
13 The term “self-determination contract” has the
14 meaning given the term in section 4 of the In-
15 dian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
16 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) with modification as
17 determined by the Secretary.

18 (E) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term
19 “Tribal organization” has the meaning given
20 the term in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition
21 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

22 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the avail-
23 ability of appropriations, the Secretary shall estab-
24 lish a demonstration project under which 1 or more
25 Tribal organizations may enter into self-determina-

1 tion contracts to purchase agricultural commodities
2 under the food distribution program for the Indian
3 reservation of that Tribal organization.

4 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—

5 (A) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall
6 consult with Indian Tribes to determine the
7 process and criteria under which a Tribal orga-
8 nization may participate in the demonstration
9 project.

10 (B) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall select
11 for participation in the demonstration project
12 Tribal organizations that—

13 (i) are successfully administering the
14 food distribution program of the Tribal or-
15 ganization under section 4(b)(2)(B) of the
16 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act
17 of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note);

18 (ii) have the capacity to purchase ag-
19 ricultural commodities in accordance with
20 paragraph (4) for the food distribution
21 program of the Tribal organization; and

22 (iii) meet any other criteria deter-
23 mined by the Secretary, in consultation
24 with the Secretary of the Interior and In-
25 dian tribes.

1 (4) PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COM-
2 MODITIES.—Any agricultural commodities purchased
3 by a Tribal organization under the demonstration
4 project shall—

5 (A) be domestically produced;

6 (B) not result in a material increase in the
7 amount of food in the food package of that
8 Tribal organization compared to the amount of
9 food that the Secretary authorized to be pro-
10 vided through the Commodity Supplemental
11 Food Program Guide Rate;

12 (C) be of similar or higher nutritional
13 value as the type of agricultural commodities
14 that would be supplanted in the existing food
15 package for that Tribal organization or be an
16 agricultural commodity with Tribal significance
17 to that Indian Tribe; and

18 (D) meet any other criteria determined by
19 the Secretary.

20 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
21 date on which funds are appropriated under para-
22 graph (6) and annually thereafter, the Secretary
23 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
24 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
25 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a

1 report describing the activities carried out under the
2 demonstration project during the preceding year.

3 (6) FUNDING.—

4 (A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
5 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
6 to carry out this subsection \$5,000,000, to re-
7 main available until expended.

8 (B) APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.—Only
9 funds appropriated under subparagraph (A) in
10 advance specifically to carry out this subsection
11 shall be available to carry out this subsection.

12 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINA-
13 TION CONTRACTS.—

14 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall ap-
15 point an existing office of the United States Depart-
16 ment of Agriculture to administer Tribal self-deter-
17 mination contracts to include but not limited to:

18 (A) awarding of Food and Nutrition Serv-
19 ice nutrition program self-determination con-
20 tracts to selected Tribal organizations; and

21 (B) hiring contract officers and program
22 staff in order to manage the selection of Tribal
23 organizations and execution of self-determina-
24 tion contracts.

1 (2) STAFFING MINIMUM FUNDING.—Notwith-
2 standing any other provision of law, there is author-
3 ized to be appropriated \$1,200,000 for each of fiscal
4 years 2025 through 2029 for the payment of De-
5 partment contract officers and program staff sala-
6 ries and benefits.

7 **Subtitle C—Miscellaneous**

8 **SEC. 4301. PURCHASE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES** 9 **FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS AND SERV-** 10 **ICE INSTITUTIONS.**

11 Section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
12 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 612c-4(b)) is amended
13 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

14 **SEC. 4302. FOOD BOX PILOT PROGRAM.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture,
16 acting through the Administrator of the Agricultural Mar-
17 keting Service and in consultation with the Food and Nu-
18 trition Service, shall—

19 (1) not later than 180 days after the date of
20 the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Se-
21 curity Act of 2024—

22 (A) establish a pilot program for the pur-
23 pose of procuring and distributing foods from
24 the categories of staple foods listed in section
25 3(q) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7

1 U.S.C. 2012(q)) that align with dietary pat-
2 terns as defined in the most recent Dietary
3 Guidelines for Americans; and

4 (B) publish guidance for participation in
5 such program; and

6 (2) not later than 270 days after the date of
7 the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Se-
8 curity Act of 2024, enter into contracts with eligible
9 entities to carry out not more than 20 pilot projects
10 under such program.

11 (b) GOALS.—The pilot program established under
12 subsection (a) shall be designed—

13 (1) to supplement, not supplant, the nutrition
14 of food insecure households in a manner complemen-
15 tary to other food nutrition programs administered
16 by the Department;

17 (2) to expand the capacity of nonprofit organi-
18 zations, including community-based and faith-based
19 organizations; and

20 (3) to support local and regional food systems
21 to improve food access.

22 (c) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In determining whether
23 to award contracts under subsection (a), the Secretary
24 may consider whether an eligible entity—

1 (1) demonstrates the capability to meet the pro-
2 gram goals in subsection (b);

3 (2) offers a price inclusive of all inspection,
4 transportation, and distribution costs, including last
5 mile distribution;

6 (3) proposes to deliver a variety of staple foods
7 determined by the Secretary to be the best value
8 using trade-offs among evaluation factors other than
9 lowest price or highest technical rating;

10 (4) demonstrates an established network of
11 partners or affiliates with distribution and logistics
12 capability to provide last mile delivery to individuals
13 in need;

14 (5) will engage small- and medium-sized farm-
15 ers or retailers, or distributors who source from such
16 farmers; or

17 (6) will source local and regional products rel-
18 ative to the proposed distribution area when com-
19 mercially and seasonally available at a fair and rea-
20 sonable price.

21 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year
22 after the entering into a contract to carry out this section,
23 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
24 culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
25 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-

1 ate, a report on the status of activities carried out under
2 this section, including—

3 (1) the amount and types of products pur-
4 chased and the proximity to relevant distribution
5 points;

6 (2) the distribution data for each project suffi-
7 cient to identify all partners involved and their re-
8 spective roles in the distribution process, the means
9 of distribution and the ultimate destination of prod-
10 ucts;

11 (3) the number of farms sourced from;

12 (4) the number of boxes delivered to households
13 and number of households receiving boxes; and

14 (5) the associated economic impact of each
15 project.

16 (e) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this section the term
17 “eligible entity” includes—

18 (1) small- and medium-sized farmers, as deter-
19 mined by the Secretary;

20 (2) distributors with demonstrated capacity to
21 source from small- and medium-sized farmers; and

22 (3) recipient and nonprofit organizations with
23 expertise in management or administration of food
24 distribution, including—

1 (A) faith-based organizations that distrib-
2 utes food or meals;

3 (B) Tribal organizations that distribute
4 food or meals;

5 (C) child or adult care centers; and

6 (D) any other similar feeding entity, as de-
7 termined by the Secretary.

8 (f) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
9 it Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry
10 out this section \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
11 and 2026, to remain available until expended.

12 **SEC. 4303. NUTRITION STANDARDS FOR FOOD DISTRIBU-**
13 **TION PROGRAMS.**

14 (a) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
16 Agriculture shall promulgate regulations with respect to
17 nutrition guidelines for food distributed under the pro-
18 grams established under—

19 (1) section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Con-
20 sumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note);

21 (2) the Emergency Food Assistance Act of
22 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501); and

23 (3) section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act
24 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)).

1 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In promulgating regulations
2 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

3 (1) ensure that the food products distributed
4 under the programs described in such subsection are
5 consistent with the goals of the most recent Dietary
6 Guidelines for Americans published under section
7 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Re-
8 lated Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341) and de-
9 signed to meet the quantitative recommendations of
10 such Guidelines; and

11 (2) Ensure that the nutrition standards reflect
12 the different cultural and religious dietary needs of
13 the populations being served food products under the
14 programs described in such subsection.

15 **SEC. 4304. GUIDANCE REGARDING NOTIFYING CERTAIN**
16 **STUDENTS REGARDING SNAP BENEFITS.**

17 The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011
18 et seq.), as amended by sections 4125 and 4128, is amend-
19 ed by adding at the end the following:

20 **“SEC. 33. GUIDANCE REGARDING NOTIFYING CERTAIN STU-**
21 **DENTS REGARDING SNAP BENEFITS.**

22 “(a) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
23 issue guidance to States on how to identify and notify eli-
24 gible students who are likely to qualify for the supple-
25 mental nutrition assistance program.

1 “(b) CONSULTATION.—In issuing the guidance under
2 subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture may consult
3 with the Secretary of Education.

4 “(c) ELIGIBLE STUDENT DEFINED.—In this section,
5 the term ‘eligible student’ means a student receiving work-
6 study assistance under part C of title IV of the Higher
7 Education Act of 1965.”.

8 **SEC. 4305. BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN**
9 **SCHOOL MEALS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12(n)(2)(A) of the Rich-
11 ard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
12 1760(n)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

13 “(A) REQUIREMENTS.—

14 “(i) PURCHASE EXPENDITURES BY
15 CATEGORY.—Subject to clause (ii) and
16 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall re-
17 quire that a school food authority pur-
18 chase, with respect to each food purchase
19 category designated by the Agricultural
20 Marketing Service, at least 95 percent do-
21 mestic products and commodities in each
22 such category for each school year.

23 “(ii) DOMESTICALLY UNAVAILABLE
24 FOOD ARTICLES.—Domestically unavailable
25 products and commodities included on a

1 list issued pursuant to clause (iii) with re-
2 spect to a school year and purchased by a
3 school food authority during such school
4 year shall not be used to calculate whether
5 such school food authority meets the re-
6 quirements under clause (i).

7 “(iii) UPDATED LIST.— Not later
8 than 6 months after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this subparagraph, and every 2
10 years thereafter, the Secretary shall make
11 available to school food authorities a list of
12 domestically unavailable products.”.

13 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-
14 section (a) shall apply to school food authorities beginning
15 on the first day of the first school year that begins after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 4306. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE GUS SCHUMACHER**
18 **NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

19 Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
20 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by amending sub-
23 paragraph (C) to read as follows:

24 “(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
2 vided in clause (ii) and subparagraph
3 (D)(iii), the Federal share of the cost of
4 carrying out an activity under this sub-
5 section shall not exceed 50 percent of the
6 total cost of the activity.

7 “(ii) WAIVER FOR PERSISTENT POV-
8 ERTY COUNTIES.—The Secretary may
9 waive the application of clause (i) in the
10 case of an activity carried out in a county
11 that, during the preceding 30-year period
12 has had a population of which greater than
13 or equal to 20 percent of such population
14 are living in poverty (as measured by the
15 most recent decennial censuses).”;

16 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

17 (i) by redesignating clauses (ix) and
18 (x) as clauses (x) and (xi); and

19 (ii) by inserting after clause (viii) the
20 following:

21 “(ix) increase year-round availability
22 of incentives by offering all forms of fruits
23 or vegetables;”;

24 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by striking “fresh fruits and vegeta-
2 bles” and inserting “all forms of fruits, vegeta-
3 bles, and legumes” each place it appears; and

4 (B) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(6) TRANSITION TO HEALTH AND HUMAN
6 SERVICES.—

7 “(A) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
8 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,
9 and National Security Act of 2024, the Sec-
10 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of
11 Health and Human Services, shall issue rec-
12 ommendations to Congress on how to transition
13 the produce prescription program established
14 under this subsection to the Department of
15 Health and Human Services to be administered
16 by the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
17 ices. In developing these recommendations, the
18 Secretary and the Secretary of Health and
19 Human Services, shall consider the policy op-
20 tion described in the Comptroller General re-
21 port described in subparagraph (B).

22 “(B) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later
23 than 18 months after the date of enactment of
24 the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
25 2024, the Comptroller General of the United

1 States shall finalize and submit to the United
2 States House of Representatives Committees on
3 Agriculture, and Energy and Commerce, a re-
4 port that examines policy options relating to the
5 transition of the produce prescription program
6 established under this subsection to the Depart-
7 ment of Health and Human Services to be ad-
8 ministered by the Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services.

10 “(7) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The au-
11 thority to carry out this subsection shall terminate
12 on September 30, 2029.”; and

13 (3) in subsection (f)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
15 and inserting “2029”;

16 (B) in paragraph (2)(G), by striking
17 “\$56,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”;
18 and

19 (C) in paragraph (3)—

20 (i) by striking “2023” each place it
21 appears and inserting “2029”;

22 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
23 “8 percent” and inserting “7 percent”;
24 and

1 (iii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-
2 ing “\$7,000,000” and inserting
3 “\$4,000,000”.

4 **SEC. 4307. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION LIAISON AN-**
5 **NUAL REPORT.**

6 Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture
7 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924(e)(2)) is
8 amended—

9 (1) in the heading, by inserting “ANNUAL” be-
10 fore “REPORT”;

11 (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
12 by inserting “and annually thereafter,” before “the
13 Secretary shall”;

14 (3) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at
15 the end;

16 (4) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period
17 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

18 (5) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(C) a general description of each project
20 and activity implemented pursuant to this sec-
21 tion;

22 “(D) a summary of the cooperative agree-
23 ments entered into pursuant to subsection (c);

1 “(E) a detailed account of how the Sec-
2 retary avoided, managed, or will manage mar-
3 ket disruption; and

4 “(F) a summary of coordinated activities
5 with the Administrator of the Environmental
6 Protection Agency and the Commissioner of the
7 Food and Drug Administration, including inter-
8 agency communication and coordination related
9 to the promotion or exclusion of practices and
10 technologies to limit food waste.”.

11 **SEC. 4308. HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE.**

12 Section 243(d) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
13 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953(d)) is amended
14 by striking “\$125,000,000” and inserting
15 “\$135,000,000”.

16 **SEC. 4309. MICRO-GRANTS FOR FOOD SECURITY.**

17 Section 4206(g)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement
18 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7518(g)(1)) is amended by striking
19 “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$30,000,000”.

20 **SEC. 4310. HEALTHY FLUID MILK INCENTIVES PROJECTS.**

21 Section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
22 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “fla-
25 voring or” and inserting “artificial”;

1 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

2 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and

3 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3); and

4 (2) in subsection (e)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “

6 \$20,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000 for

7 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”;

8 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or

9 made available under paragraph (3)” before

10 “shall be”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(3) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of

13 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary

14 shall make available to carry out this section

15 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through

16 2029, to remain available until expended.”.

17 **TITLE V—CREDIT**

18 **Subtitle A—Farm Ownership Loans**

19 **SEC. 5101. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR REAL ESTATE LOANS.**

20 Section 302(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural

21 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended—

22 (1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by

23 striking “a majority” each place it appears and in-

24 serting “at least a 50 percent”;

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs
2 (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

3 “(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-
4 TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the
5 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-
6 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

7 “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-
8 ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.— An applicant that is
9 or will become only the operator of farm real
10 estate acquired, improved, or supported with
11 funds under this subtitle shall be considered to
12 meet the owner-operator requirements of para-
13 graph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who
14 is an owner of the farm real estate owns at
15 least 50 percent (or such other percentage as
16 the Secretary determines is appropriate) of the
17 applicant.

18 “(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED
19 ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator
20 described in paragraph (1), or an operator de-
21 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
22 that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more
23 other entities, shall be considered to meet the
24 direct ownership requirement imposed under
25 paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total

1 ownership interests of the embedded entity, or
2 of the other entities, is owned, directly or indi-
3 rectly, by qualified operators of the farm ac-
4 quired, improved, or supported with funds
5 under this subtitle.”.

6 **SEC. 5102. EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS.**

7 Section 302(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
8 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(b)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
10 subparagraph (A), by striking “3 years” and insert-
11 ing “2 years”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (4)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

14 (i) in the matter preceding clause

15 (i)—

16 (I) by striking “3-year” and in-
17 serting “2-year”; and

18 (II) by striking “1 or 2 years”
19 and inserting “1 year”;

20 (ii) in clause (iii), by inserting “or
21 operational” before “responsibilities”;

22 (iii) in clause (vii), by striking “or”;

23 and

24 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(ix) met any other criteria estab-
2 lished by the Secretary; or”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “3-
4 year” and inserting “2- year”.

5 **SEC. 5103. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE**
6 **PROGRAM.**

7 Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
8 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
11 the end;

12 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “1985.”
13 and inserting “1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812); and”;
14 and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(4) producers who use the loans to adopt pre-
17 cision agriculture practices or acquire precision agri-
18 culture technologies, including adoption or acquisi-
19 tion for the purpose of participating in the environ-
20 mental quality incentives program under subchapter
21 A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
22 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.).”;
23 and

24 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
25 inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 5104. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FARM OWNERSHIP**
2 **LOANS.**

3 Section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(a)(2)) is amended
5 by striking “\$600,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed
6 by the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with
7 fiscal year 2019” and inserting “\$850,000, or, in the case
8 of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3,500,000 (in-
9 creased, beginning with fiscal year 2025”.

10 **SEC. 5105. INFLATION PERCENTAGE.**

11 Section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
12 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(c)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “of the Prices
14 Paid By Farmers Index (as compiled by the Na-
15 tional Agricultural Statistics Service of the Depart-
16 ment of Agriculture) for the 12-month period ending
17 on July 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year”
18 and inserting “of the per acre average United States
19 farm real estate value, the per acre average United
20 States cropland value, and the per acre average
21 United States pasture value for the preceding year
22 (as published in the applicable Agricultural Land
23 Values report of the National Agricultural Statistics
24 Service of the Department of Agriculture), weighted
25 equally”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “of such index
2 (as so defined) for the 12-month period that imme-
3 diately precedes the 12-month period described in
4 paragraph (1)” and inserting “of the per acre aver-
5 age United States farm real estate value, the per
6 acre average United States cropland value, and the
7 per acre average United States pasture value for the
8 year immediately preceding the year described in
9 paragraph (1) (as so published), weighted equally”.

10 **SEC. 5106. AUTHORITY OF FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITU-**
11 **TIONS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR**
12 **ESSENTIAL RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
13 **PROJECTS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 is
15 amended by inserting after section 4.18A (12 U.S.C.
16 2206a) the following:

17 **“SEC. 4.18B. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Bank, direct
19 lender association, or bank for cooperatives chartered
20 under this Act may, for the purpose of making available
21 capital to develop, build, maintain, improve, or provide re-
22 lated equipment or other support for essential community
23 facilities in rural areas, make and participate in loans and
24 commitments, and extend other technical and financial as-
25 sistance for projects for essential community facilities eli-

1 gible for financing under section 306(a) of the Consoli-
2 dated Farm and Rural Development Act.

3 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Only an entity eligible for financ-
4 ing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and
5 Rural Development Act may receive financing or any other
6 assistance under subsection (a) of this section.

7 “(c) LIMITATIONS.—

8 “(1) FINANCING.—A Farm Credit System insti-
9 tution described in subsection (a) shall not provide
10 financing or assistance under this section in an ag-
11 gregate amount that exceeds 15 percent of the total
12 of all outstanding loans of the institution.

13 “(2) OFFER REQUIREMENT.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Sys-
15 tem institution shall not provide financing or
16 assistance under this section unless the institu-
17 tion—

18 “(i) has offered, under reasonable
19 terms and conditions acceptable to the bor-
20 rower involved, an interest in the financing
21 to at least 1 domestic lending institution
22 not referred to in subsection (a) other than
23 the Department of Agriculture; and

24 “(ii) has reported the offer to the
25 Farm Credit Administration.

1 “(B) RURAL COMMUNITY BANK PRI-
2 ORITY.—In offering an interest in a financing
3 to a domestic lending institution described in
4 subparagraph (A)(i), the Farm Credit System
5 institution shall give priority to community
6 banks located in the service area of the essen-
7 tial community facility being financed.

8 “(d) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 1
9 year after the date of the enactment of this section and
10 annually thereafter, the Farm Credit Administration shall
11 provide a report to the Committee on Agriculture of the
12 House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
13 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on the ac-
14 tivities undertaken pursuant to this section by Farm Cred-
15 it System institutions during the period covered by the re-
16 port, including through partnerships between such an in-
17 stitution and other lending institutions, which shall also
18 be posted on the website of the Farm Credit Administra-
19 tion.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
21 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2024.

22 **SEC. 5107. DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM.**

23 Section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
24 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1935(b)(1)) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
2 by striking “exceed 45 percent of the least” and in-
3 serting “exceed, subject to section 305(a), 45 per-
4 cent of the lesser”;

5 (2) in subparagraph (A), by adding “or” after
6 the semicolon;

7 (3) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and
8 inserting a period; and

9 (4) by striking subparagraph (C).

10 **SEC. 5108. HEIRS PROPERTY.**

11 (a) REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEIRS PROPERTY
12 INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.—Section 310I(g)
13 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
14 U.S.C. 1936c(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
15 serting “2029”.

16 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-
17 ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST
18 LEGAL SERVICES.—Section 310I of such Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1936c) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as
21 subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

22 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
23 lowing:

1 “(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-
2 ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST
3 LEGAL SERVICES.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter
5 into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to
6 provide legal or accounting services to underserved
7 heirs, at no cost to the underserved heirs, to assist
8 in resolving undivided ownership interests on farm-
9 land or forest land, or land transitioning to farmland
10 or forest land, that has multiple owners. Such a co-
11 operative agreement must be for any of the following
12 purposes:

13 “(A) To assist with transitioning land to
14 agricultural production.

15 “(B) To maintain land in agricultural pro-
16 duction.

17 “(C) To increase access to programs ad-
18 ministered by the Secretary through the resolu-
19 tion of real property claims in order to allow
20 real property owners to meet land ownership
21 eligibility requirements for participation in a
22 program administered by the Secretary.

23 “(2) ADMINISTRATION OF COOPERATIVE
24 AGREEMENTS.—

25 “(A) DURATION.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A cooperative
2 agreement under paragraph (1) shall be in
3 effect for not more than 4 years, subject to
4 clause (ii).

5 “(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary
6 may extend a cooperative agreement or re-
7 enter into a cooperative agreement with
8 the same or a different eligible entity to
9 provide continued services for heirs if—

10 “(I) property ownership is not re-
11 solved within the initial term of the
12 original cooperative agreement; and

13 “(II) the entity certifies that the
14 entity understands that the coopera-
15 tive agreement is not guaranteed to be
16 funded for more than 4 years after
17 the commencement of the original co-
18 operative agreement.

19 “(B) MANAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCE.—

20 “(i) ANNUAL REPORTS.—An eligible
21 entity must provide annual reports to the
22 Secretary summarizing the progress made
23 during each fiscal year towards achieving
24 the goals of the cooperative agreement for

1 the heirs for whom services are provided
2 under the cooperative agreement.

3 “(ii) INFORMATION AND DATA.—The
4 Secretary may require an eligible entity to
5 provide the Secretary with such informa-
6 tion or data as the Secretary deems nec-
7 essary to determine that the eligible entity
8 is making acceptable progress. The data
9 may not include personally identifiable in-
10 formation.

11 “(iii) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO DEM-
12 ONSTRATE SUCCESS.—If an eligible entity
13 providing services under such a cooperative
14 agreement does not demonstrate success,
15 as determined by the Secretary, in resolv-
16 ing or reasonably attempting to resolve the
17 property claims of an heir, the Secretary
18 may terminate the agreement

19 “(C) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary
20 may utilize requests for public input or the for-
21 mal rulemaking process to effectuate this sub-
22 section. At a minimum, the Secretary shall
23 make publicly available the criteria for selecting
24 an eligible entity to enter into an agreement to
25 provide services, the administrative and per-

1 formance requirements for cooperative agree-
2 ments under this subsection, as well as codify
3 within its internal policy its implementation
4 process.

5 “(D) HEIRS PROPERTY NOT IN FARM-
6 ING.—On a limited basis, and when determined
7 by the Secretary to meet the purposes of a pro-
8 gram administered by the Secretary and to ex-
9 pand access to such a program, the Secretary
10 may allow an eligible entity to provide services
11 at no cost to an heir who is not an underserved
12 heir if—

13 “(i) the land with respect to which the
14 services are to be provided is not farmland
15 or in agricultural production, but could be
16 viably productive for agricultural, con-
17 servation, or forestry purposes;

18 “(ii) the heir satisfies all other re-
19 quirements of the definition of ‘under-
20 served heir’;

21 “(iii) the heir can provide proof to
22 substantiate that the heir is in control of
23 the real property; and

24 “(iv) the heir certifies to the Secretary
25 that the heir intends to apply for, and

1 make a good faith effort to enroll the land
2 in, a program administered by the Sec-
3 retary once property claims to the land are
4 resolved through services provided under a
5 cooperative agreement entered into under
6 this subsection.

7 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
9 ble entity’ means a nonprofit organization
10 that—

11 “(i) provides legal or accounting serv-
12 ices to an underserved heir at no cost to
13 the underserved heir to resolve property
14 ownership issues; and

15 “(ii) has demonstrated experience in
16 resolving issues related to ownership and
17 succession on farmland or forest land that
18 has multiple owners.

19 “(B) LIMITED RESOURCE HEIR.—An heir
20 shall be considered a limited resource heir for
21 purposes of this subsection if—

22 “(i) the total household income of the
23 heir is at or below the national poverty
24 level for a family of 4, or less than 50 per-
25 cent of the county median household in-

1 come for the 2 immediately preceding cal-
2 endar years, as determined annually using
3 data of the Department of Commerce; or

4 “(ii) the property of the heir for which
5 legal services are provided pursuant to a
6 cooperative agreement entered into under
7 this subsection is in a persistent poverty
8 community, as determined annually on the
9 basis of data from the Department of
10 Commerce, or a socially vulnerable area, as
11 designated by the Centers on Disease Con-
12 trol and Prevention.

13 “(C) **UNDERSERVED HEIR.**—The term ‘un-
14 derserved heir’ means an heir with an undivided
15 ownership interest in farmland or forest land
16 that has multiple owners, who is—

17 “(i) a limited resource heir;

18 “(ii) a member of a socially disadvan-
19 tagged group (as defined in section 2501(a)
20 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
21 and Trade Act of 1990); or

22 “(iii) a veteran (as defined in section
23 101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

24 “(4) **ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Within
25 1 year after the date of the enactment of this sub-

1 section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall
2 prepare, make public, and submit to the Committee
3 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
4 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
5 estry of the Senate a written report on the activities
6 carried out under this subsection in the year covered
7 by the report.

8 “(5) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF AP-
9 PROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there
10 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
11 \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
12 2029.”.

13 (c) ANNUAL REPORT ON OPERATIONS AND OUT-
14 COMES UNDER THE RELENDING PROGRAM TO RESOLVE
15 OWNERSHIP AND SUCCESSION ON FARMLAND.—Section
16 310I(g) of such Act, as so redesignated by subsection (b)
17 of this section, is amended by striking “Not later than
18 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
19 retary shall” and inserting “The Secretary shall annu-
20 ally”.

21 **SEC. 5109. PROMPT APPROVAL OF LOANS AND LOAN GUAR-**
22 **ANTEES.**

23 Section 333A of the of the Consolidated Farm and
24 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (g)—

1 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(1) REAL ESTATE AND OPERATING GUARAN-
4 TEED LOANS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
6 provide to lenders a short, simplified application
7 form for real estate and operating guaranteed
8 loans under this title, for loans of not more
9 than \$1,000,000.

10 “(B) NOTICE.—Within 5 business days
11 after receipt of an application to guarantee a
12 farm ownership or operating loan that meets
13 the requirements under subparagraph (A) origi-
14 nated by a USDA preferred lender, the Sec-
15 retary shall notify the lender as to whether the
16 application is approved or disapproved.

17 “(C) MAXIMUM GUARANTEE.—The per-
18 centage of the principal amount of a loan which
19 may be guaranteed pursuant to this paragraph
20 shall not exceed—

21 “(i) 90 percent, in the case of a loan
22 not exceeding \$125,000;

23 “(ii) 75 percent, in the case of a loan
24 of more than \$125,000 and not more than
25 \$500,000; or

1 “(iii) 50 percent, in the case of a loan
2 of more than \$500,000 and not more than
3 \$1,000,000.”; and

4 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
5 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, and
6 inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

7 “(2) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED
8 LOANS TO ASSIST RURAL ENTITIES.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
10 develop an application process that accelerates,
11 to the maximum extent practicable, the proc-
12 essing of applications for business and industry
13 guaranteed loans to assist rural entities, as de-
14 scribed under section 310B(a)(2)(A), for loans
15 not exceeding \$400,000.

16 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The accelerated appli-
17 cation process, as provided under subparagraph
18 (A), shall apply to loans not exceeding
19 \$600,000 if there is not a significant increased
20 risk of a default on the loan, as determined by
21 the Secretary.”; and

22 (2) by striking subsection (h).

1 **SEC. 5110. FARMER LOAN PILOT PROJECTS.**

2 Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
3 velopment Act is amended by inserting after section 333D
4 (7 U.S.C. 1983d) the following:

5 **“SEC. 333E. PRIOR APPROVAL AUTHORIZATION PILOT PRO-**
6 **GRAM.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
8 the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, shall carry
9 out a pilot program to establish a pre-approval process
10 for direct farm ownership loans made under subtitle A in
11 order to streamline the application process and provide
12 greater certainty to borrowers.

13 “(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
15 provision of this Act, the Secretary may establish eli-
16 gibility requirements for direct farm ownership loans
17 under subtitle A.

18 “(2) LIMITATION.—This section shall not be in-
19 terpreted to repeal any borrowing requirement im-
20 posed under subtitle A.

21 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
22 of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the
23 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
24 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
25 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-

1 port examining the actions undertaken under, and the re-
2 sults of, the pilot program.

3 “(d) **TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.**—The au-
4 thority provided by this section shall terminate effective
5 September 30, 2029.”.

6 **SEC. 5111. REFINANCING OF GUARANTEED LOANS INTO DI-**
7 **RECT LOANS.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
10 through the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency
11 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), shall pro-
12 mulgate regulations allowing certain loans guaranteed by
13 the Farm Service Agency to be refinanced into direct loans
14 issued by the Farm Service Agency, in accordance with
15 this section.

16 (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

17 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The regulations promulgated
18 under subsection (a) shall provide that a guaranteed
19 loan described in that subsection may be refinanced
20 into a direct loan described in that subsection only
21 if the Secretary determines that—

22 (A) the guaranteed loan is distressed;

23 (B) the borrower on that guaranteed loan
24 has attempted to work with the lender and has
25 been unsuccessful;

1 (C) a reasonable chance for the success of
2 the operation financed by the guaranteed loan
3 exists; and

4 (D) all other criteria established by the
5 Secretary for purposes of this section to protect
6 taxpayer funds and the loan programs of the
7 Farm Service Agency have been satisfied.

8 (2) REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS.—For
9 purposes of paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary may de-
10 termine that a reasonable chance for the success of
11 an operation exists if the Secretary determines
12 that—

13 (A) all relevant problems with the oper-
14 ation financed by the guaranteed loan—

15 (i) have been identified; and

16 (ii) can be corrected; and

17 (B) on correction of those problems, the
18 operation can achieve, or be returned to, a
19 sound financial basis.

20 (c) NO EFFECT ON SUBSIDIES.—In carrying out this
21 section, the Secretary shall ensure that the refinancing of
22 guaranteed loans into direct loans has no impact on the
23 subsidy rate of—

24 (1) loans guaranteed by the Farm Service
25 Agency; or

1 (2) direct loans issued by the Farm Service
2 Agency.

3 (d) LOAN PROGRAMS.—In making direct loans pur-
4 suant to the regulations promulgated under subsection
5 (a), the Secretary may refinance a loan guaranteed under
6 1 program of the Farm Service Agency into a direct loan
7 issued under another program of the Farm Service Agen-
8 cy, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate and in
9 accordance with the laws applicable to the program under
10 which the new direct loan is issued.

11 (e) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DIRECT REFINANCING
12 LOANS.—A direct loan issued by the Farm Service Agency
13 pursuant to the regulations promulgated under subsection
14 (a) shall be subject to any otherwise applicable limitation
15 on the maximum amount of a direct loan issued by the
16 Farm Service Agency, including, if applicable, the limita-
17 tions described in—

18 (1) section 305 of the Consolidated Farm and
19 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925); and

20 (2) section 313 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1943).

21 **Subtitle B—Operating Loans**

22 **SEC. 5201. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR OPERATING LOANS.**

23 Section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
24 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941) is amended—

1 (1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by
2 striking “a majority” each place it appears and in-
3 serting “at least a 50 percent”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (2)—

5 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
6 “(2) SPECIAL RULE.—An entity” and inserting
7 the following:

8 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

9 “(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-
10 TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the
11 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-
12 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

13 “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-
14 ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An entity”; and

15 (B) by striking “ownership interests of
16 each embedded entity of the entity is owned di-
17 rectly or indirectly by the individuals that own
18 the family farm” and inserting “total ownership
19 interests of the embedded entity, or of the other
20 entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by
21 qualified operators of the farm improved or
22 supported with funds under this subtitle”.

1 **SEC. 5202. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF OPERATING**
2 **LOANS.**

3 Section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(a)(1)) is amended
5 by striking “\$400,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed
6 by the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with
7 fiscal year 2019” and inserting “\$750,000, or, in the case
8 of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3,000,000 (in-
9 creased, beginning with fiscal year 2025”.

10 **SEC. 5203. LIMITATION ON MICROLOAN AMOUNTS.**

11 Section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
12 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(2)) is amended
13 by striking “\$50,000” and inserting “\$100,000”.

14 **SEC. 5204. COOPERATIVE LENDING PILOT PROJECTS.**

15 Section 313(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and
16 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(4)(A)) is
17 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

18 **Subtitle C—Emergency Loans**

19 **SEC. 5301. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS.**

20 Section 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
21 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1961) is amended—

22 (1) by striking all that precedes “shall make
23 and insure” and inserting the following:

24 **“SEC. 321. ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.**

25 **“(a) IN GENERAL.—**

1 “(1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
2 retary”;

3 (2) in the 1st sentence—

4 (A) by striking “(1)” and inserting “(A)”;

5 (B) by striking “(2)” and inserting “(B)”;

6 (C) by striking “(A)” the 1st place it ap-
7 pears and inserting “(i)”;

8 (D) by striking “(B)” the 1st place it ap-
9 pears and inserting “(ii)”;

10 (E) by striking “a majority” each place it
11 appears and inserting “at least a 50 percent”;

12 (3) by striking the 5th sentence; and

13 (4) by adding after and below the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

16 “(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-
17 TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the
18 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-
19 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

20 “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-
21 ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.— An applicant that is
22 or will become only the operator of farm real
23 estate acquired, improved, or supported with
24 funds under this subtitle shall be considered to
25 meet the owner-operator requirements of para-

1 graph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who
2 is an owner of the real estate owns at least 50
3 percent (or such other percentage as the Sec-
4 retary determines is appropriate) of the appli-
5 cant.

6 “(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED
7 ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator
8 described in paragraph (1), or an operator de-
9 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
10 that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more
11 other entities, shall be considered to meet the
12 direct ownership requirement imposed under
13 paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total
14 ownership interests of the embedded entity, or
15 of the other entities, is owned, directly or indi-
16 rectly, by qualified operators of the farm ac-
17 quired, improved, or supported with funds
18 under this subtitle.”

19 **Subtitle D—Administrative** 20 **Provisions**

21 **SEC. 5401. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL** 22 **DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM.**

23 Section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
24 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b(h)) is amended by
25 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 5402. LOAN AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.**

2 Section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
3 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(1)) is amended
4 in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking
5 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 5403. LOAN FUND SET-ASIDES.**

7 Section 346(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Consolidated
8 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
9 1994(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking “2023”
10 and inserting “2029”.

11 **SEC. 5404. USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR DIRECT OPER-**
12 **ATING MICROLOANS UNDER CERTAIN CONDI-**
13 **TIONS.**

14 Section 346(b)(5)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and
15 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(5)(C)) is
16 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

17 **Subtitle E—Miscellaneous**

18 **SEC. 5501. EXPORT FINANCE AUTHORITY.**

19 Section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of
20 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “50 percent of the bank’s cap-
22 ital” and inserting “15 percent of the total assets of
23 the bank”; and

24 (2) by striking “an amount equal to 50 percent
25 of the bank’s capital” and inserting “15 percent of
26 the total assets of the bank”.

1 **SEC. 5502. SUPPORT FOR RURAL WATER AND WASTE SYS-**
2 **TEMS.**

3 Section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
4 U.S.C. 2128(f)) is amended by inserting “, or in the case
5 of such loans, commitments, and assistance that are guar-
6 anteed, the term ‘rural area’ means an area described in
7 section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and
8 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))” be-
9 fore the period at the end.

10 **SEC. 5503. FARMER LOAN DATA COLLECTION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
12 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
13 4.20 the following:

14 **“SEC. 4.21. SMALL FARMER LOAN DATA COLLECTION.**

15 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to af-
16 firm that the Farm Credit Administration is the sole and
17 independent regulator of the Farm Credit System.

18 “(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘small
19 farmer’ means a ‘small farmer, rancher, or producer or
20 harvester of aquatic products’ as defined pursuant to sec-
21 tion 4.19.

22 “(c) COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BY FARM
23 CREDIT SYSTEM LENDERS.—Notwithstanding any other
24 provision of law, Farm Credit System institutions, pursu-
25 ant to regulations promulgated by the Farm Credit Ad-
26 ministration, shall—

1 “(1) request that loan applicants and borrowers
2 that are small farmers disclose information identi-
3 fying their race, sex, and ethnicity;

4 “(2) collect and maintain the information re-
5 sulting from the requests; and

6 “(3) report to the Farm Credit Administration
7 on an annual basis the information collected pursu-
8 ant to the requests.

9 “(d) DIRECTIONS TO THE FARM CREDIT ADMINIS-
10 TRATION.—The Farm Credit Administration—

11 “(1) shall collect the information gathered by
12 Farm Credit System institutions under this section
13 and make the information available to the public on
14 an annual basis; and

15 “(2) shall not require, in prescribing regulations
16 to implement this section, that any Farm Credit
17 System institution contradict the wishes of a cus-
18 tomer who does not wish to voluntarily report race,
19 sex, or ethnicity by requiring the Farm Credit Sys-
20 tem institution to report the race, sex, or ethnicity
21 of the customer based on visual observation, sur-
22 name, or any other method.

23 “(e) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE
24 INFORMATION.—In reporting the information collected
25 under this section, the Farm Credit Administration shall

1 not include any information that would reveal the identity
2 of any loan applicant or borrower.

3 “(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply
4 only to applications received and loans made 1 year or
5 more after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
7 704B(h)(1) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15
8 U.S.C. 1691e–2(h)(1)) is amended by inserting “, other
9 than any entity that is supervised by the Farm Credit Ad-
10 ministration” before the period at the end.

11 (c) COMPLIANCE.—

12 (1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A Farm Credit System
13 institution shall not be required to comply with any
14 regulation promulgated pursuant to this section until
15 January 1, 2026.

16 (2) CESSATION.—If a financial institution sub-
17 ject to subpart B of part 1002 of title 12, Code of
18 Federal Regulations, is not required to comply with
19 the rule, whether because a court invalidates the rule
20 or the rule is otherwise repealed, the Farm Credit
21 System institutions shall not be required to comply
22 with any regulation promulgated pursuant to this
23 section or an amendment made by this section.

1 **SEC. 5504. LOAN GUARANTEES.**

2 Section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971
3 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa(7)(B)) is amended by inserting “ or
4 section 9007(c)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
5 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(c)(1))” before the 1st
6 comma.

7 **SEC. 5505. STANDARDS FOR QUALIFIED LOANS.**

8 Section 8.8 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
9 U.S.C. 2279aa–8) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “mortgage
11 investors” and inserting “investors in those types of
12 loans”; and

13 (2) in subsection (c)—

14 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
15 “LIMITATION” and inserting “LIMITATIONS”;
16 and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(3) FURTHER LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding
19 paragraphs (1) and (2), the Farm Credit Adminis-
20 tration may establish such other loan amount limita-
21 tions to reflect the treatment as a qualified loan of
22 a moderately sized agricultural mortgage loan, as
23 determined by the Farm Credit Administration, with
24 appropriate periodic adjustments for geographic dif-
25 ferences and valuations, consistent with maintaining
26 the safety and soundness of the Corporation.”.

1 **SEC. 5506. STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section 501 of the Agri-
3 cultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101) is amended
4 by adding at the end the following:

5 “(e) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this title, the term
6 ‘State’ has the meaning given the term in section 1404
7 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, and includes
8 any Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian
9 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act).”.

10 (b) MATCHING GRANTS TO STATES.—Section 502 of
11 the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5102) is
12 amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$500,000”
14 and inserting “\$700,000”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(c) CARRYOVER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The
17 Secretary shall permit a State that receives financial as-
18 sistance under subsection (a) for a fiscal year to carry over
19 not more than 25 percent of the financial assistance that
20 is not expended by the end of the fiscal year, for use dur-
21 ing the next fiscal year without deducting the amount
22 from any assistance provided under this Act in subsequent
23 fiscal years.”.

24 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
25 506 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 5106) is amended by striking
26 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 5507. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

2 (a) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCES TO
3 COUNTY COMMITTEES.—

4 (1) Section 333A(a)(2)(B)(vi) of the Consoli-
5 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
6 1983a(a)(2)(B)(vi)) is amended by striking “by the
7 county committee” and inserting “of the applica-
8 tion”.

9 (2) Section 336 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1986) is
10 amended—

11 (A) by striking the last sentence of sub-
12 section (b); and

13 (B) by striking subsection (e) and redesign-
14 ating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

15 (3) Section 339 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1989) is
16 amended—

17 (A) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking
18 “county committee certification that the bor-
19 rower of the loan meets the eligibility require-
20 ments and” and inserting “the borrower meet-
21 ing”; and

22 (B) in subsection (d)(4)(A), by striking
23 “county committee certification that the bor-
24 rower meets the eligibility requirements or” and
25 inserting “the borrower meeting”.

1 (4) Section 359(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
2 2006a(c)(1)) is amended by striking “(as determined
3 by the appropriate county committee during the de-
4 termination of eligibility for the loan)”.

5 (b) REVISION OF LOAN ASSESSMENT REQUIRE-
6 MENTS.—Section 360(d)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
7 2006b(d)(1)) is amended by striking “annual review of di-
8 rect loans, and periodic review (as determined necessary
9 by the Secretary) of guaranteed loans” and inserting
10 “periodic review (as determined by the Secretary) of direct
11 and guaranteed loans”.

12 (c) UPDATING OF OUTDATED REFERENCES TO THE
13 FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION AND THE RURAL DE-
14 VELOPMENT AGENCY.—

15 (1) Section 309(e) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
16 1928(e)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
17 Administration and the Rural Development Adminis-
18 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and
19 Rural Development”.

20 (2) Section 331(a)(5) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
21 1981(a)(5)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
22 Administration” each place it appears and inserting
23 “Farm Service Agency and Rural Development”.

24 (3) Section 331(a)(7) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
25 1981(a)(7)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home

1 Administration” and inserting “Farm Service Agen-
2 cy and Rural Development”.

3 (4) Section 331(a)(8) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
4 1981(a)(8)) is amended by striking “Rural Develop-
5 ment Administration or by the Farmers Home Ad-
6 ministration” “Farm Service Agency and Rural De-
7 velopment”.

8 (5) Section 331(b)(4) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
9 1981(b)(4)) is amended by striking “Consolidated”.

10 (6) Section 331(b) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
11 1981(b)) is amended in each of paragraphs (5) and
12 (7) by striking “Farmers Home Administration”
13 each place it appears and inserting “Farm Service
14 Agency and Rural Development”.

15 (7) Section 331(b)(8) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
16 1981(b)(8)) is amended by striking “Rural Develop-
17 ment Administration or by the Farmers Home Ad-
18 ministration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency
19 and Rural Development”.

20 (8) Section 331A(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
21 1981a(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
22 Administration or by the Rural Development Admin-
23 istration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency or by
24 Rural Development”.

1 (9) Section 335(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
2 1985(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
3 Administration or the Rural Development Adminis-
4 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency or
5 Rural Development”.

6 (10) Section 335(f)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
7 1985(f)(1)) is amended—

8 (A) by striking “Agricultural Stabilization
9 and Conservation Service payments” and insert-
10 ing “Farm Service Agency farm program”;

11 (B) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
12 tration liens” and inserting “liens for a farmer
13 program loan”; and

14 (C) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
15 tration farmer” and inserting “Farm Service
16 Agency farmer”.

17 (11) Section 338(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
18 1988(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
19 Administration or the Rural Development Adminis-
20 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and
21 Rural Development”.

22 (12) Section 347 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1995)
23 is amended by striking “Farmers Home Administra-
24 tion” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and
25 Rural Development”.

1 (13) Section 356 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2004)
2 is amended—

3 (A) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
4 tration may” and inserting “Farm Service
5 Agency and Rural Development may”; and

6 (B) by striking “the inventory of the
7 Farmers Home Administration” and inserting
8 “inventory”.

9 (14) Section 370(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
10 2008e(a)) is amended by striking “the Rural Devel-
11 opment Administration, the Farmers Home Admin-
12 istration, the Rural Electrification Administration”
13 and inserting “Rural Development, the Farm Serv-
14 ice Agency, the Rural Utilities Service”.

15 (15) Each of the following provisions of such
16 Act is amended by striking “Farmers Home Admin-
17 istration” each place it appears and inserting “Farm
18 Service Agency”:

19 (A) Section 309(g)(1) (7 U.S.C.
20 1929(g)(1)).

21 (B) Section 331A(a) (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)).

22 (C) Section 333A(a)(2)(B) (7 U.S.C.
23 1983a(a)(2)(B)).

24 (D) Section 333A(e)(1) (7 U.S.C.
25 1983a(e)(1)).

1 (E) Section 335(d) (7 U.S.C. 1985(d)).

2 (F) Section 353A (7 U.S.C. 2001a).

3 (G) Section 349(e)(1)(B) (7 U.S.C.
4 1997(e)(1)(B)).

5 (H) Section 361 (7 U.S.C. 2006e).

6 (d) Section 335(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
7 1985(c)(1)) is amended—

8 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “15” and
9 inserting “60”;

10 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

11 (A) by striking “135” and inserting
12 “180”; and

13 (B) by inserting “suitable for farming and
14 ranching, as determined by the Secretary” be-
15 fore the comma; and

16 (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “not later
17 than 135 days after acquiring the real property, the
18 Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after the
19 135-day period,” and inserting “or if the property is
20 not suitable for farming and ranching as determined
21 by the Secretary, not later than 60 days after the
22 180-day period, the Secretary shall”.

23 (e) CORRECTION OF INFEASIBLE INVENTORY PROP-
24 erty DISPOSITION FRAMEWORK.—

1 (1) Section 331(b)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
2 1981(b)(1)) is amended by striking “, and until Jan-
3 uary” and all that follows through “fit”).

4 (2) Section 335(f) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1985(f)) is amended—

6 (A) by striking paragraphs (3) through (5)
7 and redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph
8 (3); and

9 (B) by striking paragraph (7) and insert-
10 ing the following:

11 “(4) The Secretary shall issue regulations consistent
12 with this section that ensures the release of funds to each
13 borrower.”.

14 (f) REPLACEMENT OF REFERENCES TO DISTRICT
15 OFFICE WITH REFERENCES TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR.—

16 Section 333A(a)(2)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1983a(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “district office”
18 each place it appears and inserting “District Director”.

19 (g) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO
20 FORMER TRUST TERRITORIES.—Section 343(a)(6) of
21 such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(6)) is amended by striking
22 “the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands” and inserting
23 “the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of
24 Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands”.

1 (h) REVISION OF FARMER PROGRAM LOAN DEFINI-
2 TION.—Section 343(a)(10) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
3 1991(a)(10)) is amended by inserting “before June 18,
4 2008, conservation loan (CL) under section 304 on or
5 after June 18, 2008,” before “emergency loan (EM)”.

6 (i) ELIMINATION OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN
7 RULES APPLICABLE TO BEGINNING FARMERS.—Section
8 343(a)(11)(C) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)(C)) is
9 amended by striking “related to one another by blood or
10 marriage” and inserting “qualified beginning farmers”.

11 (j) UPDATING OF PROVISIONS TO REFLECT
12 REPURPOSING OF CONSERVATION LOAN PROVISIONS.—

13 (1) Section 303(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
14 1923(a)) is amended in each of paragraphs (1)(D)
15 and (2)(D) by striking “described in section 304”.

16 (2) Section 310D of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1934)
17 is amended by striking “, or paragraphs (1) through
18 (5) of section 304(a),” and inserting “section
19 304(a)”.

20 (k) UPDATING OF NOTICE PROVISION REQUIREMENT
21 AND LIFETIME DEBT FORGIVENESS LIMIT.—Section 353
22 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (i)(1), by striking “registered
24 or certified mail” and inserting “any method that
25 provides documentation of delivery”; and

1 (2) in subsection (o), by striking “\$300,000”
2 and inserting “\$600,000”.

3 (l) UPDATING OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO THE
4 SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE.—Section 306(a)(13) of
5 such Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(13)) is amended by striking
6 “Soil Conservation Service” and inserting “Natural Re-
7 sources Conservation Service”.

8 (m) CLARIFICATION OF INTEREST RATE REQUIRE-
9 MENTS.—

10 (1) Section 307(a)(3)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
11 1927(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “not be—”
12 and all that follows and inserting “be equal to the
13 interest rate for direct farm ownership loans under
14 this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.”.

15 (2) Section 316(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
16 1946(a)(2)) is amended by striking “not be—” and
17 all that follows and inserting “be equal to the inter-
18 est rate for direct farm ownership loans under this
19 subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.”.

20 (n) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—Section 309(h)(6)
21 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(h)(6)) is amended in the para-
22 graph heading by striking “BEGINNING FARMER LOANS”
23 and inserting “DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM PARTICI-
24 PANT”.

1 (o) ELIMINATION OF SUPERFLUOUS RESTRIC-
2 TIONS.—Section 312 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is
3 amended by striking subsection (d) and redesignating sub-
4 section (e) as subsection (d).

5 (p) ELIMINATION OF CONFUSING REFERENCES TO
6 LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 319 of such Act (7 U.S.C.
7 1949) is amended—

8 (1) in the section heading, by striking “or loan
9 guarantees”;

10 (2) by striking “(a)”; and

11 (3) by striking “or with respect to whom there
12 is an outstanding guarantee under this subtitle”.

13 (q) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTING RE-
14 QUIREMENTS.—Section 346 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994)
15 is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d).

16 (r) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE APPEALS PROVI-
17 SIONS.—

18 (1) Section 352(e)(3) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
19 2000(e)(3)) is amended by striking “section 333B”
20 and inserting “subtitle H of title II of Federal Crop
21 Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture
22 Reorganization Act of 1994”.

23 (2) Section 353 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is
24 amended—

1 (A) in subsection (h), by striking “under
2 section 333B”; and

3 (B) in subsection (j)—

4 (i) by striking “filed with the appeals
5 division under section 333B” and inserting
6 “to the National Appeals Division”;

7 (ii) by striking “appeals division
8 shall” and inserting “Secretary shall”; and

9 (iii) by striking “county supervisor”
10 and inserting “Secretary”.

11 (s) ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY CONSTRAINT ON
12 PILOT PROJECTS.—Section 333D(a) of such Act (7
13 U.S.C. 1983d(a)) is amended by striking “that are con-
14 sistent with subtitle A through this subtitle”.

15 (t) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—The paragraph
16 heading in section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of
17 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa–8(a)(3)) is amended by striking
18 “MORTGAGE LOANS” and inserting “LOAN QUALITY”.

1 **TITLE VI—RURAL**
2 **DEVELOPMENT**
3 **Subtitle A—Improving Health**
4 **Outcomes in Rural America**

5 **SEC. 6101. PRIORITIZATIONS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING**
6 **AND TELEMEDICINE AND COMMUNITY FA-**
7 **CILITIES PROGRAM.**

8 Section 6101(a) of the Agriculture Improvement Act
9 of 2018 (132 Stat. 4726; Public Law 115–334) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) in paragraph (1)—

12 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

13 (A), by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”;

14 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

15 (i) in clause (i)—

16 (I) in the heading, by striking

17 “SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SET-

18 ASIDE” and inserting “SET-ASIDE”;

19 and

20 (II) by inserting “, mental

21 health, behavioral health, or maternal

22 health” before “treatment”; and

23 (ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “mental

24 health, behavioral health, maternal health,

25 or” before “substance”;

- 1 (C) in subparagraph (B)—
- 2 (i) in clause (i)—
- 3 (I) in the heading, by striking
- 4 “SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER SE-
- 5 LECTION” and inserting “SELEC-
- 6 TION”;
- 7 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting
- 8 “mental health, behavioral health, ma-
- 9 ternal health, or” before “substance”;
- 10 and
- 11 (III) in subclause (II), by insert-
- 12 ing “mental health concerns, behav-
- 13 ioral health concerns, maternal health
- 14 concerns, or” before “substance”; and
- 15 (ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “, be-
- 16 havioral health treatment, mental health
- 17 treatment, or maternal health, respec-
- 18 tively” before the period; and
- 19 (D) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “be-
- 20 havioral health, mental health, maternal health,
- 21 or” before “substance”; and
- 22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2025” and
- 23 inserting “2026”.

1 **SEC. 6102. DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE**
2 **LOANS AND GRANTS.**

3 Section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
4 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–5) is
5 amended by striking “\$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$82,000,000 for each
7 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available for
8 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which appropriated”.

9 **Subtitle B—Connecting Rural**
10 **Americans to High Speed**
11 **Broadband**

12 **SEC. 6201. RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM LOANS AND**
13 **GRANTS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Rural Elec-
15 trification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

16 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**AC-**
17 **CESS TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
18 **SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS**” and inserting “**RE-**
19 **CONNECT RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM**”;

20 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “The purpose”
21 and all that follows through “provide funds for” and
22 inserting “The Secretary shall establish a program,
23 which shall be known as the ‘ReConnect Rural
24 Broadband Program’, to provide grants, loans, and
25 loan guarantees to finance”;

26 (3) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
4 grants, loans, and loan guarantees to eligible entities
5 described in subsection (d) for the purpose of financ-
6 ing the construction, improvement, or acquisition of
7 facilities and equipment necessary for delivering
8 broadband service in rural areas.”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-
10 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants,
12 making loans, and guaranteeing loans under
13 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give the
14 highest priority to applications for projects to
15 provide broadband service to unserved rural
16 communities that do not have any residential
17 broadband service of at least—

18 “(i) a 25-Mbps downstream trans-
19 mission capacity; and

20 “(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission
21 capacity.

22 “(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the
23 applications described in subparagraph (A), the
24 Secretary shall then give priority to applica-
25 tions—

1 “(i) for projects to provide broadband
2 service to rural communities—

3 “(I) with a population of less
4 than 10,000 inhabitants; or

5 “(II) in geographically under-
6 served and distressed areas, includ-
7 ing—

8 “(aa) a socially vulnerable
9 community (as determined by the
10 Secretary);

11 “(bb) a persistent poverty
12 county (as determined by the
13 Secretary); or

14 “(cc) in an economically dis-
15 tressed area (as determined by
16 the Secretary);

17 “(ii) that were developed with the par-
18 ticipation of, and will receive a substantial
19 portion of the funding or in-kind assistance
20 for the project from, 2 or more stake-
21 holders, including—

22 “(I) State, local, and tribal gov-
23 ernments;

24 “(II) nonprofit institutions;

1 “(III) community anchor institu-
2 tions, such as—

3 “(aa) public libraries;

4 “(bb) elementary schools
5 and secondary schools (as defined
6 in section 8101 of the Elemen-
7 tary and Secondary Education
8 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

9 “(cc) institutions of higher
10 education (including 1862 Land-
11 Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-
12 Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-
13 Grant Institutions, Hispanic-
14 Serving Institutions, and Histori-
15 cally Black Colleges and Univer-
16 sities);

17 “(dd) health care facilities;
18 and

19 “(ee) facilities essential for
20 local or regional commerce or for
21 the movement of goods;

22 “(IV) private entities;

23 “(V) philanthropic organizations;

24 and

25 “(VI) cooperatives; or

1 “(iii) that are submitted by an eligible
2 entity or is owned by an entity that has
3 provided broadband service or other utility
4 service for at least 5 years in rural areas
5 in the State in which the project would be
6 carried out.”;

7 (C) in paragraph (3)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (I) by striking “and” at the end
10 of clause (i);

11 (II) by striking the period at the
12 end of clause (ii) and inserting “;
13 and”; and

14 (III) by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(iii) shall be subject to a grant
17 agreement of not less than 10 years.”;

18 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (C) and
19 (D) and inserting the following:

20 “(C) APPLICATIONS.—

21 “(i) GRANT-ONLY APPLICATIONS.—

22 The Secretary shall establish an applica-
23 tion process that permits an application for
24 a grant-only award.

1 “(ii) COMBINED APPLICATIONS.—The
2 Secretary shall establish an application
3 process that—

4 “(I) permits a single application
5 for a grant and a loan under title I or
6 II, or this title, that is associated with
7 the grant; and

8 “(II) provides a single decision to
9 award the grant and the loan.”;

10 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
11 (E) as subparagraph (D); and

12 (iv) by striking subparagraph (F); and
13 (D) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-
14 ing the following:

15 “(4) FEES.—

16 “(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Sec-
17 retary may assess an initial guarantee fee for
18 any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modi-
19 fied under this section in an amount that does
20 not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed prin-
21 cipal portion of the loan.

22 “(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The
23 Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee
24 for any insured or guaranteed loan or modified
25 under this section in an amount that does not

1 exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal
2 of the guarantee loan.

3 “(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee
4 charged for any insured or guaranteed loan
5 issued or modified under this section, the Sec-
6 retary, not less than 30 days in advance of any
7 fee change, shall provide a public disclosure, of
8 the financial data, economic and behavioral as-
9 sumptions, calculations, and other factors used
10 to determine the new fee rates.”;

11 (4) in subsection (d)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

14 (I) in clause (i), by adding “and”
15 at the end; and

16 (II) by striking “require; and”
17 and all that follows through “agree”
18 and insert “require, and agree”;

19 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
20 (B) as subparagraph (E) and inserting
21 after subparagraph (A) the following:

22 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—An entity eligible to
23 obtain assistance under subsection (c) may in-
24 clude—

1 “(i) a State or local government, in-
2 cluding any agency, subdivision, instru-
3 mentality, or political subdivision of a
4 State or local government;

5 “(ii) a territory or possession of the
6 United States;

7 “(iii) an Indian Tribe (as defined in
8 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
9 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
10 5304));

11 “(iv) a cooperative or mutual organi-
12 zation;

13 “(v) an organization of 2 or more in-
14 corporated areas that have established an
15 intermunicipal legal agreement for the pur-
16 poses of delivering communication services
17 to residents;

18 “(vi) a corporation; or

19 “(vii) a limited liability company or
20 limited liability partnership.

21 “(C) INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An indi-
22 vidual or legal general partnership that is
23 formed with individuals shall not be eligible to
24 obtain a grant, loan, or grant and loan com-
25 bination under subsection (c).

1 “(D) AFFILIATED OWNED AND OPERATED
2 NETWORKS.—Under this subsection, the Sec-
3 retary may fund the construction of networks
4 owned and operated by an affiliate of an eligible
5 entity receiving the grant, loan, or loan guar-
6 antee, if the eligible entity, the affiliate, or
7 both, as determined necessary by the Secretary,
8 furnishes adequate security for the grant, loan,
9 or loan guarantee.”; and

10 (iii) in subparagraph (E) (as so reded-
11 icated by clause (ii) of this subpara-
12 graph), by inserting “, directly or in con-
13 junction with any combination of affili-
14 ates,” before “may not”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (I) by striking “subparagraphs
18 (B) and (C)” and inserting “subpara-
19 graph (B)”;

20 (II) by striking “is submitted—”
21 and all that follows through “(i) not
22 less than 50” and inserting “is sub-
23 mitted not less than 75” ; and

24 (III) by striking “(e); and” and
25 all that follows and inserting “(e).”;

- 1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “(A)(i)” and inserting “(A)”; and
3 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C);
4 and
5 (C) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5);
6 (5) in subsection (e)—
7 (A) in paragraph (1)—
8 (i) by striking “Subject to paragraph
9 (2), for” and inserting “For”;
10 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
11 “25” and inserting “50”; and
12 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
13 “3” and inserting “25”;
14 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
15 ing the following:
16 “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may ad-
17 just, through a 30-day public notice and comment
18 period published in the Federal Register, an increase
19 in the minimum level of broadband service under
20 paragraph (1) of no more than 50 percent from the
21 preceding year, if less than 95 percent of the funds
22 of the program are obligated in the preceding 2
23 funding rounds.”; and
24 (C) in paragraph (4)—

1 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
2 ing “BUILDOUT” and inserting “PROJECT
3 AGREEMENT”; and

4 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (B)
5 through (D) and inserting the following:

6 “(B) BROADBAND BUILDOUT STANDARDS
7 DEFINED.—A project must meet the following
8 applicable broadband standard in order to be
9 considered for assistance;

10 “(i) A project with an award term of
11 less than 8 years must provide service at
12 2 times the minimum broadband speed es-
13 tablished in subsection (e)(1).

14 “(ii) A project with an award term of
15 at least 8 years and less than 14 years
16 must provide service at 5 times the min-
17 imum broadband speed established in sub-
18 section (e)(1).

19 “(iii) A project with an award term of
20 14 or more years must provide service at
21 10 times the minimum broadband speed
22 established in subsection (e)(1).

23 “(C) NETWORK UPGRADE PLANNING.—
24 The Secretary may prioritize an applicant seek-
25 ing to meet the broadband buildout standards

1 under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) if
2 the applicant submits information regarding the
3 potential for the physical infrastructure of the
4 network to be upgraded to meet the broadband
5 buildout standards under subparagraph (B)(iii)
6 at the time of the application, assuming reason-
7 able progress in relevant networking tech-
8 nologies.”;

9 (6) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
13 out this section \$350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
14 through 2029, to remain available until expended.”; and

15 (7) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and
16 inserting “2029”.

17 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
19 promulgate rules to carry out the amendments made by
20 subsection (a) of this section, and complete the biennial
21 review process required by section 601(e)(2) of the Rural
22 Electrification Act of 1936.

23 (c) SUNSET.—The authorities provided by section
24 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public

1 Law 115–141) shall have no force or effect beginning 270
2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 (d) TRANSITION RULES.—

4 (1) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRA-
5 TIVE COSTS.—Not more than 1 percent of the unob-
6 ligated balances of amounts made available, as of
7 the date that is 270 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, to carry out the pilot program de-
9 scribed in section 779 of the Consolidated Appro-
10 priations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) may be
11 used for the costs of transitioning from the pilot
12 program to the program under section 601 of the
13 Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended by
14 this Act.

15 (2) CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The unobligated bal-
17 ances of all amounts made available on or be-
18 fore June 30, 2025, to carry out the pilot pro-
19 gram described in section 779 of the Consoli-
20 dated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law
21 115–141) that are in excess of the amount de-
22 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
23 are hereby transferred to and merged with
24 amounts made available to carry out the pro-

1 gram authorized under section 601 of the Rural
2 Electrification Act of 1936.

3 (B) UNFUNDED APPROVALS.—The amount
4 described in this subparagraph is the amount
5 required to fully fund each project approved as
6 of the date that is 270 days after the date of
7 the enactment of this Act, under the pilot pro-
8 gram described in such section 779 for which
9 amounts were not obligated or partially obli-
10 gated as of such date.

11 **SEC. 6202. EXPANSION OF MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE**
12 **INTO RURAL AREAS.**

13 Section 602(g) of the Rural Electrification Act of
14 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-1(g)) is amended by striking “2018
15 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

16 **SEC. 6203. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PRO-**
17 **GRAM.**

18 Section 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
19 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-2) is amended to read as follows:

20 **“SEC. 603. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PRO-**
21 **GRAM.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
23 program to be known as the ‘Innovative Broadband Ad-
24 vancement Program’, under which the Secretary may pro-
25 vide a grant, a loan, or both to an eligible entity for the

1 purpose of demonstrating innovative broadband tech-
2 nologies or methods of broadband deployment that signifi-
3 cantly decrease the cost of broadband deployment, and
4 provide substantially faster broadband speeds than are
5 available, in a rural area.

6 “(b) TERRESTRIAL BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION
7 PROJECTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
9 grants or loans to eligible entities for the purpose of
10 deploying innovative broadband technologies to
11 qualified consumers who subscribe to terrestrial
12 broadband service in rural areas.

13 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to obtain as-
14 sistance under this subsection for a project, an enti-
15 ty shall—

16 “(A) submit to the Secretary an applica-
17 tion—

18 “(i) that describes a terrestrial
19 broadband demonstration project designed
20 to decrease the cost of broadband deploy-
21 ment, and substantially increase broadband
22 speed to not less than the maximum
23 broadband project agreement requirements
24 established under section 601(e)(4), to

1 qualified consumers in a rural area to be
2 served by the project; and

3 “(ii) at such time, in such manner,
4 and containing such other information as
5 the Secretary may require;

6 “(B) demonstrate that the entity is able to
7 carry out the project; and

8 “(C) agree to complete the project build-
9 out within 5 years after the date the assistance
10 is first provided for the project.

11 “(3) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding assistance
12 under this subsection, the Secretary shall give pri-
13 ority to proposals for projects that—

14 “(A) involve partnerships between or
15 among multiple entities;

16 “(B) would provide broadband service to
17 the greatest number of rural entities at or
18 above the broadband requirements referred to
19 in paragraph (2)(A)(i);

20 “(C) the Secretary determines could be
21 replicated in rural areas described in paragraph
22 (2); and

23 “(D) are located in States and territories
24 selected by the Secretary to be diverse on the

1 basis of geography, topography, and demo-
2 graphics.

3 “(4) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—In this sub-
4 section, the term ‘qualified consumer’ means—

5 “(A) an individual or member of a house-
6 hold who lives in a rural area;

7 “(B) a rural small business; or

8 “(C) an essential community facility, as
9 defined pursuant to section 306(a) of the Con-
10 solidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
11 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

12 “(5) RURAL AREA.—In this subsection, the
13 term ‘rural area’ has the meaning provided in sec-
14 tion 601(b)(3).

15 “(c) SATELLITE BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION
16 PROJECTS.—

17 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
18 is to reduce or eliminate the costs to access satellite
19 broadband service for remote subscribers.

20 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

21 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
22 ble entity’ means a broadband service provider
23 that provides Internet access directly to quali-
24 fied consumers in remote areas via satellite
25 technology.

1 “(B) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—The term
2 ‘qualified consumer’ means a consumer served
3 by an eligible entity that receives a grant under
4 paragraph (3), who is—

5 “(i) an individual or a member of a
6 household at or below the poverty line (as
7 defined in section 673(2) of the Omnibus
8 Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, includ-
9 ing any revision required by such section,
10 applicable to a family of the size involved);
11 or

12 “(ii) an essential community facility,
13 as defined pursuant to section 306(a) of
14 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
15 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

16 “(C) SATELLITE BROADBAND EQUIP-
17 MENT.—The term ‘satellite broadband equip-
18 ment’ means user terminals, wi-fi routers,
19 power supplies, mounts, and any other equip-
20 ment necessary to connect a qualified consumer
21 to satellite broadband service.

22 “(D) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’
23 means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
24 through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities
25 Service.

1 “(E) REMOTE.—The term ‘remote’ means
2 a region classified within level 3 or level 4 of
3 the frontier and remote zip code areas pub-
4 lished by the Economic Research Service of the
5 Department of Agriculture.

6 “(3) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph
8 (B), the Secretary shall make grants to eligible
9 entities for the purpose of reducing or elimi-
10 nating the cost associated with the purchase or
11 installation, or both, of satellite broadband
12 equipment to qualified consumers to subscribe
13 to satellite broadband service in remote areas.

14 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—As a condition of
15 receiving a grant under this subsection, an eli-
16 gible entity shall—

17 “(i) provide retail broadband service
18 delivered via satellite technology to quali-
19 fied consumers, that—

20 “(I) enables a qualified consumer
21 to the service to originate and receive
22 high-quality voice, data, graphics,
23 video; and

24 “(II) has a latency which does
25 not exceed 250 milliseconds;

1 “(ii) submit to the Secretary an appli-
2 cation at such time, in such manner, and
3 containing such other information as the
4 Secretary may require;

5 “(iii) agree to reduce or eliminate the
6 cost associated with the purchase, installa-
7 tion, or both, of satellite broadband equip-
8 ment for qualified consumers; and

9 “(iv) agree to provide qualified con-
10 sumers with the reduction or elimination of
11 that cost within 1 year of the assistance
12 being obligated to the eligible entity.

13 “(C) ELIGIBILITY MAP OF QUALIFIED CON-
14 SUMERS.—Within 1 year after the date of the
15 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
16 the Secretary shall publish a map of the remote
17 areas of qualified consumers that do not have
18 access to terrestrial broadband service of at
19 least—

20 “(i) a 25-Mbps downstream trans-
21 mission capacity; and

22 “(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission
23 capacity.

24 “(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the
25 enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the

1 Secretary shall submit a comprehensive report to the Com-
2 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
3 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
4 the Senate that shall provide the outcomes, effectiveness,
5 and impact of the Innovative Broadband Advancement
6 Program, including—

7 “(1) an assessment of the broadband infra-
8 structure funded, including the scope, scale, nature
9 and geographic locations of each award;

10 “(2) the broadband access and speeds achieved,
11 including the download and upload speeds, latency,
12 and overall network reliability;

13 “(3) any technical or logistical challenges en-
14 countered by the eligible entities; and

15 “(4) any recommendations for future innovative
16 broadband deployment initiatives in rural areas.

17 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

20 **SEC. 6204. COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANTS.**

21 Section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
22 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-3) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “10”

25 and inserting “25”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “1”
2 and inserting “3”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
5 the end;

6 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
7 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(3) provides broadband speeds not less than
10 the broadband project agreement requirements es-
11 tablished under section 601(e)(4)(B)(ii) to the eligi-
12 ble entity within the proposed eligible service area.”;
13 and

14 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2019 through
15 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

16 **SEC. 6205. RATE REGULATION.**

17 Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7
18 U.S.C. 950bb–950bb-5) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following:

20 **“SEC. 607. RATE REGULATION.**

21 “Nothing in this title authorizes the Secretary to reg-
22 ulate rates charged for broadband service.”.

1 **SEC. 6206. PUBLIC NOTICE, ASSESSMENTS, TECHNICAL AS-**
2 **SISTANCE, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

3 Section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
4 (7 U.S.C. 950cc) is amended—

5 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**TECH-**
6 **NICAL ASSISTANCE,**” before “**AND**”;

7 (2) in subsection (a)(1)(B)(i), by inserting “,
8 including a complete shapefile map” before the semi-
9 colon;

10 (3) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
13 “and” at the end;

14 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
15 (B) as subparagraph (C) and inserting
16 after subparagraph (A) the following:

17 “(B) validate the information submitted by
18 service providers under subparagraph (A)
19 through procedures established by the Sec-
20 retary, which shall include an agency deter-
21 mination provided to the submitter, an oppor-
22 tunity of the submitter to respond, and a final
23 non-appealable determination of the Secretary;
24 and”;

25 (iii) in subparagraph (C) (as so redes-
26 ignated by clause (ii) of this subpara-

1 graph), by striking “paragraph (1)” and
2 inserting “subparagraph (A)”; and
3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking all that
4 precedes subparagraph (B) and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(2) ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBILITY.—In making
7 any determination to award a loan, loan guarantee,
8 or grant for any retail broadband project provided
9 assistance or for which assistance is sought that is
10 administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall
11 confirm that each unserved rural community identi-
12 fied in the application is eligible for funding by—

13 “(A) utilizing the map created by the Fed-
14 eral Communications Commission under section
15 802(c)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of
16 1934 and the Deployment Locations Map estab-
17 lished under section 60104(b) of the Infrastruc-
18 ture Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C.
19 1704(b));” and

20 (4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
21 following:

22 “(e) BROADBAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRO-
23 GRAM.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
25 grants to private, nonprofit, or public organizations

1 to provide or receive eligible entities broadband tech-
2 nical assistance and training to expand access to
3 broadband service in rural communities through the
4 broadband programs of the Department of Agri-
5 culture including—

6 “(A) preparing applications for grants,
7 loans and loan guarantees under this section;

8 “(B) identifying resources to finance
9 broadband facilities from public and private
10 sources, including other Federal agencies;

11 “(C) preparing feasibility studies, financial
12 forecasts, market surveys, environmental stud-
13 ies, and technical design information to support
14 broadband services;

15 “(D) preparing reports and surveys nec-
16 essary to support the need for broadband serv-
17 ices, the price range, and request financial as-
18 sistance;

19 “(E) analyzing and improving operations
20 related to the management, including financial
21 management, of broadband facilities and to the
22 efficiency of the entity;

23 “(F) collecting broadband infrastructure
24 data; or

1 “(G) assisting with other areas of need
2 identified by the Secretary.

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to ob-
4 tain assistance under this subsection, an entity shall
5 be—

6 “(A) a federally recognized tribe or tribal
7 entity;

8 “(B) a State or local government, includ-
9 ing any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or
10 political subdivision thereof;

11 “(C) a territory or possession of the
12 United States;

13 “(D) an institution of higher education (in-
14 cluding a 1862 Land-Grant Institution, 1890
15 Land-Grant Institution, 1994 Land-Grant In-
16 stitution, Hispanic-Serving Institution, or His-
17 torically Black College or University);

18 “(E) a nonprofit organization described in
19 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
20 of 1986;

21 “(F) a cooperative or mutual organization;

22 “(G) a corporation; or

23 “(H) a limited liability company or limited
24 liability partnership.

1 “(3) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In selecting recipi-
2 ents of grants under this paragraph, the Secretary
3 shall give priority to organizations that have experi-
4 ence in providing technical assistance and training
5 to rural entities.

6 “(4) NATIONAL APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary
7 shall allow applications for grants under this para-
8 graph from qualified organizations for the sole pur-
9 pose of providing on-site community technical assist-
10 ance and training on a national or multi-State re-
11 gional basis.

12 “(f) ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY BROADBAND
13 MAPPING.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
15 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of col-
16 lecting broadband service data to assist the Sec-
17 retary in—

18 “(A) establishing the availability of
19 broadband service or middle mile infrastructure
20 in a rural area;

21 “(B) determining the eligibility of a com-
22 munity for assistance under any broadband pro-
23 gram administered by the Secretary;

24 “(C) undertaking a service area assess-
25 ment under this section; or

1 “(D) collecting information to submit a
2 challenge to the National Broadband Map cre-
3 ated by the Federal Communications Commis-
4 sion pursuant to section 802(c)(1) of the Com-
5 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1)).

6 “(2) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant
7 under this section, an entity shall submit an applica-
8 tion which identifies—

9 “(A) the data collection area;

10 “(B) the purpose of the data collection;

11 “(C) the types of broadband service data
12 to be collected;

13 “(D) the survey and data collection meth-
14 ods utilized; and

15 “(E) any other information the Secretary
16 determines necessary to promote the integrity
17 of broadband service collected under this sec-
18 tion.

19 “(3) LIMITATION OF GRANT AMOUNT.—The
20 amount of a grant made available under this sub-
21 section shall not exceed \$50,000.

22 “(4) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA USAGE.—The
23 Secretary shall ensure that any broadband service
24 data collected under this section is—

1 “(A) measured or assessed in accordance
2 with such standards as are established by the
3 Federal Communications Commission pursuant
4 to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications
5 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

6 “(B) accurate and verifiable in accordance
7 with such standards as are established by the
8 Federal Communications Commission pursuant
9 to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications
10 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

11 “(C) included in any broadband maps or
12 data sets maintained by the Secretary; and

13 “(D) made available to the Chair of the
14 Federal Communications Commission and the
15 Administrator of the National Telecommuni-
16 cations and Information Administration for in-
17 clusion in any broadband maps or data sets ei-
18 ther may maintain.

19 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

20 “(A) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term
21 ‘broadband service’ has the same meaning given
22 the term in section 601.

23 “(B) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term
2 ‘broadband service data’ means informa-
3 tion related to—

4 “(I) the location and type of
5 broadband service;

6 “(II) the location and type of
7 broadband infrastructure;

8 “(III) the advertised, maximum,
9 and average speed of broadband serv-
10 ice;

11 “(IV) the average price of the
12 most subscribed tier of broadband
13 service;

14 “(V) the speed tiers of broadband
15 service available in the area; or

16 “(VI) any additional metric the
17 Secretary deems appropriate.

18 “(ii) FURTHER DEFINITION.—The
19 Secretary shall further define the term
20 ‘broadband service area’ to ensure that
21 data is measured and collected in a man-
22 ner consistent with the reporting require-
23 ments under this section, and any
24 broadband coordination or data-sharing ob-
25 ligations.

1 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
2 ble entity’ means—

3 “(i) a unit of local government in a
4 rural area;

5 “(ii) a tribal government or unit of
6 tribal government;

7 “(iii) an economic development or
8 other community organization;

9 “(iv) an eligible entity under title I or
10 II that serves persons in rural areas;

11 “(v) an internet service provider that
12 has not more than 100,000 subscribers; or

13 “(vi) any other entity eligible under a
14 title VI program that is not an internet
15 service provider.

16 “(D) MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE.—
17 The term ‘middle mile infrastructure’ has the
18 meaning given the term in section 602.

19 “(E) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
20 has the meaning given the term in section 601.

21 “(6) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE
22 FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary may not expend more
23 than 1 percent of the amounts made available under
24 subsection (g) for each of fiscal years 2025 through
25 2029 to carry out this subsection.

1 “(g) LIMITATIONS ON RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—
2 Not less than 3 but not more than 5 percent of the
3 amounts appropriated to the program to carry out title
4 VI shall be set aside to be used for—

5 “(1) conducting oversight under such title;

6 “(2) implementing accountability measures and
7 related activities authorized under such title; or

8 “(3) carrying out this section.”.

9 **SEC. 6207. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.**

10 Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7
11 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
12 the following:

13 **“SEC. 608. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.**

14 “Any area in a proposed service area under this title
15 shall not be considered unserved if an applicant in another
16 Federal or State broadband program has received an obli-
17 gation of funding to offer retail broadband service in the
18 area not more than 5 years from the date of the obligation
19 of funds, at a speed of at least 100 Mbps download and
20 20 Mbps upload.”.

21 **Subtitle C—Miscellaneous**

22 **SEC. 6301. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.**

23 Section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
24 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
3 “, if the entity continues to serve rural
4 areas (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A)
5 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
6 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))”
7 before the semicolon;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
9 “or” at the end; and

10 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
11 (C) as subparagraph (E) and inserting
12 after subparagraph (B) the following:

13 “(C) any Indian Tribe (as defined in sec-
14 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
15 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

16 “(D) any public, quasi-public, or nonprofit
17 entity that uses innovative financing techniques
18 and market development tools to accelerate the
19 deployment of energy efficiency technology; or”;

20 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(2) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.—The
23 term ‘energy efficiency measures’ means, with re-
24 spect to any property service by an eligible entity—

1 “(A) a structural improvement or invest-
2 ment in a cost-effective, commercial technology
3 to increase energy efficiency (including cost-ef-
4 fective on-or off-grid renewable energy or en-
5 ergy storage system); and

6 “(B) the replacement of a manufactured
7 housing unit or large appliance with a substan-
8 tially similar manufacturing housing unit or ap-
9 pliance, respectively, if that replacement is a
10 cost-effective option with respect to energy sav-
11 ings.”;

12 (2) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
14 “AND GRANTS” before “TO”;

15 (B) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
16 ing the following:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this subsection,
18 the Secretary shall provide—

19 “(A) loans to eligible entities that agree to
20 use the loan funds to make loans under sub-
21 section (d) to qualified consumers for the pur-
22 pose of implementing energy efficiency meas-
23 ures; and

24 “(B) at the election of any eligible entity
25 that receives a loan under subparagraph (A) of

1 this paragraph, a grant in accordance with
2 paragraph (11).”;

3 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
4 through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (10), re-
5 spectively, and inserting after paragraph (1) the
6 following:

7 “(2) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall
8 give priority to applications from eligible entities
9 serving at least 80 percent of their ratepayers resid-
10 ing in rural areas, as defined in section
11 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
12 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).”;

13 (D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated
14 by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

15 (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-
16 serting “FOR LOANS” before the period;
17 and

18 (ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by strik-
19 ing “that is”;

20 (E) by striking paragraph (6) (as so redesi-
21 gnated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)
22 and inserting the following:

23 “(6) REPAYMENT.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B) of this paragraph, with respect to a
3 loan under paragraph (1)(A)—

4 “(i) the term shall not exceed 20
5 years from the date on which the loan is
6 closed; and

7 “(ii) except as provided in paragraph
8 (8), the repayment of each advance shall
9 be amortized for a period not to exceed 10
10 years.

11 “(B) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary may
12 extend the term of a loan under subparagraph
13 (A)(i), or the deadline for repayment of an ad-
14 vance under subparagraph (A)(ii), as the Sec-
15 retary determines appropriate.”;

16 (F) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated
17 by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
19 “(1)” and inserting “(1)(A)”; and

20 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
21 “Repayment” and inserting “Subject to an
22 applicable extension under paragraph
23 (6)(B), repayment”;

1 (G) by striking paragraph (9) (as so reded-
2 igned by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)
3 and inserting the following:

4 “(9) LIMITATIONS.—

5 “(A) SPECIAL ADVANCES.—All special ad-
6 vances shall be made under a loan described in
7 paragraph (1) during the first 10 years of the
8 term of the loan.

9 “(B) REPLACEMENT OF MANUFACTURED
10 HOUSING UNITS OR LARGE APPLIANCES.—Not
11 more than 10 percent of the total annual
12 amount of budget authority for loans described
13 in paragraph (1) may be used for the replace-
14 ment of manufactured housing units or large
15 appliances.”; and

16 (H) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(11) GRANTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—At the election of an
19 eligible entity that receives a loan under this
20 subsection, the Secretary may provide to the eli-
21 gible entity a grant to pay for a portion of the
22 costs incurred in—

23 “(i) making repairs to the property of
24 a qualified consumer that facilitates the
25 energy efficiency measures for the property

1 financed through a loan provided to the
2 qualified consumer under subsection (d); or

3 “(ii) providing technical assistance,
4 outreach, and training.

5 “(B) AMOUNT.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
7 vided in clause (ii), the amount of a grant
8 provided to an eligible entity under this
9 paragraph shall be equal to not more than
10 5 percent of the amount of the loan pro-
11 vided to the eligible entity under this sub-
12 section.

13 “(ii) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUN-
14 TIES.—The amount of a grant provided
15 under this paragraph to an eligible entity
16 that will use the grant to make loans
17 under subsection (d) to qualified con-
18 sumers located in a persistent poverty
19 county (as determined by the Secretary)
20 shall be equal to 10 percent of the amount
21 of the loan provided to the eligible entity
22 under this subsection.”;

23 (3) in subsection (d)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
2 graph (A), by inserting “or grant” before
3 “funds”; and

4 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and
5 (C) and inserting the following:

6 “(B)(i) may have a term and amortization
7 schedule the length of which is the useful life
8 of the energy efficiency measures implemented
9 using the loan, if the loan term does not exceed
10 20 years; and

11 “(ii) shall finance energy efficiency meas-
12 ures for the purpose of decreasing energy usage
13 or costs of the qualified consumer by an
14 amount that ensures, to the maximum extent
15 practicable, that the applicable loan term de-
16 scribed in clause (i) will not pose an undue fi-
17 nancial burden on the qualified consumer, as
18 determined by the eligible entity;

19 “(C) shall not be used to fund purchases
20 of, or modifications to, personal property unless
21 the personal property—

22 “(i) is a manufactured housing unit or
23 large appliance described in subsection
24 (b)(2)(B); or

1 “(ii) is or becomes attached to real
2 property as a fixture;” and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(3) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Not-
5 withstanding any other provision of law (including
6 regulations), an eligible entity may make a loan
7 under this subsection to any qualified consumer lo-
8 cated within the service territory of the eligible enti-
9 ty, regardless of whether the qualified consumer is
10 located in a rural area.”;

11 (4) in subsection (e)—

12 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
13 “OUTREACH,” before “AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
14 ANCE”;

15 (B) in paragraph (1)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
17 “and technical assistance of the program”
18 and inserting “outreach, and technical as-
19 sistance relating to the program under this
20 section”; and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by insert-
22 ing “, outreach,” before “and training”;
23 and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(3) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 but not more
2 than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under sub-
3 section (i) may be used to provide outreach, train-
4 ing, and technical assistance under this subsection.”;
5 and

6 (5) in subsection (i), by striking “2014 through
7 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

8 **SEC. 6302. REGIONAL COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION.**

9 (a) STATE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM.—Section
10 6304(c)(9)(A) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
11 2018 (40 U.S.C. 15501 note) is amended by striking
12 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through
13 2029”.

14 (b) REGIONAL COMMISSION.—Section 15751(a) of
15 title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking
16 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through
17 2029”.

18 **SEC. 6303. PROMOTING PRECISION AGRICULTURE.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) ADVANCED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS
21 TECHNOLOGY.—The term “advanced wireless com-
22 munications technology” means advanced technology
23 that contributes to mobile (5G or beyond) networks,
24 next-generation Wi-Fi networks, or other future net-
25 works using other technologies, regardless of wheth-

1 er the network is operating on an exclusive licensed,
2 shared licensed, or unlicensed frequency band.

3 (2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “ar-
4 tificial intelligence” has the meaning given the term
5 in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National
6 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019
7 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. note prec. 4061).

8 (3) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term “foreign
9 adversary” means any foreign government or foreign
10 nongovernment person engaged in a long-term pat-
11 tern or serious instances of conduct significantly ad-
12 verse to the national security of the United States,
13 or security and safety of United States persons.

14 (4) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AGRI-
15 CULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms “precision agri-
16 culture” and “precision agriculture technology” have
17 the meanings given the terms in section 1201 of the
18 Food Security Act of 1985.

19 (5) TRUSTED.—The term “trusted” means,
20 with respect to a provider of advanced communica-
21 tions service or a supplier of communications equip-
22 ment or service, that the Secretary has determined
23 that the provider or supplier is not owned by, con-
24 trolled by, or subject to the influence of, a foreign
25 adversary.

1 (6) VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS DE-
2 VELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term “voluntary
3 consensus standards development organization”
4 means an organization that develops standards in a
5 process that meets the principles for the develop-
6 ment of voluntary consensus standards (as defined
7 in the document of the Office of Management and
8 Budget entitled “Federal Participation in the Devel-
9 opment and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards
10 and in Conformity Assessment Activities” (OMB
11 Circular A–119)).

12 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

13 (1) to enhance the participation of precision ag-
14 riculture in the United States; and

15 (2) to promote United States leadership in vol-
16 untary consensus standards development organiza-
17 tions that set standards for precision agriculture.

18 (c) INTERCONNECTIVITY STANDARDS FOR PRECI-
19 SION AGRICULTURE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in
22 consultation with the Director of the National Insti-
23 tute of Standards and Technology and the Federal
24 Communications Commission, shall—

1 (A) develop voluntary, consensus-based,
2 private sector-led interconnectivity standards,
3 guidelines, and best practices for precision agri-
4 culture that will promote economies of scale and
5 ease the burden of the adoption of precision ag-
6 riculture; and

7 (B) in carrying out subparagraph (A)—

8 (i) coordinate with relevant public and
9 trusted private sector stakeholders and
10 other relevant industry organizations, in-
11 cluding voluntary consensus standards de-
12 velopment organizations; and

13 (ii) consult with sector-specific agen-
14 cies, other appropriate agencies, and State
15 and local governments.

16 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary, in car-
17 rying out paragraph (1), shall, in consultation with
18 the Federal Communications Commission and the
19 Director of the National Institute of Standards and
20 Technology, consider—

21 (A) the evolving demands of precision agri-
22 culture;

23 (B) the connectivity needs of precision ag-
24 riculture technology;

1 (C) the cybersecurity challenges facing pre-
2 cision agriculture, including cybersecurity
3 threats for agriculture producers and agri-
4 culture supply chains;

5 (D) the impact of advanced wireless com-
6 munications technology on precision agriculture;
7 and

8 (E) the impact of artificial intelligence on
9 precision agriculture.

10 (d) GAO ASSESSMENT OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE
11 STANDARDS.—

12 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the
13 Secretary develops standards under subsection (c),
14 and every 2 years thereafter for the following 8
15 years, the Comptroller General of the United States
16 shall conduct a study that assesses those standards,
17 including the extent to which those standards, as ap-
18 plicable—

19 (A) are voluntary;

20 (B) were developed in coordination with
21 relevant industry organizations, including vol-
22 untary consensus standards development orga-
23 nizations; and

24 (C) have successfully encouraged the adop-
25 tion of precision agriculture.

1 (2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the
2 United States shall submit to the Committee on
3 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
4 ate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
5 nology of the House of Representatives, the Com-
6 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
7 tives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
8 and Forestry of the Senate a report that summa-
9 rizes the findings of each study conducted under
10 paragraph (1).

11 **SEC. 6304. FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOANS.**

12 Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
13 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended by inserting
14 after subsection (e) the following:

15 “(f) FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY AND RESIL-
16 IENCE GUARANTEED LOANS.—

17 “(1) DEFINITION OF FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN
18 GUARANTEED LOAN.—In this subsection, the term
19 ‘food supply chain guaranteed loan’ means a busi-
20 ness and industry guaranteed loan that is made or
21 guaranteed by the Secretary under subsection
22 (a)(2)(A), including a guarantee described in sub-
23 section (a)(3).

24 “(2) PURPOSE.—A food supply chain guaran-
25 teed loan may be made for the purpose of financing

1 new investments in the start-up or expansion of
2 projects in the United States that will increase the
3 capacity of the food supply chain in the United
4 States to aggregate, process, manufacture, store,
5 transport, wholesale, or distribute food, agricultural
6 products, or agricultural inputs.

7 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—The maximum amount of
8 a food supply chain guaranteed loan shall not exceed
9 \$40,000,000.

10 “(4) LOAN GUARANTEES IN NONRURAL
11 AREAS.—The Secretary may guarantee a food supply
12 chain guaranteed loan to an eligible entity for a fa-
13 cility that is not located in a rural area if—

14 “(A) the primary purpose of the loan guar-
15 antee is for a facility to aggregate, process,
16 manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or dis-
17 tribute food agricultural products, or agricul-
18 tural inputs for agricultural producers or proc-
19 essors that are located within 80 miles of the
20 facility;

21 “(B) the applicant demonstrates to the
22 Secretary that the primary benefit of the loan
23 guarantee will be to provide employment for
24 residents of a rural area; and

1 “(C) the total principal amount of food
2 supply chain guaranteed loans guaranteed for a
3 fiscal year under this paragraph does not ex-
4 ceed 10 percent of the total principal amount of
5 food supply chain guaranteed loans made for
6 the fiscal year under subsection (a)(2)(A).

7 “(5) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal
9 years 2025 through 2029, the Secretary shall
10 reserve not more than 5 percent of the funds
11 made available to carry out subsection (a) to
12 carry out this subsection.

13 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds re-
14 served under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year
15 shall be reserved until April 1 of the fiscal
16 year.”.

17 **SEC. 6305. NEW, MOBILE, AND EXPANDED MEAT PROC-**
18 **ESSING AND RENDERING GRANTS.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
21 ty” means—

22 (A) a public, private, or cooperative organi-
23 zation organized on a for-profit or nonprofit
24 basis, including a small establishment and very
25 small establishment;

1 (B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section
2 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
3 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

4 (C) a land-grant college or university (as
5 defined in section 1404 of the National Agricul-
6 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
7 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

8 (D) a non-land-grant college of agriculture
9 (as defined in that section); and

10 (E) a State department of agriculture or
11 other applicable State office with authority over
12 meat and poultry processing and rendering.

13 (2) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT; VERY SMALL ES-
14 TABLISHMENT.—The terms “small establishment”
15 and “very small establishment” have the meanings
16 given the terms “smaller establishment” and “very
17 small establishment”, respectively, in the final rule
18 entitled “Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and
19 Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems” (61 Fed.
20 Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regula-
21 tions).

22 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

23 (1) to create more resilient local and regional
24 food systems;

1 (2) to expand, diversify, and increase resilience
2 in meat and poultry processing and rendering activi-
3 ties;

4 (3) to increase farmer and rancher access to
5 animal slaughter options;

6 (4) to improve compliance of processors with
7 livestock and poultry processing statutes (including
8 regulations), including the Federal Meat Inspection
9 Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Prod-
10 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

11 (5) to reduce barriers to entry for new meat
12 and poultry processors and renderers;

13 (6) to establish new, or update, expand, or oth-
14 erwise improve existing, meat and poultry processing
15 and rendering facilities; and

16 (7) to support the processing and slaughtering
17 of niche production methods such as halal, kosher,
18 and other specific cultural methods.

19 (c) GRANTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
21 grants to eligible entities to use in accordance with
22 subsection (d).

23 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum
24 amount of a grant awarded under paragraph (1)
25 shall not exceed \$500,000.

1 (3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded
2 under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 3 years.

3 (4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under para-
4 graph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to small
5 establishments and very small establishments.

6 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a
7 grant under this section shall use the grant to carry out
8 activities in support of the purposes described in sub-
9 section (b), including activities—

10 (1) to identify and analyze business opportuni-
11 ties, including feasibility studies required for credit
12 worthiness;

13 (2) to achieve compliance with applicable Fed-
14 eral, State, or local regulations;

15 (3) to conduct regional, community, and local
16 economic development planning and coordination
17 and leadership development;

18 (4) to incentivize new, innovative, or mobile en-
19 terprises for increasing or improving local and re-
20 gional meat or poultry processing and rendering;

21 (5) to implement humane handling infrastruc-
22 ture, including holding space for livestock prior to
23 slaughter, shade structures, and structures and
24 equipment for humane slaughter;

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “childcare”
2 means any program that—

3 (i) provides quality care and early
4 education for children who have not yet en-
5 tered first grade; and

6 (ii) is operated by—

7 (I) an eligible childcare provider
8 described in section 658P(6)(A) of the
9 Child Care and Development Block
10 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
11 9858n(6)(A)); or

12 (II) a childcare provider that, on
13 the date of enactment of this Act—

14 (aa) is licensed, regulated,
15 or registered in the State, terri-
16 tory, or Indian Tribe in which
17 the provider is located; and

18 (bb) meets applicable State,
19 Tribal, territorial, and local
20 health and safety requirements.

21 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “childcare”
22 includes—

23 (i) a school-based program described
24 in subparagraph (A);

1 (ii) a facility used for a program de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A); and

3 (iii) a service provided under a pro-
4 gram described in subparagraph (A).

5 (2) INITIATIVE.—The term “Initiative” means
6 the Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative
7 established under subsection (b).

8 (3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has
9 the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A)
10 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
11 Act.

12 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
13 an initiative, to be known as the “Expanding Childcare
14 in Rural America Initiative”, under which the Secretary
15 shall provide, for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2027,
16 priority in accordance with subsection (c) to address the
17 availability, quality, and cost of childcare in rural areas.

18 (c) CHILDCARE PRIORITIES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
20 provision of law, in selecting recipients of loans and
21 grants under a program described in paragraph (2),
22 the Secretary shall give priority to any qualified ap-
23 plicant that proposes to use the loan or grant to ad-
24 dress the availability, quality, or cost of childcare.

1 (2) DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS.—The pro-
2 grams referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

3 (A) The essential community facilities loan
4 and grant programs authorized under section
5 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
6 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

7 (B) The business and industry direct and
8 guaranteed loan program authorized under sec-
9 tion 310B(g) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)).

10 (C) The rural microentrepreneur assistance
11 program authorized under section 379E of that
12 Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

13 (D) The intermediary relending program
14 authorized under the Food Security Act of
15 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1936b).

16 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing funding in ac-
17 cordance with the Initiative, the Secretary shall ensure a
18 balanced geographical distribution of the benefits under
19 the Initiative.

20 (e) EVALUATION; REPORT.—

21 (1) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
23 shall conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qual-
24 itative evaluation of the projects carried out using
25 assistance provided under the Initiative, including—

- 1 (A) a description of—
- 2 (i) the types of projects carried out;
- 3 (ii) the communities in which the
- 4 projects are carried out;
- 5 (iii) the organizations and entities
- 6 participating in the projects; and
- 7 (iv) the types of partnerships devel-
- 8 oped to carry out the projects; and
- 9 (B) the economic and social impacts of the
- 10 investments in the projects.

11 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the

12 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

13 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,

14 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on

15 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report

16 describing the evaluation conducted under paragraph

17 (1), including a thorough analysis of the outcomes of

18 the evaluation.

19 **SEC. 6307. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY**

20 **UNDERSERVED AND DISTRESSED AREAS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of

22 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall directly,

23 or through cooperative agreements, provide technical as-

24 sistance and strengthen local capacity to improve access

25 to rural development programs administered by the Sec-

1 retary for local partners (including local governments, co-
2 operatives, businesses, and community anchor institu-
3 tions) in geographically underserved and distressed areas.

4 (b) REPORTS.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
5 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall annually
6 publish, make available to the public, and submit to the
7 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
8 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
9 estry of the Senate a report on how the provision of tech-
10 nical assistance under subsection (a) has affected geo-
11 graphically underserved and distressed areas in the year
12 covered by the report.

13 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) GEOGRAPHICALLY UNDERSERVED AND DIS-
15 TRESSED AREA.—The term “geographically under-
16 served and distressed area” means a rural area (as
17 defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated
18 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1991(a)(13)(A))—

20 (A) in a socially vulnerable community (as
21 determined by the Secretary);

22 (B) in a persistent poverty county (as de-
23 termined by the Secretary);

24 (C) in an economically distressed area (as
25 determined by the Secretary); or

1 (D) in a colonia.

2 (2) COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION.—The
3 term “community anchor institution” means—

4 (A) a public library;

5 (B) an elementary or secondary school;

6 (C) an institution of higher education;

7 (D) a health care facility; or

8 (E) any other nonprofit or governmental
9 community support organization.

10 **SEC. 6308. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**
11 **INNOVATION CENTER.**

12 Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
13 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1981- 2008w) is amended by
14 adding at the end the following:

15 **“SEC. 379J. RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.**

16 “(a) DEFINITION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSION
17 AREAS.—In this section, the term ‘Rural Development
18 Mission Areas’ means the agencies under the Rural Devel-
19 opment Agency at the Department of Agriculture, includ-
20 ing the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business-Coopera-
21 tive Service, and the Rural Housing Service.

22 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
23 within the Rural Development Mission Areas a Rural De-
24 velopment Innovation Center (the ‘Innovation Center’) to
25 promote and facilitate innovation in the administration

1 and implementation of rural development programs and
2 initiatives.

3 “(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Innovation Center shall—

4 “(1) review all processes for Rural Development
5 Mission Area programs to identify inefficiencies,
6 redundancies, and barriers to access, including—

7 “(A) unnecessary delays in loan and grant
8 applications processing and approvals;

9 “(B) high application costs; and

10 “(C) deficiencies in technical assistance for
11 programs;

12 “(2) establish and maintain an ongoing public
13 process for public and private stakeholders to pro-
14 vide perspectives on the challenges faced when ap-
15 plying for, utilizing, or participating in Rural Devel-
16 opment Mission Area programs;

17 “(3) identify and assess any innovative strate-
18 gies and collaborative models to enhance the effi-
19 ciency and effectiveness of rural development pro-
20 grams and initiatives;

21 “(4) foster and maintain partnerships with pub-
22 lic and private stakeholders to leverage expertise and
23 resources for the Rural Development Mission Areas;

1 “(5) promote cross-agency collaborations and
2 identify best practices in rural economic develop-
3 ment;

4 “(6) identify and implement technological solu-
5 tions and software applications to improve the effec-
6 tiveness and efficiency of Rural Development Mis-
7 sion Area programs, including enhancing data man-
8 agement systems;

9 “(7) conduct research, analysis, and evaluation
10 to modernize, simplify, and improve Rural Develop-
11 ment Mission Area programs, and ensure that the
12 programs are accessible, transparent, and user-
13 friendly; and

14 “(8) disseminate information, guidance, and
15 training materials to Rural Development Mission
16 Area personnel and stakeholders on innovative rural
17 development practices and opportunities.

18 “(d) MODERNIZATION PLAN.—The Innovation Cen-
19 ter shall develop, and periodically update, a modernization
20 plan to facilitate innovation in administering and imple-
21 menting rural development programs and initiatives
22 that—

23 “(1) outlines strategies aimed at harnessing the
24 potential of emerging technologies for program deliv-
25 ery and overall service;

1 “(2) enhances program efficiencies by identi-
2 fying and implementing measures to streamline pro-
3 gram and administrative processes, reduce
4 redundancies, and optimize resource allocation;

5 “(3) expands the availability and accessibility of
6 digital services, leveraging digital platforms and
7 tools to broaden the reach of the programs and im-
8 prove the overall user experience for rural stake-
9 holders;

10 “(4) integrates data-driven solutions to optimize
11 program delivery and maximize impact and effective-
12 ness of the efforts in rural development; and

13 “(5) establishes periodic milestones and goals to
14 track the progress of the modernization plan.

15 “(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit an annual
16 report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
17 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
18 tion, and Forestry of the Senate on—

19 “(1) the activities and accomplishments of the
20 Innovation Center, including progress in advancing
21 rural development innovation and the outcome
22 achieved;

23 “(2) a comprehensive working plan designed to
24 actively engage public and private stakeholders, as
25 described in subsection (c)(2); and

1 “(3) the progress on the modernization plan de-
2 scribed in subsection (d).”.

3 **SEC. 6309. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON REPORT.**

4 Section 236 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
5 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6946) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at
8 the end;

9 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking the pe-
10 riod and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(10) coordinate with the National Institute of
13 Food and Agriculture in implementation of the
14 Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network pro-
15 vided for in section 7522 of the Food, Conservation,
16 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936).”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(c) REPORT.—The Rural Health Liaison shall sub-
19 mit an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of
20 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
21 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate outlining
22 the activities conducted under subsection (b).”.

1 **SEC. 6310. PRECISION AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE AMEND-**
2 **MENTS.**

3 Section 12511(b) of the Agriculture Improvement
4 Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 4992) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (3)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

7 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “2025”
8 and inserting “2026”; and

9 (ii) by redesignating clauses (iv)
10 through (vi) as clauses (vi) through (viii),
11 respectively, and inserting after clause (iii)
12 the following:

13 “(iv) conduct a comprehensive evalua-
14 tion of international standards and guide-
15 lines pertaining to precision agriculture
16 policies and offer recommendations on
17 their suitability and integration within the
18 United States regulatory framework;

19 “(v) review the competitive and secu-
20 rity implications of the use and deployment
21 of precision agricultural technologies by
22 foreign governments or state sponsored en-
23 tities in third countries;”; and

24 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(v)
25 and (vi)” and inserting “(vii) and (viii)”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking “2025” and
2 inserting “2026”.

3 **Subtitle D—Additional Amend-**
4 **ments to the Consolidated Farm**
5 **and Rural Development Act**

6 **SEC. 6401. WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND WASTEWATER**
7 **FACILITY GRANTS.**

8 Section 306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Consolidated Farm
9 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(B)(vii))
10 is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and insert-
11 ing “2025 through 2029”.

12 **SEC. 6402. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT**
13 **RIDER PROGRAM.**

14 Section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and
15 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)) is amend-
16 ed to read as follows:

17 “(22) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIR-
18 CUIT RIDER PROGRAM.—

19 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary,
20 through the Rural Utilities Service, shall con-
21 tinue a national rural water and wastewater cir-
22 cuit rider program that is consistent with the
23 activities and results of the program conducted
24 before the date of enactment of this Act, and

1 with this section, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary.

3 “(B) PURPOSE.—The Rural Water and
4 Wastewater Circuit Rider Program shall pro-
5 vide a network of expert rural water Circuit
6 Riders located in all 50 States, including
7 United States territories and Freely Associated
8 States, which work one-on-one with eligible
9 rural water and wastewater systems in major
10 assistance categories described in subparagraph
11 (D). The program is intended to help rural
12 water systems operate effectively and efficiently
13 and achieve long-term sustainability and com-
14 pliance with certain Federal laws and require-
15 ments, including the Safe Water Drinking Act
16 (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) and the Clean Water
17 Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

18 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In selecting re-
19 cipients of grants, contracts, and cooperative
20 agreements to be made available for activities
21 listed under subparagraph (D), the Secretary
22 shall select nonprofit organizations that have
23 demonstrated experience providing technical as-
24 sistance and disaster and recovery assistance
25 for water and wastewater utilities nationwide.

1 Awardees shall rely on personnel that possess
2 active water and wastewater operators' licenses
3 or overall knowledge of water utilities necessary
4 to carry out eligible activities under subpara-
5 graph (D).

6 “(D) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—An eli-
7 gible entity shall use funds under the Rural
8 Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider program
9 for a rural water, wastewater, or wastewater
10 disposal facility for—

11 “(i) technical assistance, including—

12 “(I) Board training;

13 “(II) managerial and financial
14 operations with the effort to enhance
15 the long-term sustainability of rural
16 water and wastewater systems, includ-
17 ing partnerships, consolidation, and
18 regionalization;

19 “(III) physical operation and
20 maintenance of rural water and
21 wastewater infrastructure;

22 “(IV) water treatment;

23 “(V) regulatory compliance;

24 “(VI) facility security;

1 “(VII) loan application and re-
2 porting;

3 “(VIII) cybersecurity; or

4 “(IX) other areas the Secretary
5 deems appropriate;

6 “(ii) disaster and recovery assistance
7 including—

8 “(I) direct on-site personnel and
9 equipment to eligible utilities;

10 “(II) coordinating in statewide
11 emergency response networks;

12 “(III) facilitating the develop-
13 ment of action plans between utilities,
14 local governments, the Federal Emer-
15 gency Management Agency and the
16 State emergency management agen-
17 cies;

18 “(IV) resiliency and mitigation
19 planning;

20 “(V) GIS mapping;

21 “(VI) updating vulnerability as-
22 sessments, preparation of emergency
23 response plans, communication proto-
24 cols, hazard recognition and evalua-
25 tion skills;

1 “(VII) conducting preliminary
2 damage assessments of critical infra-
3 structure;

4 “(VIII) addressing outstanding
5 deficiencies focused on resolving
6 health-based regulatory, operational,
7 financial, and managerial deficiencies
8 that impact the sustainability of the
9 affected utilities;

10 “(IX) application and reporting
11 assistance for Federal and State re-
12 quirements including Federal Emer-
13 gency Management Agency and insur-
14 ance recovery claims;

15 “(X) providing for disaster readi-
16 ness, support, and response activities
17 targeted to disadvantaged commu-
18 nities that lack the financial resources
19 and human capital necessary to ade-
20 quately address significant health,
21 safety, or sanitary concerns; and

22 “(XI) other areas the Secretary
23 deems appropriate.

24 “(iii) ADDITIONAL USES.—In response
25 to activities under subparagraph (B) re-

1 lated to natural disasters and emergencies,
2 not more than 5 percent of each award
3 may be used to purchase or reimburse the
4 rental costs of appropriate emergency
5 equipment, as determined by the Sec-
6 retary.

7 “(E) ELIGIBLE PROJECT AREAS.—To re-
8 ceive assistance under the Rural Water and
9 Wastewater Circuit Rider Program and carry
10 out activities, an eligible entity must serve—

11 “(i) an area with a population of—

12 “(I) 10,000 or fewer inhabitants
13 for technical assistance under sub-
14 paragraph (D)(i); or

15 “(II) 50,000 or fewer inhabitants
16 for disaster and recovery assistance
17 under subparagraph (D)(ii); and

18 “(ii) a public body, non-profit cor-
19 poration, or Indian tribe with legal author-
20 ity to own and operate the water facility.

21 “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
22 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
23 to carry out this paragraph \$25,000,000 for fis-
24 cal year 2025 through fiscal year 2029.”.

1 **SEC. 6403. ZERO AND LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR DIS-**
2 **TRESSED WATER SYSTEMS.**

3 Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by in-
5 serting after paragraph (22) the following:

6 “(23) ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED WATER
7 SYSTEMS.—

8 “(A) To promote the long-term sustain-
9 ability and financial viability of eligible rural
10 community waste disposal and water facilities
11 as described in subparagraph (B), for any enti-
12 ty described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary
13 may—

14 “(i) make a zero percent interest loan
15 or a 1 percent interest loan pursuant to
16 paragraph (1);

17 “(ii) forgive the principal or interest,
18 or modify any term or condition of a new
19 or existing loan made pursuant to para-
20 graph (1);

21 “(iii) refinance all or part of any
22 other loan made for an eligible purpose
23 under paragraph (1) of this subsection or
24 section 306C; or

1 “(iv) waive any fee required to insure
2 or guarantee a loan pursuant to paragraph
3 (1) or (24).

4 “(B) To promote the long-term sustain-
5 ability and financial viability of eligible entities,
6 the Secretary shall—

7 “(i) provide assistance to an eligible
8 entity for the purpose of—

9 “(I) ensuring the entity has nec-
10 essary resources to maintain public
11 health, safety, or order;

12 “(II) addressing financial hard-
13 ships of the eligible entity, its cus-
14 tomers, and the community it serves;
15 and

16 “(III) identifying the financial
17 stability of the eligible entity, includ-
18 ing—

19 “(aa) operational practices;

20 “(bb) revenue enhance-
21 ments;

22 “(cc) policy revisions;

23 “(dd) partnerships, regional-
24 ization, or consolidation of water
25 systems; and

1 “(ee) contract services;
2 “(ii) require an applicant to—
3 “(I) receive financial planning as-
4 sistance; and
5 “(II) prepare a long-term finan-
6 cial plan.
7 “(C) An entity shall be eligible for assist-
8 ance under this paragraph if the entity—
9 “(i) is a rural water, wastewater, or
10 wastewater disposal system with respect to
11 which assistance may be provided under a
12 water or wastewater, or waste disposal pro-
13 gram under this subsection or section
14 306A, 306C, or 306D, and
15 “(ii) is—
16 “(I) located in a socially dis-
17 advantaged community, a persistent
18 poverty county, colonia, or distressed
19 tribal area, as determined by the Sec-
20 retary; or
21 “(II) facing an economic hard-
22 ship as defined by the Secretary.”.

1 **SEC. 6404. TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ESSENTIAL**
2 **COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

3 Section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25)(C)) is
5 amended by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting
6 “2025 through 2029”.

7 **SEC. 6405. EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY**
8 **WATER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 306A(i)(2) of the Consoli-
10 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
11 1926a(i)(2)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023”
12 and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

13 **SEC. 6406. WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL AND NATIVE VIL-**
14 **LAGES IN ALASKA.**

15 Section 306D(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
16 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d(d)(1)) is amend-
17 ed by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2025
18 through 2029”.

19 **SEC. 6407. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

20 Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
21 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) is amended to read
22 as follows:

23 **“SEC. 306E. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

24 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

25 **“(1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—**The term ‘eligible
26 individual’ means an individual who is a member of

1 a household the members of which have a combined
2 income (for the most recent 12-month period for
3 which the information is available) that is not more
4 than 80 percent of the median nonmetropolitan
5 household income for the State or territory in which
6 the individual resides, according to the most recent
7 decennial census of the United States.

8 “(2) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term
9 ‘eligible grant recipient’ means a private nonprofit
10 organization that uses a grant provided under this
11 section for the purposes described in subsection
12 (b)(1).

13 “(3) QUALIFIED WATER QUALITY TESTING.—
14 The term ‘qualified water quality testing’ means a
15 baseline analysis of the bacterial and chemical char-
16 acteristics of concern from a drinking water sample
17 collected at the point of consumption and tested by
18 a laboratory certified to conduct water quality test-
19 ing that is provided to—

20 “(A) the Secretary; and

21 “(B) the eligible grant recipient receiving a
22 grant under this section and any eligible indi-
23 vidual served by the eligible grant recipient.

24 “(b) GRANTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
2 grants to an eligible grant recipient for the purpose
3 of—

4 “(A) providing loans and subgrants to eli-
5 gible individuals for—

6 “(i) the construction, refurbishing,
7 and servicing of individual household water
8 well systems and individually owned house-
9 hold decentralized wastewater systems in
10 rural areas that are or will be owned by
11 the eligible individuals; or

12 “(ii) in the event of ground well water
13 contamination, the installation or replace-
14 ment of water treatment, where needed as
15 determined by a qualified water quality
16 test or other third party documentation to
17 the satisfaction of the Secretary;

18 “(B) performing qualified water quality
19 testing of individual household water well sys-
20 tems and individually utilized household decen-
21 tralized wastewater systems in rural areas that
22 are or will be utilized by the eligible individuals;
23 or

24 “(C) providing technical assistance to eligi-
25 ble individuals for—

1 “(i) the installation or replacement of
2 individual household water well systems
3 and individually owned household decen-
4 tralized wastewater systems in rural areas
5 that are or will be owned by the eligible in-
6 dividuals;

7 “(ii) interpreting qualified water qual-
8 ity tests; or

9 “(iii) addressing ground well water
10 contamination.

11 “(2) TERMS AND AMOUNTS FOR LOANS AND
12 SUBGRANTS.—

13 “(A) TERMS OF LOANS.—A loan made
14 with grant funds under this section—

15 “(i) shall have an interest rate of 1
16 percent; and

17 “(ii) shall have a term not to exceed
18 20 years.

19 “(B) AMOUNTS.—A loan or subgrant made
20 with grant funds under this section shall not
21 exceed \$20,000 for each water well system or
22 decentralized wastewater system described in
23 paragraph (1).

24 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A recipient
25 of a grant made under this section may use grant

1 funds to pay administrative expenses associated with
2 providing the assistance described in paragraph (1),
3 as determined by the Secretary.

4 “(4) WATER TREATMENT STANDARDS.—Water
5 treatment provided under this section shall—

6 “(A) incorporate components that are
7 third-party certified as compliant with relevant
8 consensus-based standards for drinking water
9 treatment units or systems, as determined by
10 the Secretary; and

11 “(B) be installed, according to the instruc-
12 tions of the manufacturer, by a qualified, cer-
13 tified, or licensed water treatment professional,
14 including a professional credentialed through a
15 manufacturer or third-party.

16 “(c) PRIORITY IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In awarding
17 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority
18 to an applicant that has substantial expertise and experi-
19 ence in promoting the safe and effective use of individually
20 owned household water well systems, individually owned
21 household decentralized wastewater systems, and ground
22 water.

23 “(d) LIMITATION.—An eligible grant recipient cannot
24 use more than 10 percent of a grant awarded under this

1 section for the activities described under subparagraphs
2 (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

3 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
5 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

6 **SEC. 6408. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.**

7 Section 310B(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
8 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 “(C) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION
12 AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms ‘pre-
13 cision agriculture’ and ‘precision agriculture
14 technology’ have the meanings given those
15 terms in section 1201 of the Food Security Act
16 of 1985.”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (2)—

18 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
19 paragraph (C);

20 (B) by striking the period at the end of
21 subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

22 (C) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(E) expanding the adoption of precision
24 agriculture practices, including by financing the
25 acquisition of precision agriculture technology,

1 in order to promote best practices, reduce costs,
2 and improve the environment.”.

3 **SEC. 6409. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS.**

4 Section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
5 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(b)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “governments
7 and related agencies” and inserting “governments,
8 related agencies, and Indian tribes”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2014
10 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

11 **SEC. 6410. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

12 Section 310B(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and
13 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(4)(A)) is
14 amended by striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting
15 “2025 through 2029”.

16 **SEC. 6411. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

17 Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
18 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
20 following:

21 “(C) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The
22 term ‘cooperative development’ means activities
23 including education, training, and technical as-
24 sistance, to support the start-up, expansion, or

1 ongoing sustainability of new and existing co-
2 operatives.”;

3 (2) in paragraph (5)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “un-
5 derserved and economically distressed areas in
6 rural areas of the United States” and inserting
7 “socially vulnerable, underserved, or distressed
8 communities”; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (F)—

10 (i) by inserting “at least” before “a
11 25 percent”; and

12 (ii) by inserting “, and all applications
13 that satisfy this subparagraph shall be
14 given the same priority for the scoring cri-
15 terion based on satisfying this subpara-
16 graph” before the period;

17 (3) in paragraph (6), by striking subparagraph
18 (B) and inserting the following:

19 “(B) AWARD RENEWALS FOR QUALIFIED
20 NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary
21 shall award a grant under this subsection to a
22 non-profit institution on the same terms and for
23 the establishment or operation of the same cen-
24 ter or centers for cooperative development for
25 which the non-profit institution was awarded a

1 grant in the current fiscal year, if the non-prof-
2 it institution—

3 “(i) is a recipient of an award under
4 this subsection;

5 “(ii) requests a renewal under this
6 subparagraph;

7 “(iii) has submitted a complete appli-
8 cation under this subsection in the pre-
9 ceding 2 fiscal years; and

10 “(iv) has operated the center or cen-
11 ters for cooperative development in a man-
12 ner which successfully meets the param-
13 eters described in paragraph (5), as deter-
14 mined by the Secretary.”;

15 (4) in paragraph (10), by adding at the end the
16 following: “The Secretary shall analyze the data re-
17 sulting from the research, and include the data and
18 the analysis in the annual report submitted by the
19 interagency working group under paragraph (12).”;

20 (5) in paragraph (12), by adding at the end the
21 following: “Not later than 180 days after the date
22 of the enactment of this sentence and annually
23 thereafter, the interagency working group shall sub-
24 mit to the Congress a report describing the activities
25 carried out by the working group.”; and

1 (6) in paragraph (13), by striking “2014
2 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

3 **SEC. 6412. LENDER FEES IN GUARANTEED LOAN PRO-**
4 **GRAMS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333 of such Act (7 U.S.C.
6 1983) is amended—

7 (1) by inserting “(A) IN GENERAL.—” before
8 “In connection”;

9 (2) in paragraph (5), by adding “and” at the
10 end;

11 (3) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking “; and”
12 and inserting a period;

13 (4) by striking paragraph (7); and

14 (5) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(b) FEES.—

16 “(1) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary
17 may assess an initial guarantee fee for any insured
18 or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section
19 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent
20 of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

21 “(2) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Sec-
22 retary may assess a periodic retention fee for any in-
23 sured or guaranteed loan or modified under section
24 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 per-

1 cent of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed
2 loan.

3 “(3) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged
4 for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modi-
5 fied under section 306(a), the Secretary, not less
6 than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall
7 provide a public disclosure, of the financial data,
8 economic and behavioral assumptions, calculations,
9 and other factors used to determine the new fee
10 rates.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 310B(g)(5)
12 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)) is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 “(5) FEES.—

15 “(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Sec-
16 retary may assess an initial guarantee fee for
17 any guaranteed business and industry loan in
18 an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of
19 the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

20 “(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The
21 Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee
22 for any guaranteed business and industry loan
23 in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent
24 of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed
25 loan.

1 “(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee
2 charged for any guaranteed business and indus-
3 try loan, the Secretary, not less than 30 days
4 in advance of any fee change, shall provide a
5 public disclosure, of the financial data, eco-
6 nomic and behavioral assumptions, calculations,
7 and other factors used to determine the new fee
8 rates.”.

9 **SEC. 6413. LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED AGRICUL-**
10 **TURAL FOOD PRODUCTS.**

11 Section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated
12 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
13 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I)) is amended by striking “2008
14 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

15 **SEC. 6414. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**
16 **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

17 Section 310B(i)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and
18 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)(4)) is amended
19 by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2025
20 through 2029”.

21 **SEC. 6415. RURAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP ZONES.**

22 Section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
23 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(j)) is amended by strik-
24 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 6416. INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.**

2 Section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936b(i)) is amended by strik-
4 ing “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through
5 2029”.

6 **SEC. 6417. RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 342 of the Consolidated
8 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1990a) is
9 amended—

10 (1) by striking “Assistance” and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(a) REFINANCING OF CERTAIN RURAL HEALTH
13 CARE FACILITY DEBT.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance”;

15 (2) by striking “rural hospital” and inserting
16 “an eligible health care facility”;

17 (3) by striking “a community” and inserting
18 “an area”;

19 (4) by striking “hospital,” and inserting “eligi-
20 ble health care facility,”; and

21 (5) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To promote the long-
23 term sustainability and financial viability of an eligi-
24 ble health care facility, the Secretary shall—

25 “(A) provide assistance to an eligible
26 health care facility for the purpose of—

1 “(i) ensuring the facility has nec-
2 essary resources to maintain public health,
3 safety, or order;

4 “(ii) addressing financial hardships of
5 the facility, its patients, and the area it
6 serves; and

7 “(iii) identifying the financial stability
8 of the facility, including—

9 “(I) operational practices;

10 “(II) revenue enhancements;

11 “(III) policy revisions;

12 “(IV) partnerships, regionaliza-
13 tion, or consolidation of rural health
14 systems; and

15 “(V) contract services; and

16 “(B) require an applicant to—

17 “(i) receive financial planning assist-
18 ance; and

19 “(ii) prepare a long-term financial
20 plan.

21 “(3) WAIVER.—In the case of an application
22 for refinancing pursuant to this section, the Sec-
23 retary may waive the requirement of section
24 302(a)(1)(D) if the eligible health care facility is in-
25 solvent.

1 “(b) RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY TECHNICAL
2 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of any other author-
4 ity under which the Secretary may provide technical
5 assistance to any eligible health care facility, the
6 Secretary shall establish, and maintain, directly or
7 by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, a
8 Rural Health Care Facility Technical Assistance
9 Program (in this section referred to as the ‘Pro-
10 gram’) to provide technical assistance and training,
11 tailored to the capacity and needs of each eligible
12 health care facility, to help eligible health care facili-
13 ties in rural areas—

14 “(A) identify development needs for main-
15 taining essential health care services, and sup-
16 port action plans for operational and quality
17 improvement projects to meet the development
18 needs;

19 “(B) better manage their financial and
20 business strategies, including providing finan-
21 cial planning assistance and preparing long-
22 term financial plans; and

23 “(C) identify, and apply for assistance
24 from, loan and grant programs of the Depart-

1 ment of Agriculture for which the facilities are
2 eligible.

3 “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall
4 be to—

5 “(A) improve the long-term financial posi-
6 tion and operational efficiency of the eligible
7 health care facilities;

8 “(B) prevent the closure of eligible health
9 care facilities;

10 “(C) strengthen the delivery of health care
11 in rural areas;

12 “(D) help eligible health care facilities bet-
13 ter access and compete for loans and grants
14 from programs administered by the Department
15 of Agriculture; and

16 “(E) continue the activities of the Rural
17 Hospital Technical Assistance Program in ef-
18 fect as of the date of the enactment of this sub-
19 section.

20 “(3) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
22 engage in outreach and engagement strategies
23 to encourage eligible health care facilities to
24 participate in the Program.

1 “(B) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY
2 SELECTION.—In selecting eligible health care
3 facilities to participate in the Program, the Sec-
4 retary shall give priority to borrowers and
5 grantees of the Rural Housing Service, Rural
6 Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utili-
7 ties Service. The Secretary may also consider—
8 “(i) the age and physical state of the
9 health care facility involved;
10 “(ii) the financial vulnerability of the
11 eligible health care facility, and the ability
12 of the eligible health care facility to meet
13 debt obligations;
14 “(iii) the electronic health record im-
15 plementation needs of the health care facil-
16 ity;
17 “(iv) whether the eligible health care
18 facility is located in a health professional
19 shortage area or a medically underserved
20 area;
21 “(v) whether the eligible health care
22 facility serves a medically underserved pop-
23 ulation; and

1 “(vi) such other criteria and priorities
2 as are determined by the Secretary of Ag-
3 riculture.

4 “(C) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not
5 later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this section, and annually thereafter,
7 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
8 Agriculture of the House of Representatives
9 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
10 and Forestry of the Senate a written report de-
11 scribing the progress and results of the pro-
12 gram conducted under this section, which
13 should include—

14 “(i) a brief description of each project
15 to provide technical assistance to an eligi-
16 ble health care facility under this section,
17 including—

18 “(I) the name and location of the
19 facility;

20 “(II) a description of the assist-
21 ance provided;

22 “(III) a description of the out-
23 comes for completed projects;

24 “(IV) the cost of the technical
25 assistance; and

1 “(V) any other information the
2 Secretary deems appropriate;

3 “(ii) a summary of the technical as-
4 sistance projects completed;

5 “(iii) a summary of the outcomes of
6 the technical assistance projects;

7 “(iv) an assessment of the effective-
8 ness of the Program; and

9 “(v) recommendations for improving
10 the Program.

11 “(D) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF
12 APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section,
13 there are authorized to be appropriated to the
14 Secretary not more than \$2,000,000 for each of
15 fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

16 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ has
18 the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A)
19 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
20 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).

21 “(2) DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.—The term ‘devel-
22 opment needs’ includes—

23 “(A) constructing, expanding, renovating
24 or otherwise modernizing health care facilities;

25 “(B) increasing telehealth capabilities;

1 “(C) acquiring or upgrading health care
2 information systems such as electronic health
3 records;

4 “(D) providing financial planning assist-
5 ance and preparing long-term financial plan;
6 and

7 “(E) such other needs as the Secretary
8 deems critical to maintaining health care serv-
9 ices in the community in which an eligible
10 health care facility is located.

11 “(3) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY.—The
12 term ‘eligible health care facility’ means a facility
13 that is located in a rural area and is—

14 “(A) a hospital (as defined in section
15 1861(e) of the Social Security Act;

16 “(B) a psychiatric hospital (as defined in
17 section 1861(f) of such Act);

18 “(C) a long-term care hospital (as defined
19 in section 1861(ccc) of such Act);

20 “(D) a critical access hospital (as defined
21 in section 1861(mm)(1) of such Act);

22 “(E) a rural health clinic (as defined in
23 section 1861(aa)(2) of such Act);

1 “(F) a religious nonmedical health care in-
2 stitution (as defined in section 1861(ss)(1) of
3 such Act);

4 “(G) a sole community hospital (as defined
5 in section 1886(d)(5)(C)(iii) of such Act);

6 “(H) a rural emergency hospital (as de-
7 fined in section 1861(kkk)(2) of such Act);

8 “(I) a home health agency (as defined in
9 section 1861(o) of such Act); or

10 “(J) a community health center (as de-
11 fined in section 330 of the Public Health Serv-
12 ice Act).

13 “(4) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE
14 AREA.—The term ‘health professional shortage area’
15 has the meaning given the term in section
16 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act.

17 “(5) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.—The
18 term ‘medically underserved area’ has the meaning
19 given the term in section 330I(a)(5) of the Public
20 Health Service Act.

21 “(6) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPU-
22 LATION.—The term ‘medically underserved popu-
23 lation’ has the meaning given the term in section
24 330(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 subsection (a) shall take effect on the completion of a rule-
3 making carrying out such amendments.

4 **SEC. 6418. ELIMINATION OF PROHIBITION ON USE OF**
5 **LOANS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.**

6 Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
7 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2006e) is hereby repealed.

8 **SEC. 6419. RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE PRO-**
9 **GRAMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAIN-**
10 **ING.**

11 Section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
12 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008c(d)(1)) is amend-
13 ed by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025
14 through 2029”.

15 **SEC. 6420. NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNER-**
16 **SHIP.**

17 Section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
18 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2008m) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2008
20 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”;
21 and

22 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
23 inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 6421. GRANTS FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO TRANSMIT-**
2 **TERS.**

3 Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) is amended by
5 striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2025
6 through 2029”.

7 **SEC. 6422. RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE**
8 **PROGRAM.**

9 Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
10 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “\$50,000”
12 and inserting “\$75,000”;

13 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking “shall
14 not exceed 75 percent” and inserting “may be up to
15 100 percent, and a loan under this section for a
16 project may be used to cover not more than 50 per-
17 cent of any renovation, construction, or related costs
18 of real estate improvements under the project”; and

19 (3) in subsection (d), by striking “2019 through
20 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

21 **SEC. 6423. HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

22 Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
23 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008u(e)) is amended by
24 striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2025
25 through 2029”.

1 **SEC. 6424. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVEL-**
2 **OPMENT.**

3 Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008v(d)(4)) is amend-
5 ed by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025
6 through 2029”.

7 **SEC. 6425. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY**
8 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

9 Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
10 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

13 (i) in clause (iii)—

14 (I) by striking subclause (I) and
15 inserting the following:

16 “(I) an institution of higher edu-
17 cation (as defined in section 101, and
18 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section
19 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
21 1002(a)(1)));”;

22 (II) by redesignating subclauses
23 (II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and
24 (IV), respectively, and inserting after
25 subclause (I) the following:

1 “(II) an area career and tech-
2 nical education school (as defined in
3 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-
4 reer and Technical Education Act of
5 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302);” and

6 (III) in subclause (IV) (as so re-
7 designated by subclause (II) of this
8 clause), by striking “and”;

9 (ii) in clause (iv)—

10 (I) by striking subclause (IV)
11 and inserting the following:

12 “(IV) an institution of higher
13 education (as defined in section 101,
14 and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
15 section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Edu-
16 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
17 1002(a)(1)));” and

18 (II) by redesignating subclause
19 (V) as subclause (VI) and inserting
20 after subclause (IV) the following:

21 “(V) an area career and technical
22 education school (as defined in section
23 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
24 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
25 U.S.C. 2302); or” and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(v) in the case of a career pathway
4 program, includes 1 or more members of
5 the local workforce development board es-
6 tablished under section 107 of the Work-
7 force Innovation and Opportunity Act and
8 serving the region to ensure the program is
9 integrated with the activities carried out by
10 the local workforce development board;
11 and”;

12 (B) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(6) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term ‘career
14 pathway’ has the meaning given the term in section
15 3(7) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
16 Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(7)).

17 “(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—
18 The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ has the
19 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Work-
20 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
21 3102).”;

22 (2) in subsection (b)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
25 graph (A), by inserting “or carry out ca-

1 reer pathway training programs or indus-
2 try or sector partnerships aligned with in-
3 dustry sectors in rural communities” be-
4 fore “, including”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
6 “and” after the semicolon;

7 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
8 the period and inserting a semicolon; and

9 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(C) address workforce challenges, includ-
12 ing worker displacement, faced by specific in-
13 dustry sectors in rural communities; and

14 “(D) promote targeted skills development
15 and training initiatives to stimulate innovation
16 and enhance economic development in rural re-
17 gions.”;

18 (B) in paragraph (3)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

20 (I) in clause (i), by inserting “,
21 career pathway programs, or industry
22 or sector partnerships” before the
23 semicolon; and

24 (II) in clause (ii)—

1 (aa) by inserting “, career
2 pathway programs, or industry or
3 sector partnerships” before “to
4 provide”; and

5 (bb) by inserting “leadership
6 development,” before “cus-
7 tomized training”;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
9 the period and inserting “; and”; and

10 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(G) the ability of the eligible entity to
13 carry out activities to address the issues of
14 worker displacement, an aging workforce, and
15 youth migration.”; and

16 (C) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-
17 ing the following:

18 “(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
19 retary shall ensure regional diversity of recipients of
20 grants or participants in providing grants under
21 paragraph (1) for jobs accelerators, career pathway
22 programs, and related programming.”;

23 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (B)(xi), by striking
25 the period and inserting “; and”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(C) to support career pathway programs
3 or industry or sector partnerships to be carried
4 out within industries in rural communities, in-
5 cluding—

6 “(i) telecommunications or broadband
7 services;

8 “(ii) water, waste water, or disposal
9 services;

10 “(iii) electric supply services;

11 “(iv) forestry and logging operations;

12 “(v) conservation practices and man-
13 agement;

14 “(vi) health care and child care;

15 “(vii) manufacturing;

16 “(viii) agribusiness related to produc-
17 tion, processing, and distribution;

18 “(ix) veterinarian services; and

19 “(x) any other sectors identified by
20 the local workforce development board
21 serving the region to be an in-demand in-
22 dustry sector or occupation, as defined in
23 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and
24 Opportunity Act.”;

25 (4) in subsection (e)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

2 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

3 (i) in clause (xvii), by striking “or”;

4 (ii) by redesignating clause (xviii) as
5 clause (xix) and inserting after clause
6 (xvii) the following:

7 “(xviii) the number of individuals who
8 have completed skills development, recog-
9 nized postsecondary credentials, or gained
10 specialized education through career path-
11 ways programs or industry or sector part-
12 nerships; or”; and

13 (iii) in clause (xix) (as so redesignated
14 by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph),
15 by striking the period and inserting “;
16 and”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(3) in the case of a career pathway program
19 or industry or sector partnership, report to the Sec-
20 retary the employment and earnings outcomes for
21 individuals who participate in the program on the in-
22 dicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of
23 section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation
24 and Opportunity Act.”; and

1 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “2019 through
2 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

3 **SEC. 6426. DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
5 382M(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
6 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–12(a)) is amended by striking
7 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through
8 2029”.

9 (b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 382N of
10 such Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–13) is amended by striking
11 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

12 (c) CLARIFICATION OF DELTA REGIONAL AUTHOR-
13 ITY AREAS.—Section 4(2)(D) of the Delta Development
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 100–460) is
15 amended by inserting “Sabine, Vernon,” after “Webster,”.

16 **SEC. 6427. LIMITATION ON RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT**
17 **COMPANIES CONTROLLED BY FARM CREDIT**
18 **SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**

19 Section 384J(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
20 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–9(c)) is amended by
21 striking “50” and inserting “75”.

22 **SEC. 6428. RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

23 Section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
24 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–18) is amended by

1 striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2025
2 through 2029”.

3 **SEC. 6429. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

4 Each of the following provisions of the Consolidated
5 Farm and Rural Development Act are amended by strik-
6 ing “urbanized” and inserting “urban”:

7 (1) Section 343(a)(13)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.
8 1991(a)(13)(A)(ii)).

9 (2) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I) (7 U.S.C.
10 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)), in the matter preceding item
11 (aa).

12 (3) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb) (7 U.S.C.
13 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb)).

14 (4) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C.
15 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(II)).

16 (5) Section 343(a)(13)(E) (7 U.S.C.
17 1991(a)(13)(E)).

18 (6) Section 343(a)(13)(F)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C.
19 1991(a)(13)(F)(i)(II)).

20 (7) Section 384I(c)(4)(C) (7 U.S.C. 2009cc-
21 8(c)(4)(C)).

1 **SEC. 6430. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL**
2 **ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

3 Section 306(a)(14) of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 926(a)(14)) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

7 (A) by striking “technical assistance and
8 training to—” and inserting “for—”;

9 (B) in clause (v), by striking the period
10 and inserting “; or”; and

11 (C) by redesignating clauses (i) through
12 (v) as subclauses (I) through (V), respectively,
13 and moving each such provision 2 ems to the
14 right; and

15 (D) by inserting before the matter so re-
16 designated the following:

17 “(i) technical assistance and training
18 to—”; and

19 (E) by adding after and below the end the
20 following:

21 “(ii) disaster and recovery assist-
22 ance.”; and

23 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or dis-
24 aster and recovery assistance” before “described”.

1 **Subtitle E—Additional Amend-**
2 **ments to the Rural Electrifica-**
3 **tion Act of 1936**

4 **SEC. 6501. GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED**
5 **FOR UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PURPOSES.**

6 Section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of
7 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–1(f)) is amended by striking “2023”
8 and inserting “2029”.

9 **SEC. 6502. EXTENSION OF THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVEL-**
10 **OPMENT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM.**

11 Section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
12 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2) is amended—

13 (1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
14 following:

15 “(b) REPAYMENTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of zero interest
17 loans, the Secretary shall establish such reasonable
18 repayment terms as will encourage borrower partici-
19 pation.

20 “(2) LETTERS OF CREDIT.—The Secretary
21 shall not require a letter of credit or other similar
22 guarantee from a recipient of a zero-interest loan
23 under this section if the borrower assigns the Sec-
24 retary a security interest in any collateral provided
25 to secure a loan made with funds loaned under this

1 section, or makes other similar arrangements to the
2 satisfaction of the Secretary.”; and

3 (2) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “2019
4 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

5 **SEC. 6503. EXPANSION OF 911 ACCESS.**

6 Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of
7 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is amended by striking “2008
8 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

9 **TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
10 **SION, AND RELATED MAT-**
11 **TERS**

12 **Subtitle A—National Agricultural**
13 **Research, Extension, and Teach-**
14 **ing Policy Act of 1977**

15 **SEC. 7101. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
16 **SION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVI-**
17 **SORY BOARD.**

18 Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research,
19 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
20 3123) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “15” and
23 inserting “16”;

24 (B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end
25 the following:

1 “(E) 1 member representing the industry,
2 consumer, or rural interests of insular areas.”;
3 and

4 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “7” and
5 inserting “3”; and

6 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
7 inserting “2029”.

8 **SEC. 7102. SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE.**

9 Section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research,
10 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
11 3123a) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Not
14 later than” and all that follows through “initial
15 members of” and inserting “The Secretary shall
16 continue to implement, and appoint the mem-
17 bers of”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (C), by adding a
20 period at the end; and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
22 “2023” and inserting “2029”; and

23 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “executive
24 committee” and inserting “Secretary”.

1 **SEC. 7103. VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT.**

2 Section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research,
3 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
4 3151a) is amended—

5 (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
6 lows:

7 “(b) DETERMINATION OF VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE
8 SITUATIONS.—In determining ‘veterinarian shortage situ-
9 ations’, the Secretary—

10 “(1) may consider—

11 “(A) geographical areas that the Secretary
12 determines have a shortage of veterinarians;

13 “(B) areas of veterinary practice that the
14 Secretary determines have a shortage of veteri-
15 narians, such as food animal medicine, public
16 health, epidemiology, and food safety; and

17 “(C) areas described in subparagraphs (A)
18 and (B) identified by appropriate State agen-
19 cies; and

20 “(2) shall—

21 “(A) develop quantitative mechanisms for
22 predicting the emergence of new veterinarian
23 shortage situations in the short-term and long-
24 term; and

25 “(B) make available to State agencies de-
26 scribed in paragraph (1)(C) the quantitative

1 mechanisms developed under subparagraph
2 (A).”; and

3 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 “(9) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall not
6 make a veterinarian ineligible for the program under
7 this section based on a veterinarian’s participation in
8 a comparable Federal, State, or local program.

9 “(10) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than
10 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm,
11 Food, and National Security Act of 2024, the Sec-
12 retary shall establish streamlined application proce-
13 dures and guidelines for entering into agreements
14 with veterinarians under this section.”.

15 **SEC. 7104. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 Section 1415B of the National Agricultural Research,
17 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
18 3151b) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by striking “,
21 as defined in” and all that follows through
22 “1991(a)”; and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has
25 the meaning given such term in section 343(a) of

1 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act
2 (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

4 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
5 and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respec-
6 tively; and

7 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
8 the following:

9 “(B) expand, retain, or attract additional
10 veterinary practices in rural areas;”;

11 (3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(5) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 1
14 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,
15 and National Security Act of 2024 the Secretary
16 shall establish a streamlined application process.”;
17 and

18 (4) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
20 “TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITU-
21 ATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY SERV-
22 ICES”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
25 graph (A), by striking “situations and sup-

1 port” and inserting “situations, to expand,
2 retain, or attract additional veterinary
3 practices in rural areas, and to support”;
4 and

5 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(G) To cover expenses associated with
8 starting a new veterinary practice or attracting
9 new veterinarians to existing practices, includ-
10 ing—

11 “(i) relocation expenses;

12 “(ii) the purchase of necessary start-
13 up equipment; and

14 “(iii) housing or living stipends for
15 veterinary students, veterinary interns,
16 externs, fellows, and residents, and veteri-
17 nary technician students.”.

18 **SEC. 7105. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AG-**
19 **RICULTURE SCIENCES EDUCATION.**

20 Section 1417(m)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
21 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
22 U.S.C. 3152(m)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
23 inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7106. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY RESEARCH**
2 **CENTERS.**

3 Section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
5 U.S.C. 3155(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
6 serting “2029”.

7 **SEC. 7107. EDUCATION GRANTS TO ALASKA NATIVE SERV-**
8 **ING INSTITUTIONS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN**
9 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

10 Section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research,
11 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
12 3156) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
15 the following: “The term of such grants may be
16 for a period of more than 1 year, but not more
17 than 5 years.”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
19 and inserting “2029”; and

20 (2) in subsection (b)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
22 the following: “The term of such grants may be
23 for a period of more than 1 year, but not more
24 than 5 years.”; and

25 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
26 and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7108. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

2 Section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Re-
3 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
4 U.S.C. 3175(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
5 serting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 7109. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RE-**
7 **SEARCH PROGRAMS.**

8 Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research,
9 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
10 3195) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(4) CARRYOVER.—The balance of any annual
14 funds provided to an eligible institution for a fiscal
15 year under this subsection that remains unexpended
16 at the end of that fiscal year may be carried over
17 for use during the following fiscal year.”; and

18 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “2023” and
19 inserting “2029”.

20 **SEC. 7110. EXTENSION AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT**
21 **1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING**
22 **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

23 (a) EXTENSION.—Section 1444(a)(2) of the National
24 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
25 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended by striking
26 “20 percent” and inserting “40 percent”.

1 (b) RESEARCH.—Section 1445 of the National Agri-
2 cultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
3 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “30 per-
5 cent” and inserting “40 percent”;

6 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “the research
7 director” each place it appears and inserting “the
8 agricultural research director”; and

9 (3) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) by striking “a research director” and
11 inserting “an agricultural research director”;
12 and

13 (B) by striking “or other officer”.

14 **SEC. 7111. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AT 1890 INSTITU-**
15 **TIONS.**

16 Section 1446(b) of the National Agricultural Re-
17 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
18 U.S.C. 3222a(b)) is amended—

19 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
20 lows:

21 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
22 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
23 shall make available to carry out this section—

24 “(A) \$40,000,000, not later than October
25 1, 2019, to remain available until expended;

1 “(B) \$10,000,000, not later than Novem-
2 ber 17, 2023, to remain available until ex-
3 pended; and

4 “(C) \$100,000,000, not later than October
5 1, 2024, to remain available until expended.”;
6 and

7 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023” and
8 inserting “2029”.

9 **SEC. 7112. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND**
10 **FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-**
11 **GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE**
12 **UNIVERSITY.**

13 Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Re-
14 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
15 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
16 serting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 7113. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**
18 **SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND**
19 **SUPPORT TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AG-**
20 **RICULTURAL RESEARCH AT INSULAR AREA**
21 **LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**

22 Section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Re-
23 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
24 U.S.C. 3222b–2(d)) is amended by striking “2023” and
25 inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7114. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT FOR RE-**
2 **SEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT ELI-**
3 **GIBLE INSTITUTIONS.**

4 Section 1449 of the National Agricultural Research,
5 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
6 3222d) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) by striking “Not later than September
9 30, 1999” and inserting “Beginning on Sep-
10 tember 30, 2025, and not later than September
11 30 of each fiscal year thereafter”; and

12 (B) by striking “fiscal year 1999” and in-
13 serting “the fiscal year ending on that Sep-
14 tember 30”; and

15 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
16 lows:

17 “(c) **STATE MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.**—
18 Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, for
19 each fiscal year, a State shall provide to each eligible insti-
20 tution located in the State matching funds from non-Fed-
21 eral sources in an amount equal to the amounts provided
22 to the eligible institution under sections 1444 and 1445
23 for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1).”.

1 **SEC. 7115. NEW BEGINNING FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS.**

2 Section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research,
3 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
4 3222e) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (5);

6 and

7 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and
8 inserting “2029”.

9 **SEC. 7116. EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-**
10 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

11 Section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Re-
12 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
13 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
14 serting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 7117. BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND**
16 **DEVELOPMENT.**

17 Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
18 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
19 U.S.C. 3291(e)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “entered into”
21 and inserting “, as entered into in 1977,”;

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “United
23 States and Israel” and inserting “United States,
24 Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords
25 Declaration”; and

26 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(3) BARD FUND ACCELERATOR.—The BARD
2 Fund shall establish an accelerator program that
3 supports mid-stage research, as determined by the
4 technology readiness level, in priority areas estab-
5 lished by the BARD Fund that—

6 “(A) fast-tracks cooperative research be-
7 tween scientists participating in activities de-
8 scribed in paragraph (2);

9 “(B) accelerates the successful develop-
10 ment of agricultural research through resources
11 and services developed or orchestrated by the
12 BARD Fund;

13 “(C) provides management guidance, tech-
14 nical assistance, and consulting to scientists
15 participating in activities described in para-
16 graph (2); or

17 “(D) advances cooperative agricultural re-
18 search projects of mutual interest to the United
19 States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abra-
20 ham Accords Declaration.”.

1 **SEC. 7118. GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTER-**
2 **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EX-**
3 **TENSION, AND EDUCATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1458A of the National
5 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
6 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292) is amended—

7 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
8 follows “**GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR**
9 **INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,**
10 **EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION**”;

11 (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-
12 serting the following:

13 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) DEVELOPING COUNTRY.—The term ‘devel-
15 oping country’ means a country that meets such cri-
16 teria as determined by the Secretary, established
17 using a gross national income per capita test se-
18 lected by the Secretary.

19 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
20 ble institution’ means—

21 “(A) a land-grant colleges or university;

22 “(B) a non-land-grant college of agri-
23 culture;

24 “(C) a Hispanic-serving agricultural col-
25 lege or university; and

26 “(D) a cooperating forestry school.

1 “(3) INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTION.—

2 The term ‘international partner institution’ means a
3 higher education institution in a developing country
4 that is performing, or desiring to perform, activities
5 similar to agricultural research, extension, and edu-
6 cation activities carried out through eligible institu-
7 tions in the United States.

8 “(b) GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS.—

9 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make com-
10 petitive grants to eligible institutions in order to
11 strengthen United States economic competitiveness
12 and to promote international market development
13 through—

14 “(A) enhancing the international content
15 of the curricula in colleges and universities so
16 as to ensure that United States students ac-
17 quire an understanding of the international di-
18 mensions and trade implications of their stud-
19 ies;

20 “(B) ensuring that United States sci-
21 entists, extension agents, and educators in-
22 volved in agricultural research and development
23 activities outside of the United States have the
24 opportunity to convey the implications of their
25 activities and findings to their peers and stu-

1 dents in the United States and to the users of
2 agricultural research, extension, and teaching;

3 “(C) enhancing the capabilities of colleges
4 and universities to do collaborative research
5 with other countries, in cooperation with other
6 Federal agencies, on issues relevant to United
7 States agricultural competitiveness;

8 “(D) enhancing the capabilities of colleges
9 and universities to provide cooperative extension
10 education to promote the application of new
11 technology developed in foreign countries to
12 United States agriculture; and

13 “(E) enhancing the capability of United
14 States colleges and universities, in cooperation
15 with other Federal agencies, to provide leader-
16 ship and educational programs that will assist
17 United States natural resources and food pro-
18 duction, processing, and distribution businesses
19 and industries to compete internationally, in-
20 cluding through the use of product market iden-
21 tification, international policies limiting or en-
22 hancing market production, the development of
23 new or enhancement of existing markets, and
24 production efficiencies.

1 “(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may pro-
2 mote cooperation and coordination between eligible
3 institutions and international partner institutions
4 through—

5 “(A) improving extension by—

6 “(i) encouraging the exchange of re-
7 search materials and results between eligi-
8 ble institutions and international partner
9 institutions;

10 “(ii) facilitating the broad dissemina-
11 tion of agricultural research through exten-
12 sion;

13 “(iii) assisting with efforts to plan
14 and initiate extension services in devel-
15 oping countries; and

16 “(iv) developing self-sustaining re-
17 gional agricultural markets and promoting
18 the application of new agricultural tech-
19 nologies and techniques;

20 “(B) improving agricultural research by—

21 “(i) in partnership with international
22 partner institutions, encouraging research
23 that addresses problems affecting food pro-
24 duction and security, human nutrition, ag-

1 riculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries,
2 including local challenges; and

3 “(ii) supporting and strengthening na-
4 tional agricultural research systems in de-
5 veloping countries;

6 “(C) supporting the participation of eligi-
7 ble institutions in programs of international or-
8 ganizations, such as the United Nations, the
9 World Bank, regional development banks, and
10 international agricultural research centers;

11 “(D) improving agricultural teaching and
12 education by—

13 “(i) in partnership with international
14 partner institutions, supporting education
15 and teaching relating to food and agricul-
16 tural sciences, including technical assist-
17 ance, degree training, research collabora-
18 tions, classroom instruction, workforce
19 training, and education programs; and

20 “(ii) assisting with efforts to increase
21 student capacity, including to encourage
22 equitable access for women and other un-
23 derserved populations, at international
24 partner institutions by promoting partner-

1 ships with, and improving the capacity of,
2 eligible institutions;

3 “(E) assisting eligible institutions in
4 strengthening their capacity for food, agricul-
5 tural, and related research, extension, and
6 teaching programs relevant to agricultural de-
7 velopment activities in developing countries to
8 promote the application of new technology to
9 improve education delivery;

10 “(F) providing support for the internation-
11 alization of resident instruction programs of eli-
12 gible institutions;

13 “(G) establishing a program, to be coordi-
14 nated by the Director of the National Institute
15 of Food and Agriculture and the Administrator
16 of the Foreign Agricultural Service, to place in-
17 terns from eligible institutions in, or in service
18 to benefit, developing countries; and

19 “(H) establishing a program to provide fel-
20 lowships to students at eligible institutions to
21 study at foreign agricultural colleges and uni-
22 versities.”;

23 (3) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding
24 paragraph (1), by striking “covered Institutions”
25 and inserting “eligible institutions”; and

1 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2029”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1459A of
4 the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
5 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b) is repealed.

6 **SEC. 7119. RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS.**

7 Section 1462A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
8 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
9 U.S.C. 3310a(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
10 serting “2029”.

11 **SEC. 7120. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH.**

12 Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research,
13 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
14 3311) is amended by striking “2023” each place it ap-
15 pears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting “2029”.

16 **SEC. 7121. EXTENSION SERVICE.**

17 Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research,
18 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
19 3312) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
20 “2029”.

21 **SEC. 7122. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.**

22 Section 1473D of the National Agricultural Re-
23 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
24 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2029”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)(3)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking
5 “and” at the end;

6 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as
7 subparagraph (G); and

8 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (E)
9 the following:

10 “(F) to examine potential benefits and opportu-
11 nities for supplemental and alternative crops (includ-
12 ing winter-planted rapeseed and winter-planted
13 canola crops); and”;

14 (3) in subsection (e)(3), by striking “2023” and
15 inserting “2029”.

16 **SEC. 7123. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS.**
17
18

19 Section 1473E of the National Agricultural Research,
20 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
21 3319e) is amended—

22 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
23 follows: “**GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
24 **AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
25 **PROGRAMS**”;

1 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
2 section (e);

3 (3) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and
4 inserting the following:

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
7 tity’ means—

8 “(A) a junior or community college (as de-
9 fined in section 312 of the Higher Education
10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)) supporting agri-
11 culture advancement;

12 “(B) a consortium or alliance of 2-year
13 public colleges supporting agriculture advance-
14 ment; or

15 “(C) an area career and technical edu-
16 cation school (as defined in section 3 of the
17 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
18 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that of-
19 fers a program of study in agriculture.

20 “(2) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term
21 ‘work-based learning’ has the meaning given such
22 term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
23 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

24 “(b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary shall
25 make competitive grants to eligible entities to conduct

1 workforce training, education, research, and outreach ac-
2 tivities relating to food and agricultural sciences.

3 “(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection
4 (b), the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity
5 coordinating with a local agriculture industry operator to
6 provide work-based learning, experiential training, and
7 other opportunities for students.

8 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
9 a grant under subsection (b) may use the funds made
10 available through the grant—

11 “(1) to offer educational programming on agri-
12 cultural industry jobs, including farm business man-
13 agement-related subjects, such as accounting, para-
14 legal studies, and finance;

15 “(2) to develop apprenticeships and other work-
16 based learning opportunities; and

17 “(3) other services that would increase work-
18 force training, education, research, and outreach ac-
19 tivities relating to food and agricultural sciences, as
20 determined by the Secretary.”; and

21 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by
22 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7124. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR NLGCA INSTI-**
2 **TUTIONS.**

3 Section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Re-
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
5 U.S.C. 3319i(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
6 serting “2029”.

7 **SEC. 7125. AGRICULTURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DE-**
8 **VELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

9 Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Re-
10 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
11 U.S.C. 3319k) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) by inserting “, including precision
15 agriculture,” after “equipment”; and

16 (ii) by striking “relating to the re-
17 search and development of qualified prod-
18 ucts and projects”;

19 (B) in paragraph (5)—

20 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
21 ing “PERSON” and inserting “ELIGIBLE
22 ENTITY”;

23 (ii) in the matter preceding subpara-
24 graph (A), by striking “person” and in-
25 serting “eligible entity”;

1 (iii) by striking subparagraph (E);

2 and

3 (iv) by redesignating subparagraphs

4 (F) through (H) as subparagraphs (E)

5 through (G), respectively;

6 (C) in paragraph (6)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by strik-

8 ing “and” at the end;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-

10 ing the period at the end and inserting “;

11 or”; and

12 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-

13 lowing:

14 “(D) any other product or project, as de-

15 termined by the Secretary.”; and

16 (D) in paragraph (7), by striking “that is

17 developed to assist in the discovery, develop-

18 ment, or manufacture of a qualified product or

19 project”;

20 (2) in subsection (b)—

21 (A) in paragraph (2), by amending sub-

22 paragraph (B) to read as follows:

23 “(B) to overcome the long-term and high-

24 risk technological barriers in the development of

25 agricultural technologies, research tools, and

1 qualified products and projects that enhance ex-
2 port competitiveness, environmental sustain-
3 ability, water conservation, and resilience to ex-
4 treme weather, drought, infectious diseases,
5 plant and animal pathogens, and plant and ani-
6 mal pests;”;

7 (B) in paragraph (4)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
9 “persons” and inserting “eligible entities”;
10 and

11 (ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking
12 “persons” and inserting “eligible entities”;
13 and

14 (C) in paragraph (7)(A)—

15 (i) by striking “a person” and insert-
16 ing “an eligible entity”; and

17 (ii) by striking “person” and inserting
18 “eligible entity”;

19 (3) in subsection (c)—

20 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “per-
21 sons” and inserting “eligible entities”; and

22 (B) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary
24 shall use the strategic plan developed under para-

1 graph (1) to inform the administration of AGARDA
2 under this section.”;

3 (4) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “2023”
4 and inserting “2029”; and

5 (5) in subsection (e)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5
7 years” and inserting “11 years”; and

8 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “5-
9 year” and inserting “11-year”.

10 **SEC. 7126. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

11 Section 1477(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
12 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
13 U.S.C. 3324(a)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
14 insert “2029”.

15 **SEC. 7127. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY
16 PLANNING AND RESPONSE.**

17 Section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Re-
18 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
19 U.S.C. 3351(a)(3)) is amended by striking “2023” and
20 inserting “2029”.

21 **SEC. 7128. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTECTION GRANT
22 PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1485 of the National Ag-
24 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act
25 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3352) is amended—

1 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
2 follows: “**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTEC-**
3 **TION GRANT PROGRAM**”;

4 (2) by striking subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e),
5 and (f) and inserting the following:

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
7 competitive grant program under which the Secretary will
8 award grants to eligible entities to support research, ex-
9 tension, and education activities that improve the capa-
10 bility of the United States to protect the food and agricul-
11 tural system from any chemical, biological, cybersecurity,
12 or bioterrorism attack.

13 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants made under this sec-
14 tion shall be used to—

15 “(1) encourage basic and applied research and
16 development of agricultural countermeasures;

17 “(2) promote the development and expansion of
18 teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medi-
19 cine, and other disciplines closely allied to the food
20 and agriculture system to increase the number of
21 trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural
22 biosecurity and cybersecurity;

23 “(3) expand or upgrade facilities to meet bio-
24 safety and biosecurity requirements necessary to
25 protect facility staff, members of the public, and the

1 food supply while carrying out agricultural biosecu-
2 rity research;

3 “(4) costs associated with the acquisition of
4 equipment and other capital costs related to expan-
5 sion of food, agriculture, and veterinary medicine
6 teaching programs in agricultural biosecurity and cy-
7 bersecurity; or

8 “(5) otherwise improve the capacity of the
9 United States to respond in a timely manner to
10 emerging or existing threats.

11 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible to receive
12 a grant under this section include—

13 “(1) State agricultural experiment stations;

14 “(2) State departments of agriculture;

15 “(3) colleges and universities;

16 “(4) university research foundations;

17 “(5) other research institutions and organiza-
18 tions;

19 “(6) Federal agencies;

20 “(7) national laboratories; or

21 “(8) any group consisting of 2 or more of the
22 entities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).”;

23 (3) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
24 section (d); and

1 (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by
2 striking “for each fiscal year.” and inserting “for
3 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

5 (1) Section 14112 of the Food, Conservation,
6 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8912) is re-
7 pealed.

8 (2) Section 14113 of the Food, Conservation,
9 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8913) is re-
10 pealed.

11 (3) Section 14121 of the Food, Conservation,
12 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8921) is re-
13 pealed.

14 (4) Section 14122 of the Food, Conservation,
15 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8922) is re-
16 pealed.

17 **SEC. 7129. DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR INSULAR**
18 **AREAS.**

19 Section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
20 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
21 U.S.C. 3362(f)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
22 serting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7130. RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR INSULAR**
2 **AREAS.**

3 Section 1491(e)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
5 U.S.C. 3363(c)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
6 inserting “2029”.

7 **SEC. 7131. REPEALS.**

8 (a) Section 1410 of the National Agricultural Re-
9 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ((7
10 U.S.C. 3125) is repealed.

11 (b) Section 1419C of the National Agricultural Re-
12 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
13 U.S.C. 3158) is repealed.

14 (c) Section 1447A of the National Agricultural Re-
15 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
16 U.S.C. 3222b–1) is repealed.

17 (d) Subtitle M of title XIV of the National Agricul-
18 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
19 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3331 et seq.) is repealed.

20 **Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Con-**
21 **servation, and Trade Act of 1990**

22 **SEC. 7201. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND**
23 **EDUCATION.**

24 Subtitle B of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
25 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.)
26 is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears in

1 sections 1624 (7 U.S.C. 5814), 1627(d) (7 U.S.C.
2 5821(d)), 1628(f)(2) (7 U.S.C. 1631(f)(2)), and 1629(i)
3 (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)), and inserting “2029”.

4 **SEC. 7202. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.**

5 Section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
6 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)(2))
7 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

8 **SEC. 7203. AGRICULTURAL GENOME TO PHENOME INITIA-**
9 **TIVE.**

10 Section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
11 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(g)) is amend-
12 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

13 **SEC. 7204. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INI-**
14 **TIATIVES.**

15 Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
16 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (d)—

18 (A) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), (9),
19 (10), (11), (13), and (18);

20 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8),
21 (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), and (20) as
22 paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11),
23 (12), and (13);

1 (C) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated,
2 by inserting “and harmful algal blooms” after
3 “macro-algae systems”; and

4 (D) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(14) FERTILIZER AND NUTRIENT MANAGE-
6 MENT INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants
7 may be made under this section for the purposes of
8 carrying out research to improve fertilizer use effi-
9 ciency in crops and examining nutrient management
10 based on the source, rate, timing, and placement of
11 crop nutrients.

12 “(15) TROPICAL PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—
13 Research and extension grants may be made under
14 this section for the purposes of—

15 “(A) developing and disseminating science-
16 based tools and treatments to combat plant
17 pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are de-
18 fined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act
19 (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact tropical plants,
20 including—

21 “(i) coffee plants;

22 “(ii) macadamia trees;

23 “(iii) cacao trees;

24 “(iv) plantains and bananas;

25 “(v) mangos;

1 “(vi) tropical floriculture and nursery
2 crops; and

3 “(vii) any other tropical plant as de-
4 termined by the Secretary;

5 “(B) establishing an areawide integrated
6 pest management program in areas affected by,
7 or areas at risk of being affected by, plant pests
8 or noxious weeds;

9 “(C) surveying and collecting data on trop-
10 ical plant production and health;

11 “(D) investigating tropical plant biology,
12 immunology, ecology, genomics, and
13 bioinformatics; and

14 “(E) conducting research on various fac-
15 tors that may contribute to, or be associated
16 with, tropical plant immune systems and other
17 serious threats to tropical plants.

18 “(16) BIOCHAR RESEARCH.—Research and ex-
19 tension grants may be made under this section for
20 the purpose of testing the full range of biochar types
21 across soil types, soil health and soil management
22 conditions, application methods, and climatic and
23 agronomic regions, including through the establish-
24 ment of a national biochar research network, to—

1 “(A) assess the soil carbon sequestration
2 potential of various biochars and management
3 systems integrating biochar use;

4 “(B) understand how to use biochar pro-
5 ductively to contribute to climate mitigation,
6 crop production, resilience to extreme weather
7 events, ecosystem and soil health, natural re-
8 source conservation, and farm profitability; and

9 “(C) deliver science-based, region-specific,
10 cost-effective, and practical information to
11 farmers, ranchers, foresters, land reclamation
12 managers, urban land managers, and other land
13 and natural resource managers and businesses
14 on sustainable biochar production and applica-
15 tion.

16 “(17) WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE RE-
17 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be
18 made under this section for the purposes of studying
19 the impact of wildfire smoke exposure on specialty
20 crops, including wine grapes, hops, stone fruit, and
21 apples, by—

22 “(A) conducting research—

23 “(i) to identify the compounds respon-
24 sible for smoke exposure; and

1 “(ii) to establish standard methodolo-
2 gies for sampling and testing smoke-ex-
3 posed specialty crops and smoke-affected
4 products, including fast and inexpensive
5 screening methods;

6 “(B) establishing a reliable database of
7 background levels of smoke exposure com-
8 pounds that occur naturally in specialty crops;

9 “(C) developing risk assessment tools or
10 mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate
11 smoke exposure; and

12 “(D) studying compounds that can act as
13 a barrier between specialty crops and smoke
14 compounds.

15 “(18) INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH.—Research
16 and extension grants may be made under this sec-
17 tion for the purposes of developing and dissemi-
18 nating science-based tools and treatments to manage
19 or eradicate (including through methods of biocon-
20 trol and sterile insect techniques) invasive species of
21 plants and animals, such as the spotted lanternfly
22 (*Lycorma delicatula*), navel orangeworm (*Amyelois*
23 *transitella*), and spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila*
24 *suzukii*).

1 “(19) MICROPLASTICS AND PER- AND
2 POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ON FARMLAND.—
3 Research and extension grants may be made under
4 this section for the purposes of carrying out or en-
5 hancing research on the agricultural impacts of
6 microplastics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl sub-
7 stances, including structural firefighting foam, in
8 land-applied biosolids or compost on farmland, in-
9 cluding by—

10 “(A) conducting surveys and collecting
11 data on concentration, particle size, and chem-
12 ical composition of such substances in land-ap-
13 plied biosolids on farmland;

14 “(B) the development or analysis of tech-
15 niques, including wastewater treatment and
16 composting, to filter out or biodegrade such
17 substances from biosolids intended to be used
18 for agricultural purposes;

19 “(C) conducting an analysis of the impact
20 on agricultural crops and soil health of such
21 substances in land-applied biosolids on farm-
22 land, including the uptake of such substances
23 by various crops or livestock;

1 “(D) conducting research to better under-
2 stand how wastewater processing impacts such
3 substances;

4 “(E) conducting research to better under-
5 stand the fate, residence time, and transport of
6 such substances on farmland; and

7 “(F) conducting research on how to reme-
8 diate soil and water systems contaminated with
9 such substances.

10 “(20) AGRICULTURAL BYPRODUCTS RE-
11 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be
12 made under this section for the purposes of con-
13 verting agricultural byproducts or forest residuals
14 into valuable materials and products, including inno-
15 vations in production processes for easily deployable
16 refining facilities, developing alternatives to agricul-
17 tural burning, and fostering energy production
18 through recycling animal byproducts, wet waste, and
19 plant-based waste.

20 “(21) SOIL HEALTH RESEARCH.—Research and
21 extension grants may be made under this section for
22 the purposes of—

23 “(A) developing management practices
24 that improve soil health, including establishing
25 tools that aid soil preservation or improve com-

1 position of soil organic compounds that are ben-
2 eficial to soil quality and the environment; and

3 “(B) disseminating such practices through
4 methods such as innovative coursework and
5 work-based learning.

6 “(22) WHITE OAK RESEARCH.—Research and
7 extension grants may be made under this section for
8 the purposes of white oak research, including con-
9 ducting research on—

10 “(A) white oak genes with resistance and
11 stress tolerance;

12 “(B) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for
13 the purpose of increasing survival and growth;

14 “(C) establishing a diverse white oak seed
15 bank capable of responding to stressors;

16 “(D) providing a sustainable supply of
17 white oak seedlings and genetic resources;

18 “(E) reforestation of white oak through
19 natural and artificial regeneration; and

20 “(F) the best methods for reforesting
21 abandoned mine land sites.

22 “(23) ALTERNATIVE GROWING MEDIA RE-
23 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be
24 made under this section for the purposes of devel-
25 oping and enhancing research on the characteriza-

1 tion, utilization, and evaluation of alternative grow-
2 ing media, including science-based techniques that
3 maximize functions in the growth of plants and har-
4 vest yields.

5 “(24) RANGELAND RESEARCH.—Research and
6 extension grants may be made under this section for
7 the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research
8 on the development of forage production and im-
9 proved grazing and range management, including
10 the adoption of virtual fencing technology that si-
11 multaneously enhance wildlife habitat, protect water-
12 sheds, and reduce hazards of erosion and flooding.

13 “(25) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND
14 AUTOMATION RESEARCH.—Research and extension
15 grants may be made under this section for the pur-
16 pose of developing and evaluating mechanization and
17 automation technologies for specialty crops.”;

18 (2) in subsection (e)(5), by striking “2023” and
19 inserting “2029”;

20 (3) in subsection (f)(5), by striking “2023” and
21 inserting “2029”;

22 (4) in subsection (g)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking
24 “2023” and inserting “2029”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
2 “2023” and inserting “2029”; and

3 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
4 and inserting “2029”;

5 (5) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
6 section (i);

7 (6) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(h) REPORT.—Not later than February 1, 2026,
10 and not less frequently than once every other year there-
11 after, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ag-
12 riculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
13 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
14 ate a report describing how the Department carried out
15 research and extension activities specified in subsections
16 (d) through (f) for the previous two fiscal years, including
17 the amount of funding allocated to each high-priority re-
18 search and extension initiative, through—

19 “(1) amounts made available under appropria-
20 tions Acts to the Agricultural Research Service;

21 “(2) amounts made available to the National
22 Institute of Food and Agriculture under capacity
23 and infrastructure programs (as defined in section
24 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-
25 tion Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971));

1 “(3) amounts made available to the National
2 Institute of Food and Agriculture under competitive
3 programs (as defined in such section); and

4 “(4) amounts made available through other
5 agencies within the Department.”; and

6 (7) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by para-
7 graph (4)), by striking “2023” and inserting
8 “2029”.

9 **SEC. 7205. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTEN-**
10 **SION INITIATIVE.**

11 Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
12 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is amend-
13 ed—

14 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2023” and
15 inserting “2029”;

16 (2) by striking subsection (e);

17 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
18 section (e); and

19 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

20 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
21 and inserting “2029”; and

22 (B) by striking paragraph (3).

1 **SEC. 7206. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.**

2 Section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
3 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)(2))
4 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

5 **SEC. 7207. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRI-
6 CULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDU-
7 CATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

8 Section 1672E of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
9 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g)—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

12 (1)—

13 (i) by striking “the Urban Agriculture
14 and Innovative Production Advisory Com-
15 mittee established under section 222(b) of
16 the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-
17 tion Act of 1994” and inserting “the
18 Urban Agriculture and Innovative Produc-
19 tion Advisory Committee and the Office of
20 Urban Agriculture and Innovative Produc-
21 tion established under section 222 of the
22 Department of Agriculture Reorganization
23 Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923)”; and

24 (ii) by striking “emerging agricultural
25 production” and inserting “emerging agri-

1 cultural production practices (as described
2 in subsection (a)(3) of such section”);

3 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “emerg-
4 ing agricultural production” and inserting
5 “emerging agricultural production practices”;

6 (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “or” at
7 the end;

8 (D) in paragraph (8), by striking the pe-
9 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

10 (E) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(9) managing waste streams to improve the
12 environmental footprint; or

13 “(10) advising land-grant colleges and univer-
14 sities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Ag-
15 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
16 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), minority-serving in-
17 stitutions (as described in section 371(a) of the
18 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
19 1067q(a))), junior or community colleges (as defined
20 in section 312(f) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1058(f))),
21 and vocational schools, with respect to career and
22 technical education.”; and

23 (2) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2023”
24 and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7208. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

2 Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
3 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—

4 (1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
8 culture shall establish at least one center of excel-
9 lence for the purpose of carrying out research, ex-
10 tension, and education activities for each of the
11 areas of focus described in paragraph (3).

12 “(2) HOST INSTITUTIONS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Institutions eligible to
14 host or co-host a center of excellence estab-
15 lished under this subsection include—

16 “(i) 1862 Institutions, as defined in
17 section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
18 tension, and Education Reform Act of
19 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

20 “(ii) 1890 Institutions, as defined in
21 section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
22 tension, and Education Reform Act of
23 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

24 “(iii) 1994 Institutions, as defined in
25 section 532 of the Equity in Educational

1 Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
2 301 note);

3 “(iv) non-land-grant colleges of agri-
4 culture, as defined in section 1404 of the
5 National Agricultural Research, Extension,
6 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
7 3103);

8 “(v) Hispanic-serving agricultural col-
9 leges or universities, as defined in section
10 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-
11 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy
12 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103); and

13 “(vi) accredited schools of veterinary
14 medicine.

15 “(B) DISTRIBUTION.—To the maximum
16 extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure
17 the geographic diversity of institutions selected
18 to host or co-host a center of excellence estab-
19 lished under this subsection.

20 “(C) LIMITATION.—An institution may
21 host or co-host only one center of excellence
22 under this subsection at a time.

23 “(D) DUTIES.—The institution or institu-
24 tions selected to host or co-host a center of ex-
25 cellence established under this subsection shall

1 partner with the Agricultural Research Service,
2 other Federal agencies, State governments,
3 other institutions of higher education (as de-
4 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), agricultural in-
6 dustry groups, or other relevant entities to—

7 “(i) reduce duplicative efforts and
8 focus on filling gaps across research, ex-
9 tension, and education activities by en-
10 hancing coordination and improving cost-
11 effectiveness;

12 “(ii) leverage available resources by
13 using public-private partnerships;

14 “(iii) implement training and edu-
15 cational initiatives to increase awareness
16 and effectively disseminate solutions to tar-
17 get audiences through extension activities;

18 “(iv) increase the economic returns to
19 rural communities by identifying, attract-
20 ing, and directing funds to high-priority
21 agricultural issues;

22 “(v) rapidly respond to emerging
23 issues that threaten any sector of the
24 United States agricultural industry;

1 “(vi) focus on workforce development
2 for employers to recruit and retain high-
3 quality employees in rural areas; and

4 “(vii) engage in assistance for admin-
5 istrative management and education re-
6 garding potentially valuable intellectual
7 property derived from federally-supported
8 research, extension, and education activi-
9 ties.

10 “(3) AREAS OF FOCUS.—

11 “(A) AQUACULTURE.—A center of excel-
12 lence established under this subsection may en-
13 gage in research, extension, and education ac-
14 tivities focused on developing and applying
15 aquaculture methods, including through the
16 propagation and rearing of economically and
17 ecologically valuable aquatic and marine species.

18 “(B) BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCH-
19 ERS.—A center of excellence established under
20 this subsection may engage in research, exten-
21 sion and education activities focused on training
22 beginning farmers and ranchers, including farm
23 and agribusiness management, mentoring and
24 technical assistance, and access to capital.

1 “(C) BIOSECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY.—A center of excellence established under
2 this subsection may engage in research, extension,
3 and education activities focused on agricultural biosecurity and cybersecurity efforts to
4 defend the United States food supply from any
5 attacks.

6 “(D) BIOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL
7 ENGINEERING.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in re-
8 search, extension, and education activities fo-
9 cused on biosystems and agricultural engineer-
10 ing, including precision agriculture technologies
11 and mechanization and automation technologies
12 for specialty crops.

13 “(E) BIOTECHNOLOGY.—A center of excel-
14 lence established under this subsection may en-
15 gage in research, extension, and education ac-
16 tivities focused on development of animal and
17 plant biotechnologies that will increase agricul-
18 tural productivity.

19 “(F) CROP PRODUCTION, PROTECTION,
20 AND RESILIENCE.—A center of excellence estab-
21 lished under this subsection may engage in re-
22 search, extension, and education activities fo-

1 cused on crop production and protection, in-
2 cluding the development, manufacture, and use
3 of fertilizer, crop protection tools, and adju-
4 vants in increasing productivity and protecting
5 crops from damaging pests and diseases.

6 “(G) DIGITAL AGRICULTURE.—A center of
7 excellence established under this subsection may
8 engage in research, extension, and education ac-
9 tivities focused on developing, evaluating, and
10 deploying digital agriculture, including artificial
11 intelligence and remote sensing systems.

12 “(H) FARM BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL
13 MANAGEMENT.—A center of excellence estab-
14 lished under this subsection may engage in re-
15 search, extension, and education activities fo-
16 cused on farm business and financial manage-
17 ment activities, including marketing plans, pro-
18 duction diversification, and cash forward con-
19 tracting.

20 “(I) FOOD QUALITY.—A center of excel-
21 lence established under this subsection may en-
22 gage in research, extension, and education ac-
23 tivities focused on improving food quality, in-
24 cluding research on the uptake of per- and
25 polyfluoroalkyl substances in food, the presence

1 of microplastics in biosolids, and the efficacy
2 and feasibility of reducing levels of inorganic
3 arsenic, lead, cadmium, or mercury in food.

4 “(J) FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE.—A center
5 of excellence established under this subsection
6 may engage in research, extension, and edu-
7 cation activities focused on foreign animal dis-
8 eases, including the ecology and etiology of
9 emerging diseases, control methods, and imple-
10 mentation strategies to enhance preparedness
11 and response efforts to protect the livestock and
12 poultry industry.

13 “(K) FORESTRY.—A center of excellence
14 established under this subsection may engage in
15 research, extension, and education activities fo-
16 cused on forest productivity and forest health,
17 including invasive species control, biochar and
18 pyrolysis development and commercialization,
19 reforestation and restoration of damaged land-
20 scapes, and new wood-based materials.

21 “(L) INVASIVE SPECIES.—A center of ex-
22 cellence established under this subsection may
23 engage in research, extension, and education ac-
24 tivities focused on the control and eradication of
25 invasive species that pose a persistent and

1 growing threat to United States agricultural
2 production, forest resources, global food secu-
3 rity, and rural economies.

4 “(M) LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY.—A cen-
5 ter of excellence established under this sub-
6 section may engage in research, extension, and
7 education activities focused on issues impacting
8 livestock (including equines) and poultry pro-
9 duction in the United States, including eco-
10 nomic research to understand policy implica-
11 tions for producers.

12 “(N) VETERINARY MEDICINE.—A center of
13 excellence established under this subsection may
14 engage in research, extension, and education ac-
15 tivities focused on developing large animal vet-
16 erinarians and addressing the veterinarian
17 shortage in rural areas.

18 “(O) WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.—A
19 center of excellence established under this sub-
20 section may engage in research, extension, and
21 education activities focused on water quality
22 and quantity efforts, including drought, water
23 management, natural resource benefits, and the
24 health and resilience of the water supply in the
25 United States.

1 “(4) TERMS.—

2 “(A) DURATION.—The term of an award
3 under this subsection shall be for a five-year pe-
4 riod, and may be renewed for not more than
5 one additional five-year period.

6 “(B) CONSTRUCTION PROHIBITED.—
7 Funds made available under this subsection
8 shall not be used for the construction of a new
9 building or facility or the acquisition, expan-
10 sion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing
11 building or facility (including site grading and
12 improvement, and architect fees).

13 “(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one
14 year after the date of enactment of this subsection,
15 and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit
16 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
17 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
18 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report de-
19 scribing—

20 “(A) the projects initiated by each center
21 of excellence established under this subsection
22 in the preceding year;

23 “(B) the amount of funding for each such
24 project and the funding source;

1 “(C) the institutions participating in each
2 such project and their shares of the overall
3 funding for each project;

4 “(D) the level of cost sharing for each such
5 project;

6 “(E) any technology transfer and intellec-
7 tual property management actions taken by
8 each such center of excellence, such as the num-
9 ber of relevant invention disclosures, any provi-
10 sional patents filed, any non-provisional patents
11 filed and issued, the number of licenses exe-
12 cuted, and any start-up companies registered;
13 and

14 “(F) any additional information deemed
15 necessary.”;

16 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
17 section (b);

18 (3) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) by striking “The Secretary” and
21 inserting “In addition to the centers of ex-
22 cellence established under subsection (a),
23 the Secretary”; and

1 (ii) by striking “not less than 3 cen-
2 ters of excellence” and inserting “not less
3 than 8 centers of excellence”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
7 by striking “AND WORKFORCE DEVEL-
8 OPMENT” and inserting “, WORK-
9 FORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND RURAL
10 STUDIES”; and

11 (II) by inserting “economics, psy-
12 chology, rural sociology, data
13 sciences,” after “mathematics,”;

14 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
15 “and nature-based solutions to improve the
16 composition of soil organic compounds, in-
17 cluding carbon, that are beneficial to soil
18 quality and the environment” before the
19 period at the end; and

20 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(G) FOREST HEALTH AND CONSERVA-
23 TION.—A center of excellence established under
24 paragraph (1) may focus on forest health, sus-
25 tainable forest management, agroforestry, en-

1 hancing forest resilience to catastrophic wild-
2 fire, supporting rural infrastructure, and urban
3 and community forestry programs to promote
4 healthy forest ecosystems and resilient commu-
5 nities.

6 “(H) FOOD SAFETY, BIOPROCESSING, AND
7 VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.—A center of ex-
8 cellence established under paragraph (1) may
9 focus on food safety, bioprocessing, value-added
10 agriculture enterprise development, and innova-
11 tive food and agriculture product develop-
12 ment.”; and

13 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
14 and inserting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 7209. THINKDIFFERENTLY NATIONAL AGRABILITY**
16 **PROJECT.**

17 Section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
18 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933) is amended—

19 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**ASSIST-**
20 **IVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS**
21 **WITH DISABILITIES**” and inserting
22 “**THINKDIFFERENTLY NATIONAL AGRABILITY**
23 **PROJECT**”;

24 (2) in subsection (a)(3)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(F) provide education and support to
7 youth and young adults with disabilities inter-
8 ested in farming and farm-related occupa-
9 tions.”; and

10 (3) in subsection (c)—

11 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
12 “AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS” and
13 inserting “FUNDING”;

14 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
15 (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

16 (C) by inserting before paragraph (2), as
17 so redesignated, the following:

18 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
19 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
20 shall use to carry out this section \$8,000,000, to re-
21 main available until expended.”;

22 (D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

23 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
24 ing “IN GENERAL” and inserting “AU-
25 THORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS”;

1 (ii) by striking “Subject to paragraph
2 (2)” and inserting “Subject to paragraph
3 (3)”; and

4 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
5 “2023” and inserting “2029”; and

6 (E) by amending paragraph (3), as so re-
7 designated, to read as follows:

8 “(3) NATIONAL GRANT.—Not more than
9 15 percent of the amounts made available
10 under this subsection shall be used to carry out
11 subsection (b).”.

12 **SEC. 7210. FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUT-**
13 **REACH.**

14 Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
15 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (c)(2)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

18 (A)—

19 (i) by striking “Secretary of Agri-
20 culture” and inserting “Secretary of Agri-
21 culture, acting through the Director of the
22 National Institute of Food and Agri-
23 culture,”; and

24 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
25 “2029”; and

1 (2) by striking “2023” each place it appears in
2 subsections (d)(1) and (l)(2) and inserting “2029”.

3 **SEC. 7211. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER**
4 **CLEARINGHOUSE.**

5 Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
6 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is
7 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

8 **SEC. 7212. REPEAL.**

9 Subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
10 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.)
11 is repealed.

12 **Subtitle C—Agricultural Research,**
13 **Extension, and Education Re-**
14 **form Act of 1998**

15 **SEC. 7301. NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY TRAINING, EDUCATION,**
16 **EXTENSION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL AS-**
17 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

18 Section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
19 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7625) is
20 amended—

21 (1) by striking subsection (d);

22 (2) by redesignating subsections (e) through (j)
23 as subsections (d) through (i), respectively; and

24 (3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by
25 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7302. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EX-**
2 **TENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.**

3 Section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
4 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
5 7626(f)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
6 “2029”.

7 **SEC. 7303. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH REGARDING DISEASES**
8 **OF WHEAT, TRITICALE, AND BARLEY CAUSED**
9 **BY *FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM* OR BY**
10 ***TILLETIA INDICA*.**

11 Section 408(e)(3) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
12 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
13 7628(e)(3)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
14 “2029”.

15 **SEC. 7304. GRANTS FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.**

16 Section 410(d)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
17 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
18 7630(d)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
19 “2029”.

20 **SEC. 7305. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

21 Section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
22 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is
23 amended—

24 (1) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “subsection
25 (d) and (j)” and inserting “subsections (d), (j), and
26 (k)”;

1 (2) in subsection (g)(3), by adding at the end
2 the following:

3 “(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
4 the matching funds requirement under subpara-
5 graph (A) with respect to a grant if the Sec-
6 retary determines that—

7 “(i) the results of the grant are of a
8 particular benefit to a specific specialty
9 crop, but such results are likely to be ap-
10 plicable to specialty crops or agricultural
11 commodities, generally; or

12 “(ii)(I) the grant—

13 “(aa) involves a minor com-
14 modity; and

15 “(bb) deals with scientifically im-
16 portant research; and

17 “(II) the recipient is unable to satisfy
18 the matching funds requirement.”;

19 (3) in subsection (j)(5), by striking “subsection
20 (k)(1)(C)” and inserting “subsection (l)(1)(C)”;

21 (4) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-
22 section (l);

23 (5) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(k) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTO-
2 MATION RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—The
3 Secretary shall establish a competitive research and exten-
4 sion grant program to award grants to eligible entities to
5 increase the competitiveness of specialty crops in the
6 United States through the advancement and acceleration
7 of mechanization and automation, including projects
8 that—

9 “(1) create or improve cost-effective mechaniza-
10 tion and automation technologies to—

11 “(A) reduce the manual labor requirements
12 of a specialty crop grower; or

13 “(B) increase the efficiency of—

14 “(i) crop production;

15 “(ii) resource management;

16 “(iii) harvesting;

17 “(iv) processing;

18 “(v) post-harvest technologies; or

19 “(vi) packing;

20 “(2) increase adoption of mechanization and
21 automation technologies by—

22 “(A) emphasizing adoption drivers, includ-
23 ing—

24 “(i) connectivity;

25 “(ii) autonomy;

1 “(iii) reliability;
2 “(iv) durability;
3 “(v) in-field validation; or
4 “(vi) cost-effectiveness; or
5 “(B) investing in, and developing human
6 capital to, increase the capacity to—
7 “(i) utilize new technologies; or
8 “(ii) manage a more tech-focused
9 farm workforce; or
10 “(3) accelerate automation and mechanization
11 through—
12 “(A) prototype development;
13 “(B) in-field trial testing;
14 “(C) ongoing industry engagement; or
15 “(D) rapid commercialization.”; and
16 (6) in subsection (l), as redesignated by para-
17 graph (4)—
18 (A) in paragraph (1)—
19 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
20 “section \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2014”
21 and inserting the following: “section—
22 “(i) \$80,000,000 for each of fiscal
23 years 2014 through 2024; and
24 “(ii) \$175,000,000 for fiscal year
25 2025”;

1 (ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to
2 read as follows:

3 “(C) RESERVATION.—

4 “(i) EMERGENCY CITRUS DISEASE RE-
5 SEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—

6 “(I) FISCAL YEARS 2014
7 THROUGH 2018.—For each of fiscal
8 years 2014 through 2018, the Sec-
9 retary shall reserve not less than
10 \$25,000,000 of the funds made avail-
11 able under subparagraph (B) to carry
12 out the program established under
13 subsection (j).

14 “(II) FISCAL YEARS 2025
15 THROUGH 2029.—For each of fiscal
16 years 2025 through 2029, the Sec-
17 retary shall reserve not less than
18 \$25,000,000 of the funds made avail-
19 able under subparagraph (B) to carry
20 out the program established under
21 subsection (j).

22 “(ii) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZA-
23 TION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH AND
24 EXTENSION PROGRAM.—For each of fiscal
25 years 2025 through 2029, the Secretary

1 shall reserve not less than \$20,000,000 of
2 the funds made available under subpara-
3 graph (B) to carry out the program estab-
4 lished under subsection (k).”; and

5 (iii) by amending subparagraph (D) to
6 read as follows:

7 “(D) REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding
8 paragraph (4), any funds reserved under sub-
9 paragraph (C) that remain unobligated at the
10 end of the fiscal year following the fiscal year
11 in which such funds are first made available
12 shall be reallocated to carry out activities of the
13 specialty crop research initiative established
14 under subsection (b).”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
17 ing “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 THROUGH
18 2023”; and

19 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
20 “2029”;

21 (C) by striking paragraph (3); and

22 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and
23 (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

1 **SEC. 7306. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDU-**
2 **CATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.**

3 Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
4 Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.)
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 414. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDU-**
7 **CATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
9 program under which the Secretary will award competitive
10 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing
11 and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for
12 veterans (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United
13 States Code).

14 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible for
15 a grant under this section if such entity is—

16 “(1) a cooperative extension service;

17 “(2) a land-grant college or university (as de-
18 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural
19 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
20 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

21 “(3) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as
22 defined in such section);

23 “(4) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college and
24 university (as defined in such section);

25 “(5) a State department of agriculture;

26 “(6) a nonprofit organization;

1 “(7) a community-based organization; or

2 “(8) a combination of 2 or more eligible entities
3 described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

4 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
5 a grant under this section shall use the funds received
6 through the grant—

7 “(1) to provide training and classroom edu-
8 cation that leads to a comprehensive understanding
9 of farm and ranch business operations and manage-
10 ment practices;

11 “(2) to develop or identify curriculum that vet-
12 eran farmers and ranchers can adopt to help man-
13 age their enterprise;

14 “(3) to offer education, workshops, tours, and
15 instructor-supervised field experiences; or

16 “(4) to support any other activity, as identified
17 by the Secretary, to increase the number of veterans
18 pursuing knowledge and skills development in agri-
19 culture.

20 “(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—An entity that receives a
21 grant under this section shall provide non-Federal match-
22 ing funds for the purposes of carrying out this section in
23 an amount equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

1 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

4 **SEC. 7307. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE**
5 **PROGRAM.**

6 Section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
7 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
8 7642(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
9 “2029”.

10 **SEC. 7308. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.**

11 Section 614(f)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
12 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
13 7653(f)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
14 “2029”.

15 **SEC. 7309. FORESTRY PRODUCTS ADVANCED UTILIZATION**
16 **RESEARCH.**

17 Section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
18 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
19 7655b(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
20 “2029”.

21 **SEC. 7310. REPEALS.**

22 The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education
23 Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) is amended—

24 (1) by striking section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624);

25 and

1 (2) by striking section 411 (7 U.S.C. 7631).

2 **Subtitle D—Food, Conservation,**
3 **and Energy Act of 2008**

4 **SEC. 7401. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.**

5 Section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
6 Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2019) is
7 amended by striking “, for the 15-year period beginning
8 on the date of enactment of this Act”.

9 **SEC. 7402. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NET-**
10 **WORK.**

11 Section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
12 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting “, in-
14 cluding crisis hotlines” after “websites”;

15 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and
16 inserting “2029”;

17 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
18 section (g); and

19 (4) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(f) REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.—As part of the ef-
22 forts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to
23 connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and
24 wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to
25 a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use

1 treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant re-
2 cipient may establish referral relationships with—

3 “(1) certified community behavioral health clin-
4 ics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access
5 to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note;
6 Public Law 113–93);

7 “(2) health centers (as defined in section
8 330(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
9 254b(a)));

10 “(3) rural health clinics (as defined in section
11 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
12 1395x(aa)));

13 “(4) Federally qualified health centers (as de-
14 fined in that section); and

15 “(5) critical access hospitals (as defined in sec-
16 tion 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42
17 U.S.C. 1395x(mm))).”.

18 **SEC. 7403. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.**

19 Section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
20 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and
23 bioproduct” before “technologies”;

24 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “prod-
25 uct” and inserting “bioproduct”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “prod-
2 uct” and inserting “bioproduct”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “4 percent”
4 and inserting “30 percent”; and

5 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
6 inserting “2029”.

7 **SEC. 7404. REPEALS.**

8 The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7
9 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended—

10 (1) by striking section 7521 (7 U.S.C. 3202);

11 and

12 (2) by striking section 7525 (7 U.S.C. 5937).

13 **Subtitle E—Amendments to Other**
14 **Laws**

15 **SEC. 7501. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS**

16 **ACT OF 1994.**

17 The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act
18 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is
19 amended—

20 (1) in section 533(b), by striking “2023” and
21 inserting “2029”;

22 (2) in section 534(a)(1), by striking “equal to”
23 and inserting “not less than”;

1 (3) in section 535, by striking “2023” each
2 place it appears in subsections (b)(1) and (c) and in-
3 serting “2029”;

4 (4) in section 536—

5 (A) by striking subsection (b);

6 (B) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
7 section (b); and

8 (C) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated),
9 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

10 **SEC. 7502. RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.**

11 Section 6 of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C.
12 390d) is amended—

13 (1) in the section heading by striking “**AU-**
14 **THORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**” and insert-
15 ing “**FUNDING**”; and

16 (2) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—Sub-
18 ject to” and inserting the following:

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

20 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
21 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
22 shall make available to carry out the competitive
23 grant program under section 4, \$2,500,000,000 for
24 fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended.

1 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
2 Subject to”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (2), as so designated, by
4 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

5 **SEC. 7503. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIA-**
6 **TIVE.**

7 Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Fa-
8 cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) in paragraph (2)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A)(iii)—

12 (i) by inserting “regionally adapted”
13 before “cultivar”; and

14 (ii) by inserting “breeding for environ-
15 mental resilience,” before “and
16 participatory breeding”;

17 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting “,
18 including methods of increasing survival rate
19 and adaptability of shellfish” after “aqua-
20 culture”;

21 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

22 (i) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at
23 the end;

24 (ii) in clause (v), by striking the pe-
25 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(vi) hydroponics, aquaponics,
4 aeroponics, and other production tech-
5 nologies used in controlled-environment ag-
6 riculture production.”; and

7 (D) in subparagraph (F)—

8 (i) in clause (i), by inserting “, includ-
9 ing supply chain coordination and capacity
10 building” after “overseas markets”;

11 (ii) in clause (vii), by striking “; and”
12 at the end and inserting a semicolon;

13 (iii) in clause (viii), by striking the pe-
14 riod at the end and inserting “; and”;

15 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(ix) workforce training and develop-
18 ment, including meat and poultry proc-
19 essing (including rendering) and precision
20 agriculture.”;

21 (2) in paragraph (7)—

22 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
23 through (I) as subparagraphs (E) through (J),
24 respectively;

1 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (C)
2 the following:

3 “(D) area career and technical education
4 schools;”; and

5 (C) in subparagraph (J), as so redesign-
6 nated, by striking “(H)” and inserting “(I)”;
7 and

8 (3) in paragraph (11)(A), in the matter pre-
9 ceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and inserting
10 “2029”.

11 **SEC. 7504. EXTENSION DESIGN AND DEMONSTRATION INI-**
12 **TIATIVE.**

13 Subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and
14 Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(d)(6)) is
15 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

16 **SEC. 7505. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

17 Section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural
18 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(h)(2)) is amended
19 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

20 **SEC. 7506. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF**
21 **1978.**

22 The Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16
23 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 6 (16 U.S.C. 1675), in the first
2 sentence, by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”;
3 and

4 (2) in section 8 (16 U.S.C. 1671 note), by
5 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 7507. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.**

7 The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C.
8 2801 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 2803)—

10 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking
11 “acquaculture” and inserting “aquaculture”;

12 (B) in subsection (d), in the matter pre-
13 ceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, not less
14 than once every 3 years,” after “periodic re-
15 views”; and

16 (C) in subsection (e)—

17 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
18 (1), by inserting “, not less than once
19 every 3 years,” after “undertake a con-
20 tinuing assessment of aquaculture in the
21 United States”;

22 (ii) in paragraph (5), by striking
23 “and” at the end;

1 (iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting a semi-
3 colon; and

4 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(7) a catalog of new and existing capital con-
7 straints, as described in the capital requirements
8 plan formulated under section 8(b), that affect the
9 development of the aquaculture industry in the
10 United States; and

11 “(8) a catalog of new and existing Federal or
12 State regulatory barriers, as described in the regu-
13 latory constraints plan formulated under section
14 9(b), to the initiation and operation of commercial
15 aquaculture ventures.”;

16 (2) in section 5 (16 U.S.C. 2804), by striking
17 subsection (d) and inserting the following:

18 “(d) AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
21 National Security Act of 2024, the Secretary shall
22 establish an advisory committee, to be known as the
23 Aquaculture Advisory Committee (referred to in this
24 subsection as the ‘Committee’), to advise the Sec-
25 retary on—

1 “(A) oversight of programs of the Depart-
2 ment and other members of the coordinating
3 group to support development of, and to ad-
4 vance, aquaculture best practices using the best
5 available science, in consultation with farmers
6 and industry partners;

7 “(B) providing technical assistance to
8 aquaculture farmers and businesses, including
9 technical assistance that pertains to shellfish,
10 algae, and land-based aquaculture systems,
11 using the best available science; and

12 “(C) any other aspects of the implementa-
13 tion of this Act.

14 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall
16 be composed of 14 members, who are not offi-
17 cers or employees of the Federal Government.

18 “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Sec-
19 retary shall appoint the members of the Com-
20 mittee not later than 180 days after the date of
21 enactment of this section.

22 “(C) PERIOD OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT;
23 VACANCIES.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
25 vided in clause (ii), a member of the Com-

1 mittee shall be appointed for a term of 3
2 years.

3 “(ii) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the
4 members first appointed to the Com-
5 mittee—

6 “(I) 5 of the members, as deter-
7 mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-
8 pointed for a term of 3 years;

9 “(II) 5 of the members, as deter-
10 mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-
11 pointed for a term of 2 years; and

12 “(III) 4 of the members, as de-
13 termined by the Secretary, shall be
14 appointed for a term of 1 year.

15 “(iii) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in
16 the Committee—

17 “(I) shall not affect the powers of
18 the Committee; and

19 “(II) shall be filled as soon as
20 practicable in the same manner as the
21 original appointment.

22 “(D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An initial
23 appointee of the Committee may serve an addi-
24 tional consecutive term if the member is re-
25 appointed by the Secretary.

1 “(3) MEETINGS.—

2 “(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall
3 meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

4 “(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than
5 180 days after the date on which the members
6 are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the
7 Committee shall hold the first meeting of the
8 Committee.

9 “(4) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

10 “(A) develop recommendations and advise
11 the Secretary on aquaculture policies, initia-
12 tives, and outreach administered by the Depart-
13 ment;

14 “(B) evaluate and review ongoing research
15 and extension activities relating to aquaculture
16 practices;

17 “(C) identify new and existing barriers to
18 successful aquaculture practices; and

19 “(D) provide additional assistance and ad-
20 vice to the Secretary as appropriate.

21 “(5) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

22 “(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the
23 Committee shall serve without compensation.

24 “(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of
25 the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses,

1 including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-
2 cordance with section 5703 of title 5, United
3 States Code.

4 “(6) TERMINATION.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
6 graph (B), the Committee shall terminate on
7 the date that is 5 years after the date on which
8 the members are appointed under paragraph
9 (2)(B).

10 “(B) EXTENSIONS.—Before the date on
11 which the Committee terminates, the Secretary
12 may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year
13 periods.

14 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
15 the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
16 tional Security Act of 2024, and each year thereafter, the
17 Secretary, acting through the coordinating group and in
18 consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-
19 retary of the Interior, shall prepare on an annual basis,
20 and submit to Congress, a report on the status of aqua-
21 culture in the United States. Such report shall contain—

22 “(1) a description and evaluation of the actions
23 undertaken with respect to the Plan during the re-
24 porting period;

1 “(2) an explanation of any revisions made to
2 the Plan during the reporting period;

3 “(3) the results of the continuing assessment
4 established under section 4(e);

5 “(4) an evaluation of the role each Federal de-
6 partment or agency has in supporting the aqua-
7 culture industry;

8 “(5) the total amount and value of expenditures
9 of Federal departments or agencies on—

10 “(A) aquaculture purchases;

11 “(B) aquaculture promotion and outreach
12 supporting the aquaculture industry;

13 “(C) grants made to the aquaculture in-
14 dustry; and

15 “(D) grants to facilitate aquaculture re-
16 search and the subject matter of such research;

17 “(6) a summary of the activities and rec-
18 ommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Com-
19 mittee established under subsection (d);

20 “(7) a summary of the activities and rec-
21 ommendations of the coordinating group; and

22 “(8) such other comments and recommenda-
23 tions as the Secretary determines appropriate.”; and

1 (3) in section 10 (16 U.S.C. 2809), by striking
2 “2023” each place it appears in paragraphs (1), (2),
3 and (3) and inserting “2029”.

4 **SEC. 7508. REPORTS ON DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR AG-**
5 **RICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AT**
6 **1862 AND 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, IN-**
7 **CLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

8 Section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
9 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2207d) is amended—

10 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
11 striking “Not later than” and inserting the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(b) OUTREACH.—Not later than February 1 of each
16 fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide information relat-
17 ing to each matching requirement applicable to the State
18 under the programs referred to in subsection (a) to the
19 Governor and legislature of each State in which an 1862
20 Institution or 1890 Institution (as those terms are defined
21 in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
22 Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) is lo-
23 cated.

24 “(c) ATTESTATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
2 once each calendar year, the Governor of each State
3 described in subsection (b) shall submit to the Sec-
4 retary an attestation that describes if the State is
5 able to fulfill each matching requirement with re-
6 spect to which information is provided by the Sec-
7 retary under such subsection for such State and cal-
8 endar year.

9 “(2) REPORTS.—Not later than December 31
10 of each calendar year, the Secretary shall submit to
11 Congress, and make publicly available on the website
12 of the Department of Agriculture, an annual report
13 describing the attestations received under paragraph
14 (1) during that calendar year.”.

15 **SEC. 7509. REPEAL.**

16 Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research,
17 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985
18 (title XIV of Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1556) is re-
19 pealed.

20 **Subtitle F—Other Matters**

21 **SEC. 7601. FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RE-**
22 **SEARCH.**

23 Section 7601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
24 U.S.C. 5939) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (d)(1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “of Agri-
3 culture; and” and inserting a semicolon;
4 and

5 (ii) by striking clause (iii); and

6 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “the
7 roadmap for agricultural research, education,
8 and extension authorized by section 7504 of the
9 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7
10 U.S.C. 7614a)” and inserting “the national re-
11 search policies and priorities set forth in section
12 1402 of the National Agricultural Research,
13 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
14 U.S.C. 3101)”;

15 (2) in subsection (e)(2)(C)(i)—

16 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “National
17 Academy of Sciences” and inserting “National
18 Agricultural Research, Extension, Education,
19 and Economics Advisory Board established
20 under section 1408 of the National Agricultural
21 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act
22 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123)”;

23 (B) in subclause (II), by striking “indus-
24 try” and inserting “national farm, producer, or
25 research organizations”; and

1 (3) in subsection (f)(3)(B)(i)—

2 (A) in subclause (I)—

3 (i) in the matter preceding item (aa),
4 by striking “and post online” and inserting
5 “online and submit to the Committee on
6 Agriculture of the House of Representa-
7 tives and the Committee on Agriculture,
8 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate”;

9 (ii) in item (bb), by striking “and” at
10 the end;

11 (iii) in item (cc), by striking the pe-
12 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;
13 and

14 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(dd) the source and a de-
17 scription of all gifts to the Foun-
18 dation of real or personal prop-
19 erty;

20 “(ee) the source and amount
21 of each gift to the Foundation of
22 money, including a specification
23 of any restrictions on the pur-
24 poses for which a gift to the
25 Foundation may be used;

1 “(ff) the source and amount
2 of any Federal or State grant,
3 contract, or cooperative agree-
4 ment awarded to the Foundation;

5 “(gg) an accounting of the
6 use of funds made available
7 under subsection (g)(1);

8 “(hh) a description of the
9 Foundation’s outreach activities
10 to agricultural stakeholders and
11 potential research partners; and

12 “(ii) a description of the
13 Foundation’s consultation proc-
14 ess with the Department under
15 subsection (d)(1)(B).”;

16 (B) by striking subclauses (II) and (III);

17 and

18 (C) by redesignating subclause (IV) as
19 subclause (II).

20 **SEC. 7602. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER DEM-**
21 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

22 Section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
23 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (d)—

25 (A) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “Each Agriculture In-
2 novation Center” and inserting “Subject to
3 paragraph (3), each Agriculture Innovation
4 Center”; and

5 (ii) by striking “following:” and in-
6 serting “following:”; and

7 (B) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the
9 requirement described in paragraph (2) with respect
10 to an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that
11 the eligible entity has a board of directors adequate
12 for the purpose of carrying out this section.”; and

13 (2) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
14 inserting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 7603. LIVESTOCK INSECTS LABORATORY.**

16 The Act of December 23, 1987 (Public Law 100–
17 208; 101 Stat. 1439) is amended by striking “Knipling-
18 Bushland Research Laboratory” each place it appears and
19 inserting “Knipling-Bushland Research Center”.

20 **SEC. 7604. HATCH ACT OF 1887.**

21 Section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e)
22 is amended—

23 (1) in the second sentence—

1 (A) by striking “known as a director” and
2 inserting “known as an experiment station di-
3 rector”; and

4 (B) by striking “or other officer appointed
5 by the government board of the station”;

6 (2) in the third sentence, by striking “or other
7 officer”; and

8 (3) by striking “the authorized receiving offi-
9 cer” and inserting “the experiment station director”.

10 **SEC. 7605. COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STA-**
11 **TISTICS SERVICE MODERNIZATION.**

12 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a com-
13 mission to be known as the Commission on National Agri-
14 cultural Statistics Service Modernization (referred to in
15 this section as the “Commission”).

16 (b) **STUDY.**—The Commission shall conduct a study
17 of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and provide
18 recommendations on—

19 (1) how data collection can be modernized and
20 streamlined to—

21 (A) improve the quality of statistics re-
22 ported;

23 (B) account for differences of national, re-
24 gional, and local production;

1 (C) accelerate adoption of new and innova-
2 tive technologies to reduce the number of sur-
3 veys needed;

4 (D) improve producer response rates in
5 statistical surveys and identifying ways to re-
6 duce survey fatigue;

7 (E) increase transparency and confidence
8 in statistical reports through improved collabo-
9 ration with agricultural stakeholders;

10 (F) use more real-time statistical and envi-
11 ronmental data to complement existing survey-
12 based data and reporting; and

13 (G) improve collection and generation of
14 timely data on the specialty crop industry; and

15 (2) how the recommendations under paragraph
16 (1) with respect to modernizing and streamlining
17 data collection can be implemented and the esti-
18 mated costs of such implementation.

19 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

20 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be
21 composed of 11 members, as follows:

22 (A) The Administrator of the National Ag-
23 ricultural Statistics Service.

24 (B) The Administrator of the Economic
25 Research Service.

1 (C) The Chief Economist of the Depart-
2 ment.

3 (D) The Chair of the World Agricultural
4 Outlook Board of the Department.

5 (E) A representative from the Bureau of
6 Labor Statistics.

7 (F) 3 members appointed by the Com-
8 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
9 of the Senate, of which—

10 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair
11 of the Committee;

12 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the rank-
13 ing member of the Committee; and

14 (iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the
15 chair and ranking member of the Com-
16 mittee.

17 (G) 3 members appointed by the Com-
18 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives, of which—

20 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair
21 of the Committee;

22 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the rank-
23 ing member of the Committee; and

1 (iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by
2 the chair and ranking member of the Com-
3 mittee.

4 (2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appoint-
5 ment of all members of the Commission shall be
6 made not later than 60 days after the date of enact-
7 ment of this Act.

8 (3) TERM; VACANCIES.—

9 (A) TERM.—A member shall be appointed
10 for the life of the Commission.

11 (B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Com-
12 mission—

13 (i) shall not affect the powers of the
14 Commission; and

15 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner
16 as the original appointment was made.

17 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days
18 after the date on which all members of the Commis-
19 sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold
20 the initial meeting of the Commission.

21 (d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
22 Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
23 of business, but a lesser number of members may hold
24 hearings.

1 (e) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Commission shall be
2 selected by a majority of the members of the Commission.

3 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to
5 the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House
6 of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture,
7 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing
8 the results of the study required by subsection (b), includ-
9 ing—

10 (1) an inventory of surveys conducted by the
11 Commission, and the frequency with which they are
12 conducted; and

13 (2) such recommendations for administrative,
14 regulatory, and legislative changes as the Commis-
15 sion considers appropriate.

16 (g) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold such
17 hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such
18 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission
19 considers advisable to carry out this section.

20 (h) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—The Commission
21 shall establish a process to collect feedback from agricul-
22 tural stakeholders to inform the results of the study re-
23 quired under subsection (b) and the report required under
24 subsection (f).

1 (i) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
2 Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency
3 such information as the Commission considers necessary
4 to carry out this section. On request of the Chairperson
5 of the Commission, the head of the agency shall provide
6 the information to the Commission.

7 (j) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
8 the United States mail in the same manner and under the
9 same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Govern-
10 ment.

11 (k) ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY.—The Secretary
12 shall provide to the Commission appropriate office space
13 and such reasonable administrative and support services
14 as the Commission may request.

15 (l) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

16 (1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of
17 the Commission who is not an officer or employee of
18 the Federal Government shall be compensated at a
19 rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate
20 of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive
21 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United
22 States Code, for each day (including travel time)
23 during which the member is engaged in the perform-
24 ance of the duties of the Commission.

1 (2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the
2 Commission who is an officer or employee of the
3 Federal Government shall serve without compensa-
4 tion in addition to the compensation received for the
5 services of the member as an officer or employee of
6 the Federal Government.

7 (3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
8 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
9 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-
10 ized for an employee of an agency under subchapter
11 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
12 away from the home or regular place of business of
13 the member in the performance of the duties of the
14 Commission.

15 (m) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Sec-
16 tions 1009 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall
17 not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the
18 Commission.

19 (n) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
20 on September 30, 2029.

21 (o) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
22 it Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this
23 section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to remain avail-
24 able until expended.

1 **SEC. 7606. RESTORATION OF 4-H NAME AND EMBLEM AU-**
2 **THORITY.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) 4-H CLUB.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H club”
6 means a 4-H club recognized under the 4-H
7 Program.

8 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “4-H club”
9 includes an authorized agent of a 4-H club.

10 (2) 4-H EMBLEM OR NAME.—The term “4-H
11 emblem or name” means the 4-H sign or emblem,
12 consisting of a green four-leaf clover with stem and
13 the letter “H” in white or gold on each leaflet, and
14 the words “4-H”, “4-H Club”, and “4-H Clubs”,
15 used to identify and distinguish the 4-H Program
16 and the activities, clubs, members, goods, and serv-
17 ices of the 4-H Program.

18 (3) 4-H PROGRAM.—The term “4-H Pro-
19 gram”—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H Pro-
21 gram” means the youth development program
22 of the land-grant colleges or universities, the
23 Cooperative Extension System (as defined by
24 the Secretary), and the Department.

1 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “4–H Pro-
2 gram” includes an authorized agent of the 4–
3 H Program.

4 (4) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—
5 The term “land-grant college or university”—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “land-grant
7 college or university” means an 1862 Institu-
8 tion, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994 Institution
9 (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the
10 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-
11 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

12 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “land-grant
13 college or university” includes an authorized
14 agent of a land-grant college or university.

15 (b) EFFECT OF REPEAL; RATIFICATION.—

16 (1) CIVIL ACTS.—Any civil act or action of the
17 4–H Program, a 4–H club, the Secretary, or a land-
18 grant college or university taken with respect to the
19 use of the 4–H emblem or name, or the recognition
20 of any 4–H club, during the period beginning on
21 May 8, 1914, and ending on the date of enactment
22 of this Act, is deemed to be of legal force and effect
23 and ratified as if section 1002(3) of the Clean Up
24 the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public

1 Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155) had not been en-
2 acted into law.

3 (2) EFFECT ON CRIMINAL LAW.—Nothing in
4 this subsection affects the effect on criminal law of
5 the repeal made by section 1002(3) of the Clean Up
6 the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public
7 Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155).

8 (c) AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR
9 NAME; FEES; DEPOSITS.—

10 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may—

11 (A) use the 4–H emblem or name; and

12 (B) grant authorizations to use the 4–H
13 emblem or name, as provided by regulations
14 issued by the Secretary.

15 (2) FEES.—An authorization under paragraph
16 (1) may be granted—

17 (A) without a fee or other consideration; or

18 (B) for a fee or other consideration.

19 (3) USE OF FEES.—The Secretary shall deposit
20 into a special account any fees collected under para-
21 graph (2)(B), the amounts in which shall remain
22 available to the Secretary until expended, without
23 further appropriation, for furthering the 4–H Pro-
24 gram.

1 (d) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF 4-H EMBLEM OR
2 NAME.—

3 (1) PROHIBITION.—Whoever, other than the 4-
4 H Program, a 4-H club, the Department, a land-
5 grant college or university, and those authorized by
6 them, uses in commerce the 4-H emblem or name
7 or any reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable
8 imitation of the 4-H emblem or name to indicate
9 membership in an association, organization, or other
10 collective group, or in connection with the sale, offer-
11 ing for sale, distribution, or advertising of goods or
12 services, on or in connection with which that use is
13 likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to de-
14 ceive as to membership or participation in, an affili-
15 ation, connection, or association with, or authoriza-
16 tion or approval by, a 4-H club or the 4-H Pro-
17 gram, shall be subject to the civil action under para-
18 graph (2).

19 (2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General, on
20 behalf of the Secretary, or contract counsel procured
21 by the Secretary, may bring a civil action in an ap-
22 propriate district court of the United States against
23 whoever engages in any of the prohibited acts de-
24 scribed in paragraph (1) for the remedies provided
25 in the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly known as the

1 “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”)
2 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

3 (e) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

4 (1) PRIOR AUTHORIZED USES.—Nothing in this
5 section makes unlawful the use of any emblem,
6 name, sign, symbol, insignia, or words that was law-
7 ful on December 26, 2020.

8 (2) DELEGATION.—Nothing in this section lim-
9 its the authority of the Secretary to delegate the au-
10 thority of the Secretary as otherwise authorized by
11 law.

12 **SEC. 7607. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RE-**
13 **SEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.**

14 Section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
15 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (c)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and”
18 at the end and inserting a semicolon;

19 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
20 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

21 (C) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(3) be responsible for the coordination of re-
23 search activities with other Federal agencies.”;

24 (2) in subsection (e)(3)(C), by striking “not less
25 than 3 years” and inserting “not less than 1 year”;

1 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
2 section (g); and

3 (4) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(f) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
7 out cross-cutting and collaborative research and de-
8 velopment activities focused on the joint advance-
9 ment of the mission requirements and priorities of
10 the Department of Agriculture and other Federal
11 agencies.

12 “(2) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—

13 “(A) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
15 year after the date of enactment of the
16 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
17 2024, the Secretary and the Secretary of
18 Energy (referred to in this subparagraph
19 as the ‘Secretaries’) shall coordinate the
20 activities under paragraph (1) through the
21 establishment of memoranda of under-
22 standing or other appropriate interagency
23 agreements. Such a memorandum or such
24 an agreement shall require the use of a
25 competitive, merit-reviewed process as ap-

1 appropriate. Activities may include compo-
2 nents proposed by Federal agencies, Na-
3 tional Laboratories, institutions of higher
4 education, nonprofit organizations, and
5 other entities deemed appropriate under
6 the memorandum or agreement.

7 “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out
8 the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-
9 retaries may—

10 “(I) conduct collaborative re-
11 search in a variety of focus areas;

12 “(II) develop methods to accom-
13 modate large voluntary standardized
14 and integrated data sets on agricul-
15 tural, environmental, supply chain,
16 and economic information with vari-
17 able accuracy and scale;

18 “(III) promote collaboration and
19 open community-based development
20 between—

21 “(aa) Federal agencies;

22 “(bb) National Laboratories;

23 “(cc) institutions of higher
24 education (as defined in section

1 101 of the Higher Education Act
2 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));
3 “(dd) nonprofit institutions;
4 “(ee) industry partners; and
5 “(ff) other entities deemed
6 appropriate under the memo-
7 randum or agreement involved;
8 “(IV) support research infra-
9 structure, including new facilities and
10 equipment, and workforce develop-
11 ment as the Secretaries determine
12 necessary;
13 “(V) conduct collaborative re-
14 search, development, and demonstra-
15 tion of methods and technologies; and
16 “(VI) facilitate relations between
17 public and private entities to carry on
18 the activities of this clause upon the
19 termination of any agreement estab-
20 lished under this subparagraph.
21 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out
22 the activities under this subparagraph, the
23 Secretaries are authorized to—
24 “(I) carry out reimbursable
25 agreements between the Department

1 of Agriculture, the Department of En-
2 ergy, and other entities in order to
3 maximize the effectiveness of research
4 and development; and

5 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-
6 eral agencies, as appropriate.

7 “(B) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
9 year after the date of enactment of the
10 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
11 2024, the Secretary and the Director of
12 the National Science Foundation (referred
13 to in this subparagraph as the “Director”)
14 shall coordinate the activities under para-
15 graph (1) through the establishment of
16 memoranda of understanding or other ap-
17 propriate interagency agreements. Such a
18 memorandum or such an agreement shall
19 require the use of a competitive, merit-re-
20 viewed process as appropriate. Activities
21 may include components proposed by Fed-
22 eral agencies, institutions of higher edu-
23 cation, nonprofit organizations, and other
24 entities deemed appropriate under the
25 memorandum or agreement.

1 “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out
2 the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-
3 retary and the Director may—

4 “(I) conduct collaborative re-
5 search in a variety of focus areas;

6 “(II) promote collaboration and
7 open, community-based development
8 between—

9 “(aa) Federal agencies;

10 “(bb) institutions of higher
11 education;

12 “(cc) community colleges (as
13 defined in section 3167B of the
14 Energy Science Education En-
15 hancement Act (42 U.S.C.
16 7381c–3));

17 “(dd) area career and tech-
18 nical education schools (as de-
19 fined in section 3 of the Carl D.
20 Perkins Career and Technical
21 Education Act of 2006 (20
22 U.S.C. 2302));

23 “(ee) nonprofit institutions;

24 “(ff) industry partners; and

1 “(gg) other entities deemed
2 appropriate under the memo-
3 randum or agreement;

4 “(III) support research infra-
5 structure, including new facilities,
6 equipment and broadband deploy-
7 ment, as the Secretary and Director
8 determine necessary;

9 “(IV) develop translational tech-
10 nologies for commercial utilization;

11 “(V) organize education, train-
12 ing, and research initiatives relating
13 to STEM education and workforce de-
14 velopment, which may include—

15 “(aa) activities supported by
16 the Cooperative Extension Sys-
17 tem;

18 “(bb) industrial partnership
19 programs;

20 “(cc) workshops for edu-
21 cating kindergarten through
22 grade 12 teachers on how to in-
23 crease agricultural literacy;

24 “(dd) development of agri-
25 cultural-based science curricula

1 for kindergarten through grade
2 12 students; and

3 “(ee) distribution of re-
4 sources for educators to imple-
5 ment curricula; and

6 “(VI) facilitate relationships be-
7 tween public and private entities to
8 carry on the activities under this
9 clause upon the termination of any
10 agreement established under this sub-
11 paragraph.

12 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out
13 the activities under this subparagraph, the
14 Secretary and the Director are authorized
15 to—

16 “(I) carry out reimbursable
17 agreements between the Department
18 of Agriculture, the National Science
19 Foundation, and other entities in
20 order to maximize the effectiveness of
21 research and development; and

22 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-
23 eral agencies as appropriate.

24 “(C) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In ad-
25 dition to the memoranda of understanding with

1 Federal agencies described in subparagraphs
2 (A) and (B), the Secretary shall, as appro-
3 priate, enter into memoranda of understanding
4 with the heads of other Federal agencies to co-
5 ordinate the activities under paragraph (1).

6 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than two years after
7 the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
8 tional Security Act of 2024, the Secretary shall sub-
9 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a
10 report detailing—

11 “(A) interagency coordination between
12 each Federal agency involved in the research
13 and development activities carried out under
14 this section;

15 “(B) potential opportunities to expand the
16 technical capabilities of each Federal agency in-
17 volved in the research and development activi-
18 ties carried out under this section;

19 “(C) collaborative research achievements;

20 “(D) areas of future mutually beneficial
21 successes;

22 “(E) continuation of coordination activities
23 between each Federal agency involved in the re-
24 search and development activities carried out
25 under this section;

1 “(F) potential opportunities for additional
2 memoranda of understanding with other Fed-
3 eral agencies; and

4 “(G) any additional information as the
5 Secretary deems appropriate.

6 “(4) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities au-
7 thorized under this section shall be applied in a
8 manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the
9 Research and Development, Competition, and Inno-
10 vation Act (enacted as division B of the CHIPS Act
11 of 2022 (Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et
12 seq.)).”.

13 **SEC. 7608. AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION CORPS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an
15 Agricultural Innovation Corps (referred to in this section
16 as the “Ag I–Corps”) to promote technology transfer and
17 increase the economic impact of federally-funded research
18 through—

19 (1) supporting agricultural researchers, stu-
20 dents, and institutions of higher education (as de-
21 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
22 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), in exploring the commer-
23 cial potential of technologies developed in labora-
24 tories through a standardized entrepreneurial train-
25 ing program; and

1 (2) bringing together Agriculture Research
2 Service researchers and institutions of higher edu-
3 cation within a distinct geographical region to col-
4 laborate and deliver a standardized entrepreneurial
5 training curriculum.

6 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Agricultural researchers, stu-
7 dents, and institutions of higher education receiving funds
8 from the Department shall be eligible to participate in Ag
9 I–Corps.

10 (c) FOLLOW-ON GRANTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
12 funds available from the Small Business Innovation
13 Research Program for competitive grants to Ag I–
14 Corps participants to help support—

15 (A) prototype or proof-of-concept develop-
16 ment; and

17 (B) such activities as the Secretary con-
18 siders necessary to build local, regional, and na-
19 tional infrastructure for agricultural entrepre-
20 neurship.

21 (2) LIMITATION.—Grants under paragraph (1)
22 shall be limited to participants in Ag I–Corps with
23 innovations that, because of the early stage of devel-
24 opment of such innovations, are not eligible to par-
25 ticipate in a Small Business Innovation Research

1 Program or Small Business Technology Transfer
2 Program (as defined in section 9 of the Small Busi-
3 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 638)).

4 (d) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may engage in
5 partnerships with other Federal agencies, State and local
6 governments, economic development organizations, and
7 nonprofit organizations to provide access to Ag I–Corps
8 to support entrepreneurship education and training for ag-
9 ricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher
10 education under this section.

11 (e) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2025,
12 and not less frequently than once every other year, the
13 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
14 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
15 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-
16 port on the efficacy of Ag I–Corps, including metrics on
17 the effectiveness of the program.

18 **TITLE VIII—FORESTRY**

19 **Subtitle A—Cooperative Forestry** 20 **Assistance Act of 1978**

21 **SEC. 8101. SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSESSMENTS AND STRAT-**
22 **EGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.**

23 Section 2A(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance
24 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a(f)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2029”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “to carry out
4 this section” and all that follows through the period
5 at the end and inserting the following: “the Sec-
6 retary may use any other funds made available
7 under this Act to develop and implement the State-
8 wide assessment and State-wide strategy required by
9 subsection (a), except that the total amount of com-
10 bined funding used to develop and implement such
11 assessment and strategy may not exceed
12 \$10,000,000 in any fiscal year.”.

13 **SEC. 8102. FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM TECHNICAL COR-**
14 **RECTION.**

15 Section 7(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
16 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c) is amended—

17 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the State
18 of Vermont” and inserting “any State”; and

19 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), in the matter pre-
20 ceding subclause (I), by striking “of Vermont” and
21 inserting “involved”.

1 **SEC. 8103. STATE AND PRIVATE FOREST LANDSCAPE-SCALE**
2 **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

3 Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
4 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109a(l)(3)) is amended by
5 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

6 **Subtitle B—Healthy Forests**
7 **Restoration Act of 2003**

8 **SEC. 8201. DEFINITION OF AT-RISK COMMUNITY.**

9 Section 101(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
10 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511(1)) is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 “(1) AT-RISK COMMUNITY.—The term ‘at-risk
13 community’ means an area that is comprised of—

14 “(A) an interface community as defined in
15 the notice entitled ‘Wildland Urban Interface
16 Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal
17 Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire’
18 issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the
19 Secretary of the Interior in accordance with
20 title IV of the Department of the Interior and
21 Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001
22 (114 Stat. 1009) (66 Fed. Reg. 753, January
23 4, 2001); or

24 “(B) a group of homes or other structures
25 with basic infrastructure and services (such as
26 utilities and collectively maintained transpor-

1 tation routes) at risk from wildfire as recog-
2 nized by a local, State, regional, Tribal, terri-
3 torial, or national wildfire risk assessment.”.

4 **SEC. 8202. PROMOTING CROSS-BOUNDARY WILDFIRE MITI-**
5 **GATION.**

6 Section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
7 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6513(e)(5)) is amended by strik-
8 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

9 **SEC. 8203. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HAZ-**
10 **ARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL**
11 **LAND.**

12 Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
13 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6518) is amended by striking “2023”
14 and inserting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 8204. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

16 Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
17 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542(g)(4)(B)) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
20 through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), re-
21 spectively;

22 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as
23 so redesignated, the following:

24 “(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term ‘adjacent
25 land’ means non-Federal land, including State, local,

1 and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the
2 same watershed as, National Forest System land on
3 which a watershed protection and restoration project
4 is carried out under this section.”; and

5 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

6 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
7 (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and
8 (L), respectively; and

9 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
10 (F) the following:

11 “(G) an acequia association;

12 “(H) a local, regional, or other public enti-
13 ty that manages stormwater or wastewater re-
14 sources or other related water infrastructure;

15 “(I) a land-grant mercedes;

16 “(J) a local, regional, or other private enti-
17 ty that has water delivery authority;”;

18 (2) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and
20 inserting the following:

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”; and

22 (B) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection
24 and restoration project under the Program shall be
25 designed to—

1 “(A) protect and restore watershed health,
2 water supply and quality, a municipal or agri-
3 cultural water supply system, and water-related
4 infrastructure;

5 “(B) protect and restore forest health from
6 insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

7 “(C) advance any combination of the pur-
8 poses described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

9 “(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed pro-
10 tection and restoration projects under the Program,
11 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that
12 would—

13 “(A) provide risk management benefits as-
14 sociated with: drought; wildfire; post-wildfire
15 conditions; extreme weather; flooding; resilience
16 to climate change; and watershed and fire resil-
17 ience, including minimizing risks to watershed
18 health, water supply and quality, and water-re-
19 lated infrastructure, including municipal and
20 agricultural water supply systems;

21 “(B) support aquatic restoration and con-
22 servation efforts that complement existing or
23 planned forest restoration or wildfire risk re-
24 duction efforts; or

1 “(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water
2 supply or quality and include the use of nature-
3 based solutions, such as restoring wetland and
4 riparian ecosystems.

5 “(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT
6 LAND.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity
8 may be carried out under this section on adja-
9 cent land unless the owner of the adjacent land
10 agrees in writing that the owner is a willing and
11 engaged partner in carrying out that project or
12 activity.

13 “(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section
14 shall be construed to authorize any change in—

15 “(i) the ownership of adjacent land on
16 which a project or activity is carried out
17 under this section; or

18 “(ii) the management of adjacent land
19 on which a project or activity is carried out
20 under this section, except during the car-
21 rying out of that project or activity.”;

22 (3) in subsection (c)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “with
24 end water users” and inserting “with end water
25 users to protect and restore the condition of

1 National Forest watersheds and adjacent land
2 that provide water—

3 “(A) to the end water users subject to the
4 agreement; or

5 “(B) for the benefit of another end water
6 user.”;

7 (B) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
9 “or” at the end;

10 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
11 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

12 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
13 (C) the following:

14 “(D) a good neighbor agreement entered
15 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act
16 of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PART-
19 NERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Fed-
20 eral partners in carrying out assessments, planning,
21 project design, and project implementation under
22 this section.”;

23 (4) in subsection (d)—

24 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
25 follows:

1 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—A water source manage-
2 ment plan shall be—

3 “(A) designed to protect and restore eco-
4 logical integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of
5 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in ef-
6 fect on the date of enactment of this subpara-
7 graph));

8 “(B) based on the best available scientific
9 information; and

10 “(C) conducted in a manner consistent
11 with the forest plan applicable to the National
12 Forest System land on which the watershed
13 protection and restoration project is carried
14 out.”; and

15 (B) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing
17 watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and
18 restoration action plan developed under section
19 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning
20 documents as approved by the Secretary may be
21 used as the basis for a water source management
22 plan under this subsection.”;

23 (5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “primary
24 purpose of” and all that follows through the period
25 at the end and inserting “primary purpose of ad-

1 vancing any of the purposes described in subsection
2 (b)(2).”;

3 (6) in subsection (g), by amending paragraph
4 (2) to read as follows:

5 “(2) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
7 graph (B), the Secretary shall require the con-
8 tribution of funds or in-kind support from non-
9 Federal partners to be in an amount that is not
10 less than 50 percent of the amount of Federal
11 funds.

12 “(B) WAIVER.—The requirement in sub-
13 paragraph (A) may be waived at the discretion
14 of the Secretary.”; and

15 (7) in subsection (g)(4)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
17 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025
18 through 2029”; and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(D) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPA-
21 TION IN PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
22 ANCE.—Of the amounts made available under
23 subparagraph (B) to carry out this section for
24 each fiscal year, the Secretary may not use
25 more than 10 percent for non-Federal partner

1 planning and technical assistance efforts in de-
2 veloping or implementing a water source man-
3 agement plan under subsection (d).”.

4 **SEC. 8205. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECH-**
5 **NICAL CORRECTIONS.**

6 Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
7 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543(a)) is amended in para-
8 graphs (3) and (5) by striking “protection and”.

9 **SEC. 8206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO COM-**
10 **BAT INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED**
11 **DISEASES.**

12 Section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
13 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6556) is amended by striking “Octo-
14 ber 1, 2023” and inserting “October 1, 2029”.

15 **SEC. 8207. INSECT AND DISEASE INFESTATION.**

16 Section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
17 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a(d)(2)) is amended by strik-
18 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

19 **SEC. 8208. STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING**
20 **PROJECTS.**

21 Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
22 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, including
24 retaining and expanding existing forest products in-
25 frastructure” before the period at the end;

1 (2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking “10”
2 and inserting “20”; and

3 (3) in subsection (e)—

4 (A) by striking “OTHER LAWS.—” and all
5 that follows through “Notwithstanding” and in-
6 serting “OTHER LAWS.—Notwithstanding”;
7 and

8 (B) by striking subparagraph (B).

9 **Subtitle C—Other Forestry**
10 **Programs**

11 **SEC. 8301. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CEN-**
12 **TERS.**

13 Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
14 and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law
15 101–624) is amended—

16 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-
17 ing “**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGRO-**
18 **FORESTRY CENTERS**”;

19 (2) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c),
20 and (d) as subsections (b), (d), (e), and (h), respec-
21 tively;

22 (3) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so re-
23 designated) the following:

24 “(a) **DEFINITION OF AGROFORESTRY.**—In this sec-
25 tion, the term ‘agroforestry’ means a management system

1 that intentionally integrates trees and shrubs into crop
2 and animal farming systems to build more profitable and
3 weather-resilient farms, ranches, and communities, ad-
4 dress natural resource concerns and conservation needs,
5 and establish productive and sustainable land use prac-
6 tices, including—

7 “(1) riparian forest buffers;

8 “(2) alley cropping;

9 “(3) silvopasture;

10 “(4) forest farming and multistory cropping;

11 and

12 “(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and,
13 where applicable, field borders, and living snow
14 fences.”;

15 (4) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

16 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
17 “SEMIARID” and inserting “NATIONAL”;

18 (B) by inserting “(referred to in this sec-
19 tion as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Secretary of Ag-
20 riculture”;

21 (C) by striking “Semiarid Agroforestry Re-
22 search, Development, and Demonstration Cen-
23 ter (hereafter referred to in this section as the
24 ‘Center’)” and inserting “National Agroforestry

1 Research, Development, and Demonstration
2 Center”; and

3 (D) by striking “subsection (b)” and in-
4 serting “subsection (d)”;

5 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so re-
6 designated) the following:

7 “(c) REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
9 through the Chief of the Forest Service and in co-
10 operation with the Natural Resources Conservation
11 Service, shall, subject to the availability of appro-
12 priations, establish 1 or more regional agroforestry
13 centers to advance agroforestry research, outreach,
14 technical assistance, and adoption.

15 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting
16 through the Chief of the Forest Service and in co-
17 operation with the Natural Resources Conservation
18 Service, shall appoint a Director to manage and co-
19 ordinate the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers
20 established under paragraph (1).

21 “(3) LOCATION.—In selecting the locations for
22 the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers under
23 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize loca-
24 tions at which the Department of Agriculture has,
25 on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and

1 National Security Act of 2024, at least 1 employee
2 providing coordination among a diverse group of re-
3 search institutions and other partners.

4 “(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Regional agroforestry
5 centers established under paragraph (1) shall be ad-
6 ministered by the National Agroforestry Center.”;

7 (6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph
9 (1)—

10 (i) by striking “the Center” and in-
11 sserting “each of the centers established
12 under subsections (b) and (c) (referred to
13 in this section as the ‘Centers’)”;

14 (ii) by inserting “and organizations”
15 after “nonprofit foundations”; and

16 (iii) by inserting “demonstration
17 projects,” after “studies,”;

18 (B) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands
20 that” and inserting “that build soil health
21 and”; and

22 (ii) by inserting “, including agro-
23 forestry systems on semiarid land and
24 other fragile agroecosystems where perma-
25 nent woody perennial plant communities

1 can enhance carbon sequestration and re-
2 duce greenhouse gas emissions” before the
3 semicolon;

4 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “forestry
5 products for commercial sale from semiarid
6 land” and inserting “agroforestry products for
7 commercial sale”;

8 (D) in paragraph (4)—

9 (i) by striking “in semiarid regions”;
10 and

11 (ii) by striking “the Great Plains re-
12 gion” and inserting “particular regions”;

13 (E) in paragraph (5), by inserting “tech-
14 nical assistance, demonstration projects, and”
15 before “technology”;

16 (F) by redesignating paragraphs (7)
17 through (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12),
18 respectively;

19 (G) by striking paragraph (6) and insert-
20 ing the following:

21 “(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley crop-
22 ping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian
23 buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other peren-
24 nial production and conservation systems and tech-
25 nologies to improve soil health, carbon sequestration,

1 drought preparedness, soil and water conservation,
2 environmental quality, and biological diversity;

3 “(7) address barriers to the adoption of agro-
4 forestry practices, including—

5 “(A) insufficient access to plant material;

6 “(B) insufficient infrastructure to contain
7 equipment and plant material;

8 “(C) insufficient machinery to implement
9 agroforestry practices;

10 “(D) insufficient technical service assist-
11 ance; and

12 “(E) insufficient research related to agro-
13 forestry systems, including silvopasture and
14 alley cropping;”;

15 (H) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated),
16 by striking “on semiarid lands”;

17 (I) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated),
18 by striking “on semiarid lands worldwide” and
19 inserting “worldwide, including on semiarid
20 land”; and

21 (J) in paragraph (10) (as so redesign-
22 ated)—

23 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands”;

24 and

1 (ii) by inserting “and extreme weath-
2 er” after “pollution”;

3 (7) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

4 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)
5 by striking “the Center” and inserting “each of
6 the Centers”;

7 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
8 the end;

9 (C) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) by striking “forestry” and insert-
11 ing “forestry, agroforestry,”; and

12 (ii) by striking the period at the end
13 and inserting “; and”; and

14 (D) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(3) facilitate agroforestry adoption by dissemi-
16 nating comprehensive information on Federal, State,
17 local, and Tribal programs that provide support for
18 agroforestry.”;

19 (8) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so re-
20 designated) the following:

21 “(f) REGIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall pro-
22 vide targeted regional support for agroforestry projects,
23 including demonstration sites.

24 “(g) SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date
25 of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Secu-

1 rity Act of 2024 and every 5 years thereafter, the Sec-
2 retary shall conduct a National Agroforestry Producers
3 Survey.”; and

4 (9) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

5 (A) by striking “There are” and inserting
6 “In addition to amounts otherwise available,
7 there is”; and

8 (B) by striking “\$5,000,000 for each of
9 fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting
10 “\$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
11 through 2029”.

12 **SEC. 8302. NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT.**

13 (a) MATCHING FUNDS.—Section 405(b) of the Na-
14 tional Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j-3(b)) is
15 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

16 (b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—Section 409
17 of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j-
18 7) is amended—

19 (1) by striking “The activities” and inserting
20 the following:

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The activities”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds described in para-
25 graph (2) shall be made available for activities—

1 “(A) on national forests that are approved
2 by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of
3 the Forest Service; and

4 “(B) to—

5 “(i) re-establish white oak forests
6 where appropriate;

7 “(ii) improve management of existing
8 white oak forests to foster natural regen-
9 eration of white oak;

10 “(iii) improve and expand white oak
11 nursery stock; and

12 “(iv) adapt and improve white oak
13 seedlings.

14 “(2) FUND.—The National Forest Foundation
15 may accept gifts, devises, or bequests for the pur-
16 poses of carrying out the activities specified in para-
17 graph (1).

18 “(3) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the
19 date of the enactment of this section, the National
20 Forest Foundation shall include in the budget jus-
21 tification materials submitted to Congress in support
22 of the budget of each such Foundation for each fis-
23 cal year (as submitted with the budget of the Presi-
24 dent under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States
25 Code) a summary of the activities carried out under

1 paragraph (1) and the funds accepted under para-
2 graph (2) that includes—

3 “(A) the amount—

4 “(i) accepted under paragraph (2) in
5 the preceding fiscal year; and

6 “(ii) described in clause (i) that is un-
7 obligated on the date of the report; and

8 “(B) a description of the activities under
9 paragraph (1) funded during the preceding fis-
10 cal year.”.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
12 410(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C.
13 583j-8(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
14 “2029”.

15 **SEC. 8303. CONVEYANCES AND LEASES OF FOREST SERV-**
16 **ICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.**

17 (a) CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRA-
18 TIVE SITES.—Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility
19 Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (16 U.S.C.
20 580d note; Public Law 109–54) is amended by striking
21 “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30,
22 2029”.

23 (b) AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERV-
24 ICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.—Section 8623 of the Agri-

1 culture Improvement Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note;
2 Public Law 115–334) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(D), by striking “dwell-
4 ing;” and inserting “dwelling or multiunit dwell-
5 ing;”;

6 (2) in subsection (e)—

7 (A) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii)—

8 (i) in subclause (I), by inserting “such
9 as housing,” after “improvements,”;

10 (ii) in subclause (II), by striking
11 “and” at the end;

12 (iii) in subclause (III), by striking
13 “or” at the end and inserting “and”; and

14 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(IV) services occurring off the
17 administrative site that—

18 “(aa) occur at another ad-
19 ministrative site on the same or a
20 different unit of the National
21 Forest System in which the ad-
22 ministrative site is located;

23 “(bb) benefit the National
24 Forest System; and

1 “(cc) support activities oc-
2 curring within the unit of the
3 National Forest System in which
4 the administrative site is located;
5 or”; and

6 (B) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(6) LEASE TERM.—The term of a lease of an
8 administrative site under this section shall be not
9 greater than 100 years.”;

10 (3) in subsection (g)—

11 (A) by inserting “(or other party)” after
12 “leaseholder”; and

13 (B) by inserting “or constructed” after
14 “improved”; and

15 (4) in subsection (i), by striking “2023” each
16 place it appears and inserting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 8304. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(e) of the Forest and
19 Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978
20 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1)—

22 (A) by striking “their resources” and in-
23 serting “the resources of those forests, includ-
24 ing forest carbon,”;

1 (B) by striking “In compliance” and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In compliance”; and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(B) ADDITIONAL METHODS.—Under the
6 program under this subsection, the Secretary
7 shall carry out, as a data collection method—

8 “(i) a national timber products output
9 survey; and

10 “(ii) a national woodland owner sur-
11 vey.”;

12 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “including
13 with respect to available forest carbon data,” after
14 “2 decades,”;

15 (3) in paragraph (4)—

16 (A) in the second sentence, by striking
17 “The standards” and inserting the following:

18 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The standards de-
19 scribed in subparagraph (A)”;

20 (B) by striking “(4) NATIONAL STANDARDS
21 AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure” and inserting
22 the following:

23 “(4) NATIONAL CONSISTENCY.—

24 “(A) STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To
25 ensure”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(C) TERMINOLOGY.—The Secretary shall
3 include a clear description of the definition of
4 ‘forest’ used for purposes of reporting data
5 from inventories and analyses of forests and the
6 resources of forests under this subsection
7 with—

8 “(i) any data or report provided under
9 the program under this subsection;

10 “(ii) Renewable Resource Assessments
11 prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest
12 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Plan-
13 ning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)); and

14 “(iii) any data or report provided to
15 an entity outside the United States.”;

16 (4) in paragraph (6)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
18 (A), by striking “Not later than 180 days after
19 the date of enactment of this subsection,” and
20 inserting “In accordance with paragraph (7),”;
21 and

22 (B) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E)
23 and inserting the following:

1 “(D) the organization and procedures nec-
2 essary to understand and report on changes in
3 land cover and use;

4 “(E) the organization and procedures nec-
5 essary to sample and evaluate carbon-related
6 data variables, including soil carbon, collected
7 from forest inventory and analysis plots, timber
8 products output surveys, and national woodland
9 owner surveys to ensure that carbon accounting
10 information needs can be met; and”;

11 (5) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(7) UPDATES TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
14 days after the date of enactment of this para-
15 graph, the Secretary shall prepare an update to
16 the strategic plan under paragraph (6) to in-
17 clude—

18 “(i) a plan to implement nationally
19 consistent data collection protocols and
20 procedures to improve the statistical preci-
21 sion of base program estimates;

22 “(ii) pathways to integrate and report
23 on status and trends in forest carbon
24 pools, including below-ground carbon;

1 “(iii) plans, including the identifica-
2 tion of challenges, to collaborate with other
3 Federal agencies, non-Federal partners,
4 and the private sector to integrate existing
5 nationally available data sets and best
6 available commercial technologies, such as
7 remote sensing, spatial analysis techniques,
8 and other new technologies;

9 “(iv) a plan to increase transparency
10 and clarity in reporting in accordance with
11 paragraph (4)(C);

12 “(v) a plan to expand current data
13 collection, further integrate remote sensing
14 technology, or both, to include procedures
15 to improve the statistical precision of esti-
16 mates at the sub-State level;

17 “(vi) a plan to expand current data
18 collection, further integrate remote sensing
19 technology, or both, to include information
20 on renewable biomass supplies and carbon
21 stocks at the local, State, regional, and na-
22 tional levels, including by ownership type;
23 and

24 “(vii) such other matters as the Sec-
25 retary determines to be appropriate based

1 on recommendations of the Forest Inven-
2 tory and Analysis National User Group.

3 “(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180
4 days after the date of enactment of this para-
5 graph, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
6 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
7 of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
8 culture of the House of Representatives the up-
9 date to the strategic plan prepared under sub-
10 paragraph (A).

11 “(C) FURTHER UPDATES.—Not later than
12 5 years after the date on which the update is
13 submitted under subparagraph (B), and every 5
14 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

15 “(i) prepare an additional update to
16 the strategic plan; and

17 “(ii) submit the additional update to
18 the committees described in subparagraph
19 (B).

20 “(8) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall en-
21 sure that data collected under this subsection is—

22 “(A) easily accessible to all public- and pri-
23 vate-sector entities; and

24 “(B) collected and made accessible using
25 means that ensure the confidentiality, in ac-

1 cordance with section 1770 of the Food Secu-
2 rity Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276), of—

3 “(i) plot locations;

4 “(ii) nonaggregated data of woodland
5 owners; and

6 “(iii) nonaggregated data from timber
7 product output survey.

8 “(9) BIENNIAL COMPILATIONS.—Biennially, the
9 Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available
10 a compilation of national forest inventory and anal-
11 ysis forest statistics, which shall be similar to the ta-
12 bles contained in the Renewable Resource Assess-
13 ments prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest and
14 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of
15 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)), accompanied by relevant
16 geospatial products.

17 “(10) EXTERNAL COMPLEX DATA REQUESTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 establish an office, a data platform, or team to
20 process and respond to complex data requests
21 submitted by external organizations relating to
22 the program under this subsection.

23 “(B) FEES.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—To cover the costs
25 of processing of and responding to complex

1 data requests described in subparagraph
2 (A), the Secretary may impose fees on ex-
3 ternal organizations submitting the re-
4 quests.

5 “(ii) FEES COLLECTED.—Fees col-
6 lected under clause (i) may only be used
7 for the purposes described in such clause.

8 “(11) REPORTS.—Each year, the Secretary
9 shall publish as part of the forest inventory and
10 analysis business report a detailed description of the
11 progress of the Secretary in implementing the pro-
12 grammatic elements of the strategic plan described
13 in paragraph (6), including—

14 “(A) the costs and priorities of the stra-
15 tegic plan; and

16 “(B) how the program under this sub-
17 section leverages new technology, improves and
18 standardizes collection protocols, and increases
19 workforce capacity.”.

20 (b) REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES.—Section
21 8632(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16
22 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by
23 striking “technologies” and inserting “technologies, such
24 as microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution
25 remote sensing data, and advanced computing tech-

1 nologies for improved modeling to provide tabular statis-
2 tical estimates and geospatial products,”.

3 **SEC. 8305. REFORESTATION, NURSERY, AND SEED OR-**
4 **CHARD SUPPORT.**

5 (a) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER
6 ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED OR-
7 CHARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the
8 Forest Service, shall—

9 (1) partner with Federal and State agencies,
10 Indian Tribes, private nurseries, and other relevant
11 entities to provide training, technical assistance, and
12 research to nursery and tree establishment programs
13 that support natural regeneration, reforestation,
14 agroforestry, and afforestation;

15 (2) promote information sharing to improve the
16 technical knowledge, practices, and understanding of
17 the demands, climate change impacts, and other
18 issues necessary to address all facets of the reforest-
19 ation pipeline;

20 (3) provide technical and financial assistance to
21 international nursery and tree establishment pro-
22 grams through—

23 (A) international programs conducted by
24 the Forest Service pursuant to the Inter-

1 national Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990 (16
2 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.);

3 (B) the Institute of Pacific Islands For-
4 estry of the Forest Service; and

5 (C) the International Institute of Tropical
6 Forestry of the Forest Service;

7 (4) collaborate with other relevant Federal de-
8 partments and agencies, including the Foreign Agri-
9 cultural Service of the Department, the United
10 States Agency for International Development, the
11 United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the De-
12 partment of the Interior, and international organiza-
13 tions to provide technical and financial assistance re-
14 lated to nurseries and reforestation;

15 (5) coordinate the efforts of the Department
16 to—

17 (A) address the challenges associated with
18 the reforestation pipeline; and

19 (B) leverage economic development assist-
20 ance for work with private nurseries; and

21 (6) expand science-based reforestation supply
22 chains through research, seed collection and storage,
23 and nursery infrastructure and operations in coordi-
24 nation with the Administrator of the Agricultural
25 Research Service.

1 (b) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD FINANCIAL AS-
2 SISTANCE.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
5 shall establish a program to provide grants to eligi-
6 ble recipients to support nurseries and seed or-
7 chards.

8 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The Secretary may
9 make a grant under this subsection to an eligible re-
10 cipient for a project to carry out at least one of the
11 following:

12 (A) Develop, expand, enhance, or improve
13 nursery production capacity or other infrastruc-
14 ture to—

15 (i) improve seed collection, processing,
16 and storage;

17 (ii) increase seedling production, stor-
18 age, and distribution; or

19 (iii) enhance seedling survival and
20 properly manage tree genetic resources.

21 (B) Establish, improve, or expand a nurs-
22 ery or seed orchard, including by acquiring
23 equipment for such nursery or seed orchard.

24 (C) Develop or implement quality control
25 measures at nurseries or seed orchards.

1 (D) Promote workforce development within
2 any facet of the reforestation pipeline.

3 (E) Carry out such other activity as the
4 Secretary determines appropriate.

5 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
7 recipient” means—

8 (A) a State forestry agency;

9 (B) an Indian Tribe;

10 (C) a private nursery that has experience
11 growing high-quality native trees of appropriate
12 genetic sources in bareroot or container
13 stocktypes specific for reforestation, restoration,
14 or conservation, including native plants and
15 seeds that are of cultural significance to Indian
16 Tribes;

17 (D) an institution of higher education (as
18 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
19 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

20 (E) a county or local government with a
21 nursery or seed orchard.

22 (2) NURSERY.—The term “nursery” means a
23 tree or native plant nursery.

24 (3) SEED ORCHARD.—The term “seed orchard”
25 means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

1 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
2 the several States, the District of Columbia, the
3 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or
4 possession of the United States.

5 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
7 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

8 **Subtitle D—Forest Management**

9 **PART I—NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**

10 **MANAGEMENT**

11 **SEC. 8401. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH PRIORITY**

12 **HAZARD TREES.**

13 (a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
15 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
16 shall develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in
17 section 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regula-
18 tions (or a successor regulation)) for high priority
19 hazard tree activities.

20 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and ad-
21 ministering the categorical exclusion under para-
22 graph (1), the Secretary shall—

23 (A) comply with the National Environ-
24 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
25 seq.); and

1 (B) apply the extraordinary circumstances
2 procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code
3 of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
4 tions), in determining whether to use the cat-
5 egorical exclusion.

6 (b) PROJECT SIZE LIMITATIONS.—A project under
7 this section may not exceed 3,000 acres.

8 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE.—The term
10 “high-priority hazard tree” means a standing tree
11 that—

12 (A) presents a visible hazard to people or
13 Federal property due to conditions such as de-
14 terioration of or damage to the root system,
15 trunk, stem, or limbs of the tree, or the direc-
16 tion or lean of the tree, as determined by the
17 Secretary;

18 (B) is determined by the Secretary to be
19 highly likely to fail and, if it failed, would be
20 highly likely to cause injury to people or dam-
21 age to Federal property; and

22 (C) is within 300 feet of a National Forest
23 System road with a maintenance level of 3, 4,
24 or 5, a National Forest System trail, or a devel-
25 oped recreation site on National Forest System

1 lands that is operated and maintained by the
2 Secretary.

3 (2) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE ACTIVI-
4 TIES.—The term “high priority hazard tree activi-
5 ties”—

6 (A) means forest management activities
7 that mitigate the risks associated with high-pri-
8 ority hazard trees, including pruning, felling,
9 and disposal of those trees; and

10 (B) does not include any activity—

11 (i) conducted in a wilderness area or
12 wilderness study area;

13 (ii) for the construction of a perma-
14 nent road or permanent trail;

15 (iii) conducted on Federal land on
16 which, by Act of Congress or Presidential
17 proclamation, the removal of vegetation is
18 restricted or prohibited;

19 (iv) that would be inconsistent with
20 the applicable land and resource manage-
21 ment plan; or

22 (v) conducted in an inventoried
23 roadless area.

1 **SEC. 8402. COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION PROJECTS.**

2 Section 603(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
3 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)(1)) is amended by strik-
4 ing “3000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.

5 **SEC. 8403. WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECT SIZE.**

6 Section 605(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
7 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)(1)) is amended by strik-
8 ing “3000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.

9 **SEC. 8404. FUEL BREAKS IN FORESTS AND OTHER**
10 **WILDLAND VEGETATION.**

11 Section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment
12 and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592b(d)(1)) is amended by
13 striking “3,000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.

14 **SEC. 8405. GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE DEER HABI-**
15 **TAT.**

16 Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
17 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—

19 (A) by striking clause (ii);

20 (B) by redesignating clauses (iii) through
21 (vii) as clauses (ii) through (vi), respectively;
22 and

23 (C) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by
24 striking “in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem”;

1 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “concurrently
2 for both greater sage-grouse and” and inserting “for
3 greater sage-grouse or”;

4 (3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(g) LIMITATION.—A covered vegetation manage-
7 ment activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion
8 under subsection (b) may not exceed 4,500 acres in a for-
9 ested ecosystem or 7,500 acres in a rangeland eco-
10 system.”.

11 **PART II—FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

12 **SEC. 8411. NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED.**

13 (a) FOREST SERVICE PLANS.—Section 6(d)(2) of the
14 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
15 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 “(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION RE-
18 QUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not-
19 withstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-
20 retary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation
21 under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act
22 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of
23 title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor
24 regulation), on an approved land management plan
25 prepared, amended, or revised under this section

1 when, after the date of such approval, amendment,
2 or revision—

3 “(A) a species is listed as a threatened or
4 endangered species under section 4 of the En-
5 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
6 1533);

7 “(B) a critical habitat for a threatened or
8 endangered species is designated under that
9 section; or

10 “(C) new information concerning a threat-
11 ened or endangered species or critical habitat
12 for such a species becomes available.”.

13 (b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Sec-
14 tion 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act
15 of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the
16 end the following:

17 “(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED
18 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding
19 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-
20 quired to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of
21 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
22 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal
23 Regulations (or a successor regulation), on an approved
24 land management plan prepared, amended, or revised

1 under this section when, after the date of such approval,
2 amendment, or revision—

3 “(1) a species is listed as a threatened or en-
4 dangered species under section 4 of the Endangered
5 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533);

6 “(2) a critical habitat for a threatened or en-
7 dangered species is designated under that section; or

8 “(3) new information concerning a threatened
9 or endangered species or critical habitat for such a
10 species becomes available.”.

11 **SEC. 8412. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.**

12 (a) TREATING TRIBES AND COUNTIES AS GOOD
13 NEIGHBORS.—Section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of
14 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “or Indian
16 tribe”;

17 (2) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,
19 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”;

20 (B) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking clause
21 (i) and inserting the following:

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received
23 from the sale of timber by a Governor, an
24 Indian tribe, or a county under a good
25 neighbor agreement shall be retained and

1 used by the Governor, Indian tribe, or
2 county, as applicable—

3 “(I) to carry out authorized res-
4 toration services under the good
5 neighbor agreement; and

6 “(II) if there are funds remain-
7 ing after carrying out subclause (I),
8 to carry out authorized restoration
9 services under other good neighbor
10 agreements.”;

11 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-
12 dian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

13 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)
15 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is
16 amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian
18 tribe,” after “Governor”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian
20 tribe,” after “Governor”.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a
23 good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a)
24 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

1 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if
2 the project was initiated after the date of enactment
3 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public
4 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or
5 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this
6 Act.

7 **SEC. 8413. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**
8 **TION PROGRAM.**

9 Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-
10 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “or
13 pathogens” after “species”;

14 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking
15 “and” at the end;

16 (C) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”
17 after the semicolon at the end; and

18 (D) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(I) address standardized monitoring ques-
20 tions and indicators;”;

21 (2) in subsection (d)—

22 (A) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking
24 “and” at the end;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
2 the period at the end and inserting “;
3 and”; and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative
7 implementation mechanisms, including con-
8 servation finance agreements, good neighbor
9 agreements entered into under section 8206 of
10 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.
11 2113a), and similar implementation mecha-
12 nisms; and

13 “(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk
14 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecologi-
15 cal restoration activities—

16 “(i) within areas across land owner-
17 ships, including State, Tribal, and private
18 land; and

19 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-
20 face; and

21 “(I) proposals that seek to enhance water-
22 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (3)—

24 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to
25 read as follows:

1 “(A) 4 proposals in any 1 region of the
2 National Forest System to be funded during
3 any fiscal year; and”;

4 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

5 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph

6 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

7 (3) in subsection (f)(6), by striking “2019
8 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

9 **SEC. 8414. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**
10 **PLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term
13 “appropriate committees” means—

14 (A) the Committees on Agriculture, Nat-
15 ural Resources, and Science, Space, and Tech-
16 nology of the House of Representatives; and

17 (B) the Committees on Agriculture, Nutri-
18 tion, and Forestry, Energy and Natural Re-
19 sources, and Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
20 tation of the Senate.

21 (2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
22 agency” means—

23 (A) the National Park Service;

24 (B) the United States Fish and Wildlife
25 Service;

- 1 (C) the Bureau of Land Management;
2 (D) the Bureau of Reclamation;
3 (E) the Forest Service;
4 (F) the Department of Defense;
5 (G) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
6 Administration;
7 (H) the United States Fire Administra-
8 tion;
9 (I) the Federal Emergency Management
10 Agency;
11 (J) the National Aeronautics and Space
12 Administration;
13 (K) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and
14 (L) any other Federal agency involved in
15 wildfire response.

16 (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
17 tity” means—

- 18 (A) a private entity;
19 (B) a nonprofit organization; or
20 (C) an institution of higher education (as
21 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
22 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

23 (4) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
24 means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
25 retary of the Interior, acting jointly.

1 (5) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “Pilot Pro-
2 gram” means the deployment and testbed pilot pro-
3 gram developed under subsection (b).

4 (b) DEPLOYMENT AND TESTBED PILOT PROGRAM
5 ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of
6 the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination
7 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish a
8 deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innova-
9 tive wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and
10 mitigation technologies.

11 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,
12 the Secretaries shall—

13 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into an exist-
14 ing interagency coordinating group on wildfires;

15 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered
16 agencies, identify key technology priority areas with
17 respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, de-
18 tection, communication, and mitigation technologies,
19 including—

20 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments
21 or activities;

22 (B) dispatch communications;

23 (C) remote sensing and tracking;

24 (D) safety equipment; and

1 (E) common operating pictures or oper-
2 ational dashboards; and

3 (3) partner with each covered entity selected to
4 participate in the Pilot Program with the appro-
5 priate covered agency to coordinate real-time and
6 on-the-ground testing of technology during wildland
7 fire mitigation activities and training.

8 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To participate in the Pilot Pro-
9 gram, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretaries an
10 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
11 such information as the Secretaries may require, which
12 shall include a proposal to test technologies specific to key
13 technology priority areas identified under subsection
14 (c)(2).

15 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-
16 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in
17 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to
18 covered entities developing and applying emerging tech-
19 nologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries,
20 including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, com-
21 puting and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented re-
22 ality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device com-
23 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wild-
24 fire mitigation.

1 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination
2 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly
3 available the key technology priority areas identified under
4 subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply to
5 test and demonstrate their technologies to address those
6 priority areas.

7 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
8 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
9 and each year thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Pro-
10 gram, the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate com-
11 mittees a report that includes the following with respect
12 to the Pilot Program:

13 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

14 (2) A brief description of the technologies test-
15 ed by such covered entities.

16 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the
17 technology tested in the program and applying it at
18 scale.

19 (4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to cov-
20 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.

21 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
22 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and
23 application at-scale in Federal land management
24 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-
25 tion, and mitigation efforts.

1 (h) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall expire
2 on September 30, 2029.

3 **SEC. 8415. FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN EXPERI-**
4 **ENCED SERVICES PROGRAM.**

5 Section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
6 U.S.C. 3851a) is amended—

7 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**ACES**”
8 and inserting “**EXPERIENCED SERVICES**”;

9 (2) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”;

11 (B) by striking “Agriculture Conserva-
12 tion”; and

13 (C) by inserting “, professional, or admin-
14 istrative” after “technical”; and

15 (3) by striking subsection (b).

16 **SEC. 8416. TIMBER SALES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**
17 **LAND.**

18 Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act
19 of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (d) by striking “\$10,000” and
21 inserting “\$50,000”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(j) In the event of extreme risks to a unit of Na-
24 tional Forest System land, including catastrophic wildfire,
25 insect and disease outbreak, wind, hurricane, flood,

1 drought, or to avoid impacts from such extreme events,
2 the Secretary may, without an appraisal and under such
3 rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary, dispose
4 of by sale or otherwise, portions of trees, or forest prod-
5 ucts located on such unit of National Forest System
6 lands.”.

7 **SEC. 8417. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRICAL**
8 **UTILITIES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or ease-
10 ment on National Forest System lands provided to an elec-
11 tric utility company (as defined in section 1262 of the En-
12 ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16451)) the Secretary
13 may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other
14 vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or
15 transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that in-
16 creases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale
17 if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applica-
18 ble land management plan.

19 (b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or
20 easement that includes permission for the cutting and re-
21 moval of trees or other vegetation described in subsection
22 (a), shall include a requirement that, if the applicable elec-
23 trical utility sells any portion of the material removed
24 under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall
25 provide to the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the

1 Forest Service, any proceeds received from the sale, less
2 any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

3 (c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion shall be construed to require the sale of any material
5 removed under a special use permit or easement that in-
6 cludes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or
7 other vegetation described in subsection (a).

8 **SEC. 8418. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS**
9 **FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE.**

10 (a) **AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS AND**
11 **CONTRACTS FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE.**—

12 (1) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary, the Sec-
13 retary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense
14 may each enter into a cooperative agreement or con-
15 tract with an eligible entity, for a period of less than
16 or equal to 10 years, that authorizes the eligible en-
17 tity to coordinate, plan, or conduct a prescribed fire
18 on Federal land or to conduct a prescribed fire
19 training event.

20 (2) **SUBCONTRACTS.**—A State, Indian Tribe, or
21 county that enters into a cooperative agreement or
22 contract under paragraph (1) may enter into a sub-
23 contract, in accordance with applicable contracting
24 procedures of the State, Indian Tribe, or county, to
25 conduct a prescribed fire on Federal land or to con-

1 duct a prescribed fire training event pursuant to
2 that cooperative agreement or contract.

3 (3) APPLICABLE LAW.—A prescribed fire con-
4 ducted under this subsection shall be carried out on
5 a project-by-project basis under existing authorities
6 of the applicable Federal agency responsible for the
7 management of the Federal land.

8 (4) PRESERVATION OF DECISION AUTHORITY.—
9 An eligible entity may not carry out a project au-
10 thorized under this subsection pursuant to a cooper-
11 ative agreement or contract without the prior writ-
12 ten approval of each Secretary that entered in to
13 such cooperative agreement or contract.

14 (5) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this
15 subsection, the term “eligible entity” means a State,
16 Indian Tribe, county or local government, Depart-
17 ment of Defense military installation (as defined in
18 section 2801(c) of title 10, United States Code), fire
19 district, nongovernmental organization, or private
20 entity.

21 (b) TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION ACT OF 2004
22 AMENDMENTS.—The Tribal Forest Protection Act of
23 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a et seq.) is amended by adding at
24 the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 3. TRIBAL PRESCRIBED BURN DEMONSTRATION**
2 **PROJECT.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a
4 contract or agreement with an Indian tribe under this Act
5 that provides for prescribed burns on Federal land under
6 the additional authorities provided in this section.

7 “(b) SCOPE OF CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT.—Con-
8 tracts or agreements entered into under this section may,
9 notwithstanding any other provision of law—

10 “(1) utilize burn plans that, once approved by
11 the Secretary, allow multiple prescribed burns to be
12 conducted in accordance with the burn plan to elimi-
13 nate the need for individual burn plans for each pre-
14 scribed burn and enable forest managers to have the
15 flexibility to conduct prescribed burns when condi-
16 tions allow; and

17 “(2) include terms that—

18 “(A) authorize the Secretary to delegate
19 their authority to an Indian tribe to plan, co-
20 ordinate, and execute prescribed burns on the
21 behalf of the Secretary within the scope of the
22 burn plan including, but not limited to, apply-
23 ing the National Wildfire Coordinating Group
24 standards for Prescribed Fire Planning and Im-
25 plementation, to the extent authorized by Fed-
26 eral law;

1 “(B) any applicable Federal standard that
2 requires a certain number of personnel to be
3 on-hand during prescribed burns may be satis-
4 fied by regional Federal, State, or tribal re-
5 sources and personnel; and

6 “(C) where appropriate, the Secretary shall
7 work with other Federal agencies and Tribal,
8 State, and local governments to coordinate and
9 communicate the shared objectives of the pre-
10 scribed burn and ensure activities comply with
11 applicable law and regulations.”.

12 (c) COOPERATIVE FUNDS AND DEPOSITS ACT
13 AMENDMENTS.—Public Law 94–148 is amended—

14 (1) in section 1 (16 U.S.C. 565a–1), by insert-
15 ing “prescribed fire and prescribed fire training
16 events,” after “including fire protection,”; and

17 (2) in section 2 (16 U.S.C. 565a–2), by insert-
18 ing “, section 3 of the Tribal Forest Protection Act
19 of 2004, or section 8418(a) of the Farm, Food, and
20 National Security Act of 2024” after “authorized by
21 section 1”.

22 **SEC. 8419. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK RE-**
23 **DUCTION.**

24 The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest
25 Service, in coordination with holders of permits to graze

1 livestock on Federal land, shall develop a strategy to in-
2 crease opportunities to utilize livestock grazing and associ-
3 ated rangeland improvements as a wildfire risk reduction
4 strategy, including—

5 (1) completing the reviews required under the
6 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
7 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to allow permitted grazing on
8 vacant grazing allotments during instances of
9 drought, wildfire, or other natural disasters that dis-
10 rupt grazing on allotments already permitted;

11 (2) using targeted grazing;

12 (3) increasing the use of all instruments appli-
13 cable to grazing, including temporary permits, to
14 promote targeted grazing to reduce fuels and
15 invasive annual grasses; and

16 (4) increasing the use of grazing as a postfire
17 recovery and restoration strategy, where appropriate.

18 **SEC. 8420. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**
19 **NERSHIP PROGRAM.**

20 Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and
21 Jobs Act is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (g)(2), by inserting “and at
23 least once every 2 fiscal years thereafter” after “and
24 2023”; and

1 (2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and
2 2023” and inserting “through 2029”.

3 **SEC. 8421. TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TECH-**
4 **NICAL CORRECTION.**

5 Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
6 2018 is amended—

7 (1) in the heading, by striking “**DEMONSTRA-**
8 **TION PROJECT**” and inserting “**PROGRAM**”; and

9 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “demonstra-
10 tion projects by” and inserting “a program under”.

11 **PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION**

12 **SEC. 8431. COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES PROGRAM.**

13 Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
14 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended—

15 (1) in the heading, by striking “**COMMUNITY**
16 **WOOD ENERGY AND WOOD INNOVATION PRO-**
17 **GRAM**” and inserting “**COMMUNITY WOOD FA-**
18 **CILITIES PROGRAM**”;

19 (2) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(iii), in the matter
21 preceding subclause (I) by striking “woody bio-
22 mass, including residuals” and inserting “pri-
23 marily forest biomass, including processing or
24 manufacturing residuals”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Com-
2 munity Wood Energy and Wood Innovation
3 Program” and inserting “Community Wood Fa-
4 cilities Program”;

5 (3) in subsection (b), by striking “to be known
6 as” and all that follows through the period at the
7 end and inserting “to be known as the ‘Community
8 Wood Facilities Program’.”;

9 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “exceed—” in
10 the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that fol-
11 lows through the period at the end of paragraph (2)
12 and inserting “exceed \$5,000,000.”;

13 (5) in subsection (e)—

14 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

15 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
16 through (8) as (1) through (7), respectively;
17 and

18 (C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated,
19 by inserting “or market competitiveness” after
20 “cost effectiveness”;

21 (6) in subsection (f)—

22 (A) by striking paragraph (2);

23 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
24 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

1 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,
2 by striking “use or retrofitting (or both) of ex-
3 isting sawmill” and inserting “construction, use
4 or retrofitting of forest products manufac-
5 turing”;

6 (7) in subsection (g)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5
8 megawatts of thermal energy or combined ther-
9 mal and electric energy” and inserting “15
10 megawatts of thermal energy or combined ther-
11 mal and electric energy”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “25 per-
13 cent” and inserting “50 percent”; and

14 (8) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
15 inserting “2029”.

16 **SEC. 8432. WOOD INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

17 (a) APPLICATION TO TRANSPORTATION COSTS.—
18 Section 8643(b)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act
19 of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(b)(1)) is amended by inserting
20 “, including the construction of new facilities that advance
21 the purposes of the program and for the hauling of mate-
22 rial removed to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where
23 that material can be utilized” before the period at the end.

24 (b) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
25 MENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT AS-

1 SESSMENT.—Section 8643(c) of the Agriculture Improve-
2 ment Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(c)) is amended to read
3 as follows:

4 “(c) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
5 MENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT AS-
6 SESSMENT.—In selecting among proposals of eligible enti-
7 ties under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may give pri-
8 ority to proposals for projects that—

9 “(1) include the use or retrofitting (or both) of
10 existing sawmill facilities located in counties in
11 which the average annual unemployment rate ex-
12 ceeded the national average unemployment rate by
13 more than 1 percent in the previous calendar year;

14 “(2) recognize or enhance carbon reduction
15 strategies in building design and interior wood prod-
16 ucts, including forest impacts, which can be im-
17 proved or by North American manufacturing; or

18 “(3) includes in the proposal of the entity an
19 analysis of the benefits that forest management
20 under the proposal will have on the resilience and
21 economy of the community, including benefits associ-
22 ated with—

23 “(A) wood products from anticipated wood
24 supply areas;

25 “(B) wildfire risk reduction;

1 “(C) increased fiber flow;
2 “(D) the increase of forest or mill jobs;
3 and
4 “(E) support for forested communities.”.

5 (c) **MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—Section 8643(d) of
6 the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C.
7 7655d(d)) is amended by inserting “50 percent of” before
8 “the amount”.

9 **SEC. 8433. FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS DATA TRACKER.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
12 through the Chief of the Forest Service, in collaboration
13 with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation
14 Service and in consultation with federally-recognized In-
15 dian Tribes, State foresters, and private sector partners,
16 shall establish a publicly available platform to provide
17 measurement, monitoring, verification, and reporting data
18 regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage,
19 and related atmospheric impacts of forest management
20 and wood products.

21 (b) **ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the
22 Secretary shall source data, information, and data anal-
23 ysis from Department programs and interagency pro-
24 grams, including—

1 (1) the Forest Inventory and Analysis program,
2 including the Timber Products Output survey;

3 (2) Forest Service and Natural Resources Con-
4 servation Service soil carbon estimations;

5 (3) the Forest Products Laboratory;

6 (4) the Federal Life Cycle Assessment Com-
7 mons;

8 (5) Department entity level guidelines; and

9 (6) other relevant programmatic data and infor-
10 mation sources, as published and made available.

11 (c) PRIORITIES.—The platform established by sub-
12 section (a) shall provide tools that calculate—

13 (1) the above- and below-ground forest carbon
14 stocks and stock changes associated with species
15 composition, forest management regime, and land-
16 owner types (including small area estimations for re-
17 gional and localized geographies across the United
18 States) made available through Forest Inventory and
19 Analysis updates and annual reports;

20 (2) the embodied carbon involved in the manu-
21 facture of products, using data from published envi-
22 ronmental product declarations and life cycle assess-
23 ments, updated as new and more refined data be-
24 comes available;

1 (3) the long-term stored carbon in manufac-
2 tured timber products; and

3 (4) the carbon displacement of wood products,
4 compared to other materials, using substitution fac-
5 tors.

6 (d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
7 tion may be construed to provide authority with respect
8 to the generation, consumption, or trading of carbon or
9 environmental credits from National Forest System lands
10 in any voluntary or compliance environmental markets.

11 **SEC. 8434. BIOCHAR APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION**
12 **PROJECT.**

13 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

14 (1) **BIOCHAR.**—The term “biochar” means car-
15 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock
16 through reductive thermal processing with limited
17 oxygen for non-fuel uses.

18 (2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-
19 ty” means—

20 (A) an individual;

21 (B) a public or private entity; or

22 (C) a State, local, or Tribal government.

23 (3) **FEEDSTOCK.**—The term “feedstock” means
24 excess woody and agricultural biomass in the form

1 of plant matter or materials that serves as the raw
2 material for the production of biochar.

3 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the For-
5 est Service.

6 (b) BIOCHAR APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION
7 PROJECTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
9 the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
10 retary shall conduct performance-driven research
11 and development, education, technical assistance,
12 outreach, and demonstration projects for the pur-
13 pose of facilitating the use of biochar, developing ad-
14 ditional biochar applications, and commercializing
15 biochar in accordance with this subsection.

16 (2) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION
17 PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum
18 extent practicable, establish a biochar application
19 demonstration project in each Forest Service region.

20 (3) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out paragraph
21 (1), the Secretary shall—

22 (A) conduct research and development,
23 education, technical assistance, outreach, and
24 demonstration projects—

1 (i) in close coordination with the For-
2 est Products Lab after receipt of input
3 from the forest products industry, con-
4 servation organizations, and institutions of
5 higher education; and

6 (ii) that meets measurable perform-
7 ance goals for the achievement of the pri-
8 orities described in paragraph (4); and

9 (B) enter into partnerships and provide fi-
10 nancial and technical assistance to carry out
11 demonstration projects with eligible entities
12 that —

13 (i) acquire and test various feedstocks
14 and their efficacy;

15 (ii) develop and optimize commercially
16 and technologically viable biochar produc-
17 tion units, including mobile and permanent
18 units;

19 (iii) demonstrate the production of
20 biochar from forest residues and the use of
21 biochar to restore forest health and resil-
22 iency;

23 (iv) build, expand, or establish biochar
24 facilities;

1 (v) conduct research on new and inno-
2 vative uses of biochar or demonstrate cost-
3 effective market opportunities for biochar
4 and biochar-based products;

5 (vi) carry out any activities the Sec-
6 retary determines appropriate that meet
7 the measurable performance goals for the
8 achievement of priorities described in para-
9 graph (4).

10 (4) PRIORITIES.—The research and develop-
11 ment, education, technical assistance, outreach, and
12 demonstration projects conducted under paragraph
13 (1) shall give priority to—

14 (A) projects to improve the commercializa-
15 tion of biochar and create the greatest potential
16 for long-term market growth;

17 (B) projects that create new jobs and con-
18 tribute to local economies, particularly in rural
19 areas;

20 (C) projects demonstrating—

21 (i) new and innovative applications of
22 biochar;

23 (ii) viable markets for cost-effective
24 biochar-based products;

1 (iii) economic viability of production
2 and markets;

3 (iv) the ecosystem services of biochar;

4 (v) the benefits of biochar to restore
5 forest health and resiliency, including for
6 forest soils and watersheds;

7 (vi) have the most carbon sequestra-
8 tion potential; or

9 (vii) any combination of purposes
10 specified in clauses (i) through (vi); or

11 (D) projects located in local markets that
12 have the greatest need for the biochar produc-
13 tion units—

14 (i) near forestlands identified as hav-
15 ing high or very high or extreme risk of
16 wildfire, forestlands experiencing signifi-
17 cant die off due to insects and diseases,
18 forestlands impacted by extreme weather
19 events, or forestlands needing soil or water
20 quality remediation;

21 (ii) near sufficient quantities of feed-
22 stocks; or

23 (iii) where a high level of demand for
24 biochar or other commercial byproducts of
25 biochar exists.

1 (c) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the maximum
2 extent practicable, a biochar application demonstration
3 project under this subsection shall derive such feedstock
4 from forest thinning and management activities conducted
5 for science-based restoration on National Forest System
6 lands, and other Federal, State, Tribal, and private
7 forestlands, including mill residuals.

8 (d) TIMEFRAME.—To the maximum extent prac-
9 ticable, the measurable performance goals for the research
10 and development, education, technical assistance, and
11 demonstration projects conducted under subsection (a)
12 shall be achievable within a 5-year timeframe.

13 (e) FUNDING.—

14 (1) LIMITATION.—In the case of an eligible en-
15 tity that enters into a partnership to carry out a
16 demonstration project under this section and seeks
17 to establish a biochar facility under such demonstra-
18 tion project, the Secretary may not provide funding
19 to such eligible entity in an amount greater than 35
20 percent of the capital cost of establishing such
21 biochar facility.

22 (2) FUNDING SOURCE.—Funds made available
23 to carry out the wood innovation grant program
24 under section 8643 of the Agriculture Improvement

1 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d) may also be used to
2 carry out this section.

3 **Subtitle E—Save Our Sequoias**

4 **SEC. 8501. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This subtitle may be cited as the “Save Our Sequoias
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 8502. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this subtitle:

9 (1) **ASSESSMENT.**—The term “Assessment”
10 means the Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency As-
11 sessment required by section 8505.

12 (2) **COALITION.**—The term “Coalition” means
13 the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition codified under
14 section 8504(a).

15 (3) **COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.**—The term “col-
16 laborative process” means a process relating to the
17 management of covered National Forest system
18 lands or covered public lands by which a project or
19 forest management activity is developed and imple-
20 mented by the Secretary concerned through collabo-
21 ration with multiple interested persons representing
22 diverse interests.

23 (4) **COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**
24 **LANDS.**—The term “covered National Forest System
25 lands” means the proclaimed National Forest Sys-

1 tem lands reserved or withdrawn from the public do-
2 main of the United States covering the Sequoia Na-
3 tional Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
4 ment, Sierra National Forest, and Tahoe National
5 Forest.

6 (5) COVERED PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “cov-
7 ered public lands” means—

8 (A) the Case Mountain Extensive Recre-
9 ation Management Area in California managed
10 by the Bureau of Land Management; and

11 (B) Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia
12 National Park, and Yosemite National Park in
13 California managed by the National Park Serv-
14 ice.

15 (6) GIANT SEQUOIA.—The term “giant se-
16 quoia” means a tree of the species *Sequoiadendron*
17 *giganteum*.

18 (7) GROVE-SPECIFIC HAZARDOUS FUELS RE-
19 DUCTION PLAN.—The term “grove-specific haz-
20 ardous fuels reduction plan” means a plan developed
21 by the applicable land management agency prior to
22 conducting an analysis under the National Environ-
23 mental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to ad-
24 dress hazardous fuels in 1 or more giant sequoia
25 groves.

1 (8) PROTECTION PROJECT.—The term “Protec-
2 tion Project” means a Giant Sequoia Protection
3 Project carried out under section 8506.

4 (9) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-
5 ation” means the act of renewing tree cover, taking
6 into consideration species composition and resilience,
7 by establishing young trees through natural regen-
8 eration, artificial or natural regeneration with site
9 preparation, planting or direct seeding, or vegetation
10 competition control following artificial or natural re-
11 generation.

12 (10) REHABILITATION.—The term “rehabilita-
13 tion” means any action taken during the 5-year pe-
14 riod beginning on the last day of a wildland fire to
15 repair or improve fire-impacted lands which are un-
16 likely to recover to management-approved conditions.

17 (11) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
18 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-
19 tees” means—

20 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources,
21 Agriculture, and Appropriations of the House of
22 Representatives; and

23 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-
24 ural Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and
25 Forestry, and Appropriations of the Senate.

1 (12) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-
2 sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-
3 ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the
4 authority to make and implement a decision on a
5 proposed action.

6 (13) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
7 means the Secretary of the Interior.

8 (14) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
9 “Secretary concerned” means—

10 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
11 spect to covered National Forest System lands,
12 or their designee; and

13 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
14 spect to covered public lands, or their designee.

15 (15) STRATEGY.—The term “Strategy” means
16 the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation
17 Strategy established under section 8507.

18 (16) STRIKE TEAM.—The term “Strike Team”
19 means a Giant Sequoia Strike Team established
20 under section 8508.

21 (17) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the
22 Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reserva-
23 tion, California.

1 **SEC. 8503. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT**
2 **SEQUOIAS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after re-
4 ceiving a request from the Governor of the State of Cali-
5 fornia or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into or ex-
6 pand an existing shared stewardship agreement or enter
7 into a similar agreement with the Secretary, the Governor
8 of the State of California, and the Tribe to jointly carry
9 out the short-term and long-term management and con-
10 servation of giant sequoias.

11 (b) PARTICIPATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not re-
13 ceived a request from the Governor of the State of
14 California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before
15 the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment
16 of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agree-
17 ment under subsection (a) and jointly implement
18 such agreement with the Secretary.

19 (2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary
20 receives a request from the Governor of the State of
21 California or the Tribe any time after entering into
22 the agreement with the Secretary under paragraph
23 (1), the Secretary shall accept the Governor of the
24 State of California or the Tribe as a party to such
25 agreement.

1 **SEC. 8504. GIANT SEQUOIA LANDS COALITION.**

2 (a) CODIFICATION.—The Coalition is the entity es-
3 tablished under the charter titled “Giant Sequoia Lands
4 Coalition Charter” (or successor charter) signed during
5 the period beginning June 2, 2022 and ending August 2,
6 2022 by each of the following:

7 (1) The National Park Service, representing Se-
8 quoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

9 (2) The National Park Service, representing
10 Yosemite National Park.

11 (3) The Forest Service, representing Sequoia
12 National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
13 ment.

14 (4) The Forest Service, representing Sierra Na-
15 tional Forest.

16 (5) The Forest Service, representing Tahoe Na-
17 tional Forest.

18 (6) The Bureau of Land Management, rep-
19 resenting Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Man-
20 agement Area.

21 (7) The Tribe, representing the Tule River In-
22 dian Reservation.

23 (8) The State of California, representing
24 Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

25 (9) The State of California, representing Moun-
26 tain Home Demonstration State Forest.

1 (10) The University of California, Berkeley,
2 representing Whitaker’s Research Forest.

3 (11) The County of Tulare, California, rep-
4 resenting Balch Park.

5 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in
6 the charter referenced in subsection (a), the Coalition
7 shall—

8 (1) produce the Assessment under section 8505;

9 (2) observe implementation, and provide policy
10 recommendations to the Secretary concerned, with
11 respect to—

12 (A) Protection Projects carried out under
13 section 8506; and

14 (B) the Strategy established under section
15 8507;

16 (3) facilitate collaboration and coordination on
17 Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross
18 jurisdictional boundaries;

19 (4) facilitate information sharing, including best
20 available science as described in section 8505(c) and
21 mapping resources; and

22 (5) support the development and dissemination
23 of educational materials and programs that inform
24 the public about the threats to the health and resil-
25 iency of giant sequoia groves and actions being

1 taken to reduce the risk to such groves from high-
2 severity wildfire, insects, and drought.

3 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
4 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall make
5 personnel of the Department of the Interior available to
6 the Coalition for administrative support, technical serv-
7 ices, development and dissemination of educational mate-
8 rials, and staff support that the Secretary determines nec-
9 essary to carry out this section.

10 **SEC. 8505. GIANT SEQUOIA HEALTH AND RESILIENCY AS-**
11 **SESSMENT.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Coalition shall sub-
14 mit to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Se-
15 quoa Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on
16 the best available science—

17 (1) identifies—

18 (A) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
19 perience a—

20 (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

21 (ii) disturbance but continues to have
22 living giant sequoias within the grove, in-
23 cluding identifying the tree mortality and
24 regeneration of giant sequoias within such
25 grove;

1 (B) each giant sequoia grove that is at
2 high risk of experiencing a stand-replacing dis-
3 turbance;

4 (C) lands located near giant sequoia groves
5 that are at risk of experiencing high-severity
6 wildfires that could adversely impact such giant
7 sequoia groves; and

8 (D) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
9 perienceed a disturbance and is unlikely to natu-
10 rally regenerate and is in need of reforestation;

11 (2) analyzes the resiliency of each giant sequoia
12 grove to threats, such as—

13 (A) high-severity wildfire;

14 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

15 (C) drought;

16 (3) with respect to Protection Projects, pro-
17 poses a list of highest priority Protection Projects to
18 be carried out under section 8506, giving priority to
19 projects located on lands identified under subpara-
20 graphs (B) and (C) of subsection (a)(1);

21 (4) examines how historical, Tribal, or current
22 approaches to wildland fire suppression and forest
23 management activities across various jurisdictions
24 have impacted the health and resiliency of giant se-
25 quoya groves with respect to—

1 (A) high-severity wildfires;

2 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

3 (C) drought; and

4 (5) includes program and policy recommenda-
5 tions that address—

6 (A) Federal and State policies that impede
7 activities to improve the health and resiliency of
8 giant sequoias and proposed policy changes to
9 address such impediments;

10 (B) new Federal and State policies nec-
11 essary to increase the pace and scale of treat-
12 ments that improve the health and resiliency of
13 giant sequoias;

14 (C) options to enhance communication, co-
15 ordination, and collaboration, particularly for
16 cross-boundary projects, to improve the health
17 and resiliency of giant sequoias; and

18 (D) research gaps that should be ad-
19 dressed to improve the best available science on
20 the giant sequoias.

21 (b) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the submission of the Assessment under subsection (a),
23 and annually thereafter, the Coalition shall submit an up-
24 dated Assessment to the relevant Congressional Commit-
25 tees that—

1 (1) includes any new data, information, or best
2 available science that has changed or become avail-
3 able since the previous Assessment was submitted;

4 (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

5 (A) includes information on the number of
6 Protection Projects initiated the previous year
7 and the estimated timeline for completing those
8 projects;

9 (B) includes information on the number of
10 Protection Projects planned in the upcoming
11 year and the estimated timeline for completing
12 those projects;

13 (C) provides status updates and long-term
14 monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves
15 after the completion of Protection Projects;

16 (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to re-
17 duce hazardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia
18 groves in the previous year, a written expla-
19 nation that includes—

20 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-
21 pediments resulted in failing to reduce haz-
22 ardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia
23 groves;

24 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-
25 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to

1 ensure that hazardous fuels are reduced in
2 at least 3 giant sequoia groves the fol-
3 lowing year; and

4 (iii) recommendations to Congress on
5 any policies that need to be changed to as-
6 sist the Secretary concerned in reducing
7 hazardous fuels in giant sequoia groves;
8 and

9 (3) with respect to reforestation and rehabilita-
10 tion of giant sequoias—

11 (A) contains updates on the implementa-
12 tion of the Strategy under section 8507, includ-
13 ing grove-level data on reforestation and reha-
14 bilitation activities; and

15 (B) provides status updates and moni-
16 toring reports on giant sequoia groves that have
17 experienced natural or artificial regeneration as
18 part of the Strategy under section 8507.

19 (c) DASHBOARD.—

20 (1) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—The Coali-
21 tion shall create and maintain a website that—

22 (A) publishes the Assessment, annual up-
23 dates to the Assessment, and other educational
24 materials developed by the Coalition;

1 (B) contains searchable information about
2 individual giant sequoia groves, including the—

3 (i) resiliency of such groves to threats
4 described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
5 subsection (a);

6 (ii) Protection Projects that have been
7 proposed, initiated, or completed in such
8 groves; and

9 (iii) reforestation and rehabilitation
10 activities that have been proposed, initi-
11 ated, or completed in such groves; and

12 (C) maintains a searchable database to
13 track—

14 (i) the status of Federal environ-
15 mental reviews and authorizations for spe-
16 cific Protection Projects and reforestation
17 and rehabilitation activities; and

18 (ii) the projected cost of Protection
19 Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-
20 tion activities.

21 (2) SEARCHABLE DATABASE.—The Coalition
22 shall include information on the status of Protection
23 Projects in the searchable database created under
24 paragraph (1)(C), including—

25 (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

1 (B) the status of the compliance of each
2 lead agency, cooperating agency, and partici-
3 pating agency with the permitting timetable;

4 (C) any modifications of the permitting
5 timetable required under subparagraph (A), in-
6 cluding an explanation as to why the permitting
7 timetable was modified; and

8 (D) information about project-related pub-
9 lic meetings, public hearings, and public com-
10 ment periods, which shall be presented in
11 English and the predominant language of the
12 community or communities most affected by the
13 project, as that information becomes available.

14 (d) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In utilizing the best
15 available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall
16 include—

17 (1) data and peer-reviewed research from aca-
18 demic institutions with a demonstrated history of
19 studying giant sequoias and with experience ana-
20 lyzing distinct management strategies to improve
21 giant sequoia resiliency;

22 (2) traditional ecological knowledge from the
23 Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency
24 of giant sequoia groves; and

1 (3) data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local
2 governments or agencies.

3 (e) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out
4 this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums
5 of understanding or agreements with other Federal agen-
6 cies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal
7 governments, private entities, or academic institutions to
8 improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and inte-
9 gration of—

10 (1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial
11 technologies;

12 (2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

13 (3) any other technology the Secretary deter-
14 mines will benefit the quality of information used in
15 the Assessment.

16 (f) PLANNING.—The Coalition shall make informa-
17 tion from this Assessment available to the Secretary con-
18 cerned and State of California to integrate into the—

19 (1) State of California’s Wildfire and Forest
20 Resilience Action Plan;

21 (2) Forest Service’s 10-year Wildfire Crisis
22 Strategy (or successor plan); and

23 (3) Department of the Interior’s Wildfire Risk
24 Five-Year Monitoring, Maintenance, and Treatment
25 Plan (or successor plan).

1 (g) RELATION TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
2 POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The development and submission
3 of the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be sub-
4 ject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
5 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

6 **SEC. 8506. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE.**

7 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-
8 QUOIAS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—

10 (A) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Con-
11 gress determines that—

12 (i) an emergency exists on covered
13 public lands and covered National Forest
14 System lands that makes it necessary to
15 carry out Protection Projects that take
16 needed actions to respond to the threat of
17 wildfires, insects, and drought to giant se-
18 quoias; and

19 (ii) Protection Projects are necessary
20 to control the immediate impacts of the
21 emergency described in clause (i) and are
22 needed to mitigate harm to life, property,
23 or important natural or cultural resources
24 on covered public lands and covered Na-
25 tional Forest System lands.

1 (B) APPLICATION.—The emergency deter-
2 mination established under subparagraph (A)
3 shall apply to all covered public lands and cov-
4 ered National Forest System lands.

5 (C) EXPIRATION.—The emergency deter-
6 mination established under subparagraph (A)
7 shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act.

9 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency
10 determination established under subsection (a) is in
11 effect, the following shall apply:

12 (A) The following shall have the force and
13 effect of law:

14 (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code
15 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
16 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-
17 tional Forest System lands.

18 (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of
19 Federal Regulations (as in effect October
20 12, 2022), with respect to covered public
21 lands.

22 (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code
23 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
24 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-

1 tional Forest System lands and covered
2 public lands.

3 (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code
4 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
5 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-
6 tional Forest System lands and covered
7 public lands.

8 (B) A responsible official may carry out a
9 Protection Project described by paragraph (4)
10 before initiating—

11 (i) an analysis under section 102 of
12 the National Environmental Policy Act of
13 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332);

14 (ii) consultation under section 7 of the
15 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
16 U.S.C. 1536); and

17 (iii) consultation under section 106 of
18 the National Historic Preservation Act (16
19 U.S.C. 470(f)).

20 (C) The rules established under sub-
21 sections (d) and (e) of section 40807 of the In-
22 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16
23 U.S.C. 6592c(d) and (e)) shall apply with re-
24 spect to Protection Projects by substituting
25 “Protection Projects” for “authorized emer-

1 agency action under this section” each place it
2 appears in such subsections.

3 (D) Protection Projects shall be subject to
4 the requirements of section 106 of title I of the
5 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16
6 U.S.C. 6511 et seq.).

7 (3) PROTECTION PROJECTS.—The responsible
8 official shall carry out the following forest manage-
9 ment activities, consistent with applicable grove-spe-
10 cific hazardous fuels reduction plans or activities
11 recommend by the Assessment under section 8505,
12 as Protection Projects under the emergency deter-
13 mination under this section:

14 (A) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-
15 ment, including mechanical thinning, mastica-
16 tion, and prescribed burning.

17 (B) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,
18 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-
19 mined by the responsible official.

20 (C) Removing trees to address over-
21 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-
22 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the
23 forest stand as determined by the responsible
24 official.

1 (D) Activities included in the applicable
2 grove-specific hazardous fuels reduction plan.

3 (E) Using chemical treatments to address
4 insects and disease and control vegetation com-
5 petition.

6 (F) Any combination of activities described
7 in this paragraph.

8 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Protection Projects
10 carried out under paragraph (3) and reforest-
11 ation and rehabilitation activities carried out
12 under this Act that are described by subpara-
13 graph (D) are a category of actions hereby des-
14 ignated as being categorically excluded from the
15 preparation of an environmental assessment or
16 an environmental impact statement under sec-
17 tion 102 of the National Environmental Policy
18 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

19 (B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary con-
20 cerned shall use the categorical exclusion estab-
21 lished under subparagraph (A) in accordance
22 with this section.

23 (C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—Con-
24 gress finds that Protection Projects carried out
25 under this section are consistent with improving

1 the health and resiliency of critical habitat for
2 threatened and endangered species, including
3 the Pacific fisher and California spotted owl.

4 (D) REQUIREMENTS.—A Protection
5 Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity
6 is described by this subparagraph if such Pro-
7 tection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
8 activity—

9 (i) covers an area of no more than—

10 (I) 2,000 acres within giant se-
11 quia groves where a grove-specific
12 hazardous fuels reduction plan has
13 been developed by the relevant land
14 management agency or on lands iden-
15 tified under section 8505(a)(1)(B);
16 and

17 (II) 3,000 acres on lands identi-
18 fied under section 8505(a)(1)(C); and

19 (ii) was—

20 (I) proposed by the Assessment
21 under section 8505(a)(3);

22 (II) developed through a collabo-
23 rative process; or

24 (III) proposed by a resource advi-
25 sory committee (as defined in section

1 201 of the Secure Rural Schools and
2 Community Self-Determination Act of
3 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121)); and

4 (iii) occurs on Federal land or non-
5 Federal land with the consent of the non-
6 Federal landowner.

7 (E) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—To the
8 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary con-
9 cerned shall use the authorities provided under
10 this section in combination with other authori-
11 ties to carry out Protection Projects, includ-
12 ing—

13 (i) good neighbor agreements entered
14 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural
15 Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and

16 (ii) stewardship contracting projects
17 entered into under section 604 of the
18 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
19 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

20 (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to
21 joint Protection Projects and reforestation and
22 rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe,
23 nothing in this section shall be construed to add
24 any additional regulatory requirements onto the
25 Tribe.

1 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent
2 practicable, the Secretary concerned shall reduce haz-
3 ardous fuels in no fewer than 3 giant sequoia groves each
4 year.

5 **SEC. 8507. GIANT SEQUOIA REFORESTATION AND REHA-**
6 **BILITATION STRATEGY.**

7 (a) REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRAT-
8 EGY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
11 retary, in consultation with the Coalition, shall de-
12 velop and implement a strategy, to be known as the
13 Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation
14 Strategy, to enhance the reforestation and rehabili-
15 tation of giant sequoia groves that—

16 (A) identifies giant sequoia groves in need
17 of natural or artificial regeneration, giving
18 highest priority to groves identified under sec-
19 tion 8505(a)(1)(A)(i);

20 (B) creates a priority list of reforestation
21 and rehabilitation activities;

22 (C) identifies and addresses—

23 (i) barriers to reforestation or reha-
24 bilitation including—

1 (I) regulatory and funding bar-
2 riers;

3 (II) seedling shortages or related
4 nursery infrastructure capacity con-
5 straints;

6 (III) labor and workforce short-
7 ages;

8 (IV) technology and science gaps;
9 and

10 (V) site preparation challenges;

11 (ii) potential public-private partner-
12 ship opportunities to complete high-priority
13 reforestation or rehabilitation projects;

14 (iii) a timeline for addressing the
15 backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias
16 in the 10-year period after the agreement
17 is entered into under section 8503; and

18 (iv) strategies to ensure genetic diver-
19 sity across giant sequoia groves; and

20 (D) includes program and policy rec-
21 ommendations needed to improve the efficiency
22 or effectiveness of the Strategy.

23 (2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary may incor-
24 porate the Strategy into the Assessment under sec-
25 tion 8505.

1 (b) PRIORITY REFORESTATION PROJECTS AMEND-
2 MENT.—Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and
3 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
4 (16 U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I)) is amended—

5 (1) in item (bb), by striking “and”;

6 (2) in item (cc), by striking the period and in-
7 serting “; and”; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(dd) shall include reforest-
10 ation and rehabilitation activities
11 conducted under section 8507 of
12 the Save Our Sequoias Act.”.

13 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 4(d)(1) of the Wil-
14 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)) is amended by inserting
15 “Nothing in this Act precludes reforestation (as defined
16 in section 8502 of the Save our Sequoias Act) activities
17 to reestablish giant sequoias following a wildfire.” after
18 the period at the end.

19 **SEC. 8508. GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.**

20 (a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

21 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary con-
22 cerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike
23 Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the im-
24 plementation of—

25 (A) primarily, section 8506; and

1 (B) secondarily, section 8507.

2 (2) DUTIES.—Each Strike Team shall—

3 (A) assist the Secretary concerned with
4 any reviews, including analysis under the Na-
5 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
6 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the
7 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16
8 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) and consultations under the
9 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
10 1531 et seq.);

11 (B) implement any necessary site prepara-
12 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-
13 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
14 activity;

15 (C) implement Protection Projects under
16 section 8506; and

17 (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-
18 tion activities under section 8507.

19 (3) MEMBERS.—The Secretary concerned may
20 appoint no more than 10 individuals each to serve
21 on a Strike Team comprised of—

22 (A) employees of the Department of the
23 Interior;

24 (B) employees of the Forest Service;

1 (C) private contractors from any nonprofit
2 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-
3 ment, local government, academic institution, or
4 private organization; and

5 (D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-
6 zation, State government, Tribal Government,
7 local government, academic institution, or pri-
8 vate organization.

9 **SEC. 8509. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**
10 **GRANTS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
12 with the parties to the agreement under section 8503,
13 shall establish a program to award grants to eligible enti-
14 ties to advance, facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health
15 and resiliency.

16 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award
17 grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,
18 Tribal Government, local government, academic institu-
19 tion, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or
20 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

21 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
22 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
23 that—

24 (1) primarily, are likely to have the greatest im-
25 pact on giant sequoia health and resiliency; and

1 (2) secondarily—

2 (A) are small businesses or tribal entities,
3 particularly in rural areas; and

4 (B) create or support jobs, particularly in
5 rural areas.

6 (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Funds from grants
7 awarded under this section shall be used to—

8 (1) create, expand, or develop markets for haz-
9 ardous fuels removed under section 8506, including
10 markets for biomass and biochar;

11 (2) facilitate hazardous fuel removal under sec-
12 tion 8506, including by reducing the cost of trans-
13 porting hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protec-
14 tion Project;

15 (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create facilities
16 or land that can store or process hazardous fuels re-
17 moved under section 8506;

18 (4) establish, develop, expand, enhance, or im-
19 prove nursery capacity or infrastructure necessary to
20 facilitate the Strategy established under section
21 8507; or

22 (5) support tribal management and conserva-
23 tion of giant sequoias, including funding for tribal
24 historic preservation officers.

1 **SEC. 8510. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY FOR GIANT SE-**
2 **QUOIAS.**

3 Section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
4 U.S.C. 2113a), as amended by section 8412, is further
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (3)(A)—

8 (i) in clause (i), by striking “or” at
9 the end;

10 (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as
11 clause (iii);

12 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the
13 following:

14 “(ii) Kings Canyon National Park,
15 Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-
16 tional Park; or”;

17 (B) in paragraph (4)(A)—

18 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at
19 the end;

20 (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
21 clause (iv);

22 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
23 following:

24 “(iii) activities conducted under sec-
25 tion 8506 of the Save Our Sequoias Act;”;

1 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
2 by striking the period at the end and in-
3 serting “; or”; and

4 (v) by adding at the end the following:
5 “(v) any combination of activities
6 specified in clauses (i) through (iv).”.

7 (C) in paragraph (10)(B) by striking
8 “land.” and inserting “land, Kings Canyon Na-
9 tional Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yo-
10 semite National Park.”; and

11 (2) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) in paragraph (2)(C)—

13 (i) by striking clause (ii); and

14 (ii) by inserting after clause (i) the
15 following:

16 “(ii) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN NA-
17 TIONAL PARKS.—Funds received from the
18 sale of timber by a Governor, an Indian
19 tribe, or a county under a good neighbor
20 agreement carried out within the bound-
21 aries of Kings Canyon National Park, Se-
22 quoa National Park, or Yosemite National
23 Park shall be retained and used by the
24 Governor, Indian tribe, or county, as appli-
25 cable—

1 “(I) to carry out authorized res-
2 toration services under such good
3 neighbor agreement;

4 “(II) if there are funds remain-
5 ing after carrying out the services
6 under clause (i), to carry out author-
7 ized restoration services under other
8 good neighbor agreements within the
9 boundaries of the park unit in which
10 the initial good neighbor agreement
11 occurred; and

12 “(III) if there are no further
13 good neighbor agreements to carry
14 out under clause (ii), to transfer to
15 the park unit in which the initial good
16 neighbor agreement occurred to be
17 used for giant sequoia conservation
18 and management.

19 “(iii) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVE-
20 NESS.—The authority provided by this
21 subparagraph terminates effective October
22 1, 2029.”; and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(4) AUTHORIZED RESTORATION SERVICES IN
25 CERTAIN NATIONAL PARKS.—Authorized restoration

1 services occurring in Kings Canyon National Park,
2 Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park
3 shall be carried out in accordance with section
4 100753 of title 54, United States Code.”.

5 **SEC. 8511. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING FOR GIANT SE-**
6 **QUOIAS.**

7 (a) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604(a)(2) of
8 the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
9 6591c(e)) is amended to read as follows:

10 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
11 the Director of the Bureau of Land Management
12 with respect to Bureau of Land Management lands
13 and the Director of the National Park Service with
14 respect to lands within Kings Canyon National
15 Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-
16 tional Park.”.

17 (b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—
18 Section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
19 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is further amended by adding
20 at the end the following:

21 “(8) Promoting the health and resiliency of
22 giant sequoias.”.

1 **SEC. 8512. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**
2 **GRAM AND FUND.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1011 of title 54, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“§ 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Pro-**
7 **gram and Fund**

8 “(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
9 PROGRAM.—The National Park Foundation, in coordina-
10 tion with the National Forest Foundation, shall design
11 and implement a comprehensive program to assist and
12 promote philanthropic programs of support that benefit—

13 “(1) primarily, the management and conserva-
14 tion of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
15 covered National Forest System lands to promote re-
16 siliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and

17 “(2) secondarily, the reforestation of giant se-
18 quoias on National Park Service and covered Na-
19 tional Forest System lands impacted by wildfire.

20 “(b) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
21 FUND.—The National Park Foundation, in coordination
22 with the National Forest Foundation, shall establish a
23 joint special account to be known as the Giant Sequoia
24 Emergency Protection Fund (referred to as ‘the Fund’ in
25 this section), to be administered in support of the program
26 established under subsection (a).

1 “(1) FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY
2 PROTECTION.—The Fund shall consist of any gifts,
3 devises, or bequests that are provided to the Na-
4 tional Park Foundation or National Forest Founda-
5 tion for such purpose.

6 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available
7 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
8 est Foundation without further appropriation, sub-
9 ject to the provisions in paragraph (3), for projects
10 and activities approved by the Chief of the Forest
11 Service or the Director of the National Park Service
12 as appropriate, or their designees, to—

13 “(A) primarily, support the management
14 and conservation of giant sequoias on National
15 Park Service and covered National Forest Sys-
16 tem lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, in-
17 sects, and drought; and

18 “(B) secondarily, support the reforestation
19 of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
20 covered National Forest System lands impacted
21 by wildfire.

22 “(3) TRIBAL SUPPORT.—Of the funds provided
23 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
24 est Foundation under paragraph (2), not less than
25 15 percent of such funds shall be used to support

1 tribal management and conservation of giant se-
2 quoias including funding for tribal historic preserva-
3 tion officers.

4 “(c) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
5 the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation
6 and National Forest Foundation shall include with their
7 annual reports a summary of the status of the program
8 and Fund created under this section that includes—

9 “(1) a statement of the amounts deposited in
10 the Fund during the fiscal year;

11 “(2) the amount of the balance remaining in
12 the Fund at the end of the fiscal year; and

13 “(3) a description of the program and projects
14 funded during the fiscal year.

15 “(d) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS
16 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered National
17 Forest System lands’ has the meaning given such term
18 in section 8502 of the Save Our Sequoias Act.

19 “(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The au-
20 thority provided by this section shall terminate 7 years
21 after the date of enactment of the Save Our Sequoias
22 Act.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
24 tions for chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code,
25 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Program and Fund.”.

1 **SEC. 8513. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle
4 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

5 **Subtitle F—Other Matters**

6 **SEC. 8701. RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.**

7 Section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
8 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601(d)(2))
9 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

10 **SEC. 8702. RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

11 Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-
12 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is
13 amended—

14 (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(6) APPOINTMENTS BY APPLICABLE REGIONAL
17 FORESTERS.—In making appointments under this
18 subsection, the Secretary concerned may act through
19 the applicable regional forester so long as before the
20 applicable regional forester makes an appointment,
21 the applicable regional forester conducts the review
22 and analysis that would otherwise be conducted for
23 an appointment to a resource advisory committee,
24 including any review and analysis with respect to
25 civil rights, budgetary requirements, vetting, and re-

1 reporting, as the Secretary concerned determines ap-
2 propriate.”;

3 (2) in subsection (d)(6), by striking “October 1,
4 2023” and inserting “October 1, 2029”; and

5 (3) by striking subsection (g).

6 **SEC. 8703. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**
7 **PORTS.**

8 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION
9 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE
10 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-
12 cal year that begins after the date of the enactment
13 of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
14 retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-
15 mitted in support of the President’s budget pursuant
16 to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a re-
17 port on the number of acres of Federal land on
18 which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous
19 fuels reduction activities during the preceding fiscal
20 year.

21 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-
22 port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary
23 concerned shall—

24 (A) in determining the number of acres of
25 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned

1 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities
2 during the period covered by the report—

3 (i) record acres of Federal land on
4 which hazardous fuels reduction activities
5 were completed during such period; and

6 (ii) record each acre described in
7 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of
8 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction
9 activities were carried out on such acre
10 during such period; and

11 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal
12 land recorded in the report, include information
13 on—

14 (i) which such acres are located in the
15 wildland-urban interface;

16 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,
17 moderate, or low) on the first and last day
18 of the period covered by the report;

19 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-
20 tivities completed for such acres, delin-
21 eating between whether such activities
22 were conducted—

23 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-
24 source benefits; or

25 (II) through a planned project;

1 (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous
2 fuels activities carried out during the pe-
3 riod covered by the report;

4 (v) the region or system unit in which
5 the acres are located; and

6 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous
7 fuels reduction activities on reducing the
8 risk of wildfire.

9 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned
10 shall make each report submitted under paragraph
11 (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-
12 ment and the Department of the Interior, as appli-
13 cable.

14 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
17 concerned shall implement standardized procedures
18 for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduc-
19 tion activities carried out by the Secretary con-
20 cerned.

21 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures
22 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

23 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of
24 the accuracy and timely input of data used to
25 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

1 (B) verification methods that validate
2 whether such data accurately correlates to the
3 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out
4 by the Secretary concerned;

5 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term
6 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction
7 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

8 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities
9 that occur partially within the wildland-urban
10 interface, methods to distinguish which acres
11 are located within the wildland-urban interface
12 and which acres are located outside the
13 wildland-urban interface.

14 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after im-
15 plementing the standardized procedures required
16 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall
17 submit to Congress a report that describes—

18 (A) such standardized procedures; and

19 (B) program and policy recommendations
20 to Congress to address any limitations in track-
21 ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction
22 activities under this subsection.

23 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
25 of the United States shall—

1 (1) conduct a study on the implementation of
2 this section, including any limitations with respect
3 to—

4 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-
5 tivities under subsection (a); or

6 (B) tracking data related to hazardous
7 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);
8 and

9 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes
10 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

11 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-
13 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-
14 ity”—

15 (A) means any vegetation management ac-
16 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including
17 mechanical treatments and prescribed burning;
18 and

19 (B) does not include the awarding of con-
20 tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-
21 tivities.

22 (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal
23 lands” means lands under the jurisdiction of the
24 Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary.

1 (1) The holder of the special use authorization
2 is a State or local government or any agency or in-
3 strumentality thereof, excluding municipal utilities
4 and cooperatives whose principal source of revenue is
5 customer charges.

6 (2) The holder is—

7 (A) an organization described in section
8 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
9 and is exempt from taxation under section
10 501(a) of such Code;

11 (B) not controlled or owned by profit-mak-
12 ing corporation or business enterprise; and

13 (C) is engaged in public or semi-public ac-
14 tivity to further public health, safety, or wel-
15 fare.

16 (3) The holder is an amateur station, amateur
17 operator, or provides amateur radio services, as
18 those terms are defined in section 97.3 of title 47,
19 Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
20 tions).

21 (4) Other circumstances the Secretary, acting
22 through the Chief of the Forest Service, determines
23 appropriate.

1 **SEC. 8705. CHARGES AND FEES FOR HARVEST OF FOREST**
2 **BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.**

3 (a) RECOVERY OF FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR PROD-
4 UCTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
6 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall estab-
7 lish and carry out a program to charge and collect
8 fees under subsection (b) for forest botanical prod-
9 ucts harvested on National Forest System lands.

10 (2) APPRAISAL METHODS; BIDDING PROCE-
11 DURES.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of
12 the Forest Service, shall establish a fee system based
13 on fair market value for forest botanical products
14 harvested on National Forest System lands.

15 (b) FEES.—

16 (1) IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION.—The Sec-
17 retary shall charge and collect fees from persons who
18 harvest forest botanical products on National Forest
19 System lands.

20 (2) AMOUNT OF FEE.—The fees collected under
21 paragraph (1) shall be based on the fair market
22 value of the harvested forest botanical products and
23 the costs incurred by the Secretary associated with
24 the granting, modifying, or monitoring the author-
25 ization for harvest of the forest botanical products,

1 including the costs of any environmental or other
2 analysis.

3 (3) SECURITY.—The Secretary, acting through
4 the Chief of the Forest Service, may require a per-
5 son assessed a fee under this subsection to provide
6 security to ensure that the Secretary receives the
7 fees imposed under this subsection from the person.

8 (c) SUSTAINABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR FOREST
9 BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
11 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

12 (A) conduct appropriate analyses to deter-
13 mine whether and how the harvest of forest bo-
14 tanical products on National Forest System
15 lands can be conducted on a sustainable basis;
16 and

17 (B) establish procedures and timeframes to
18 monitor and revise the harvest levels established
19 for forest botanical products.

20 (2) PROHIBITION ON HARVEST IN EXCESS OF
21 SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.—The Secretary, acting
22 through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not
23 permit under the program under this section the
24 harvest of forest botanical products on National
25 Forest System lands at levels in excess of sustain-

1 able harvest levels, as defined under section 4 of the
2 Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16
3 U.S.C. 531).

4 (d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

5 (1) PERSONAL USE.—The Secretary, acting
6 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall estab-
7 lish a personal use harvest level for each forest bo-
8 tanical product, and the harvest of a forest botanical
9 product below that level by a person for personal use
10 shall not be subject to charges and fees under sub-
11 sections (a) and (b).

12 (2) OTHER EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, act-
13 ing through the Chief of the Forest Service, may
14 also waive the application of subsection (a) or (b)
15 pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary may
16 prescribe.

17 (e) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FUNDS.—

18 (1) DEPOSIT.—Funds collected under the pro-
19 gram in accordance with subsections (a) and (b)
20 shall be deposited into a special account in the
21 United States Treasury.

22 (2) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Funds deposited into
23 the special account in accordance with paragraph (1)
24 shall remain available until expended without further
25 appropriation.

1 (3) AUTHORIZED USES.—The funds made avail-
2 able under paragraph (2) shall be expended at units
3 of the National Forest System in proportion to the
4 charges and fees collected at that unit under the
5 program under this section to pay for—

6 (A) the costs of conducting inventories of
7 forest botanical products, determining sustain-
8 able levels of harvest, monitoring and assessing
9 the impacts of harvest levels and methods, and
10 for restoration activities, including any nec-
11 essary revegetation; and

12 (B) the costs described in subsection
13 (b)(2).

14 (4) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Funds collected
15 under the program in accordance with subsections
16 (a) and (b) shall not be taken into account for the
17 purposes of the following laws:

18 (A) The sixth paragraph under the head-
19 ing “forest service” in the Act of May 23, 1908
20 (16 U.S.C. 500), and section 13 of the Act of
21 March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks
22 Act; 16 U.S.C. 500).

23 (B) The fourteenth paragraph under the
24 heading “forest service” in the Act of March 4,
25 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501).

1 (C) Section 33 of the Bankhead-Jones
2 Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012).

3 (D) The Act of August 28, 1937 (43
4 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) and the Act of May 24,
5 1939 (43 U.S.C. 2621 et seq.).

6 (E) Section 6 of the Act of June 14, 1926
7 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public
8 Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869–4).

9 (F) Chapter 69 of title 31, United States
10 Code.

11 (G) Section 401 of the Act of June 15,
12 1935 (16 U.S.C. 715s).

13 (H) Section 100904 of title 54, United
14 States Code.

15 (I) Any other provision of law relating to
16 revenue allocation.

17 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—As soon as prac-
18 ticable after the end of each fiscal year in which the Sec-
19 retary collects charges and fees under the program in ac-
20 cordance with subsections (a) and (b) or expends funds
21 from the special account under subsection (e), the Sec-
22 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,
23 shall submit to the Congress a report summarizing the ac-
24 tivities of the Secretary under the program under this sec-
25 tion, including the funds collected under the program in

1 accordance with subsections (a) and (b), the expenses in-
2 curred to carry out the program under this section, and
3 the expenditures made from the special account during
4 that fiscal year.

5 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

6 (1) FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCT.—The term
7 “forest botanical product”—

8 (A) means any naturally occurring mush-
9 room, fungus, flower, seed, root, bark, leaf,
10 berry, bough, bryophyte, bulb, burl, cone,
11 epiphyte, fern, forb, grass, moss, nut, pine
12 straw, sedge, shrub, transplant, tree sap, or
13 other vegetation (or portion thereof) that grows
14 on National Forest System lands; and

15 (B) does not include trees, or portions of
16 trees, except as provided in regulations issued
17 under section 339 of the Department of the In-
18 terior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act
19 of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 528 note) by the Secretary
20 before the date of enactment of this Act.

21 (2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
22 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
23 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
24 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
25 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

1 **SEC. 8706. FOREST SERVICE LEGACY ROAD AND TRAIL RE-**
2 **MEDIATION PROGRAM TRANSPARENCY.**

3 Section 8 of Public Law 88–657 (16 U.S.C. 538a)
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)(2)—

6 (A) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(B) solicit and consider public input re-
9 gionally in selecting projects for funding under
10 the Program by—

11 “(i) publishing annually, for each re-
12 gion, a list of projects considered for fund-
13 ing under the Program;

14 “(ii) accepting public comment on the
15 projects described in clause (i); and

16 “(iii) considering public comments in
17 selecting projects for funding under the
18 Program;”;

19 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

20 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
21 by inserting “annually, for each region,”
22 before “publish”; and

23 (ii) by striking clause (ii) and insert-
24 ing the following:

25 “(ii) a list that includes a description
26 of—

1 “(I) each project considered for
2 funding under the Program;

3 “(II) public comments received
4 on each project described in subclause
5 (I);

6 “(III) the ranking within the ap-
7 plicable region of each project de-
8 scribed in subclause (I); and

9 “(IV) the proposed outcome of
10 each project funded under the Pro-
11 gram for the applicable fiscal year.”;
12 and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(f) DEFINITION OF REGION.—In this section, the
15 term ‘region’ means one of the 9 regions of the Forest
16 Service.”.

17 **SEC. 8707. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.**

18 For fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter,
19 the Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provi-
20 sions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United
21 States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that
22 title, a Job Corps graduate (as defined in section 142(5)
23 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
24 U.S.C. 3192(5))) to a position in the competitive service

1 in the Forest Service for which the graduate meets the
2 qualification standards.

3 **SEC. 8708. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORA-**
4 **TION PROGRAM.**

5 Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
6 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
8 section (f); and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an
13 owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option
14 of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency
15 measures under this section, not more than 75 per-
16 cent of the cost of the emergency measures, as de-
17 termined by the Secretary based on the fair market
18 value of the cost of the emergency measures using
19 the estimated cost of the applicable practice pub-
20 lished in the Field Office Technical Guide of each
21 State by the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
22 ice.

23 “(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds pro-
24 vided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the
25 end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on

1 which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land
2 receives those funds, the funds shall be returned
3 within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the
4 Secretary.”.

5 **TITLE IX—ENERGY**

6 **SEC. 9001. DEFINITION OF ADVANCED BIOFUEL.**

7 Section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and
8 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(3)(B)(iv))
9 is amended by inserting “and sustainable aviation fuel”
10 after “diesel-equivalent fuel”.

11 **SEC. 9002. BIOBASED MARKETS PROGRAM.**

12 Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
13 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
16 the following:

17 “(G) **PROCUREMENT RESOURCES.**—The
18 Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in coordi-
19 nation with the Secretary, shall provide edu-
20 cational materials to procuring agencies to con-
21 sider the longevity of a product, economic sav-
22 ings, and the efficacy and performance of a
23 product when making procurement decisions
24 under this subsection.”; and

25 (B) in paragraph (4)—

- 1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii)
3 and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respec-
4 tively;
- 5 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—
- 6 (I) in the matter preceding sub-
7 clause (I)—
- 8 (aa) by inserting “and the
9 Secretary” after “Policy”; and
- 10 (bb) by striking “informa-
11 tion concerning—” and inserting
12 “a report that describes, for the
13 year covered by the report—”;
- 14 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting
15 “, including the actions taken by the
16 procuring agency to establish and im-
17 plement the biobased procurement
18 program of the procuring agency
19 under that paragraph” before the
20 semicolon;
- 21 (III) in subclause (IV), by strik-
22 ing “and” at the end;
- 23 (IV) in subclause (V), by striking
24 “and” at the end; and

1 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(VI)(aa) the specific categories
4 of biobased products that are unavail-
5 able to meet procurement needs of the
6 procuring agencies; and

7 “(bb) the desired performance
8 characteristics and other relevant
9 specifications for those products; and

10 “(VII) if applicable, an expla-
11 nation of the procurement require-
12 ment or updated procurement require-
13 ment established under paragraph
14 (2)(A)(i) that procuring agencies
15 failed to meet and reasons for the fail-
16 ure; and”;

17 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(D) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Office of
20 Federal Procurement Policy, in consultation
21 with the Secretary, shall annually—

22 “(i) collect the information required to
23 be reported under subparagraph (B) and
24 make the information publicly available;

1 “(ii) using the information collected
2 under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph,
3 document relevant procuring agencies
4 under paragraph (2)(A)(i) that, as applica-
5 ble, have established a procurement pro-
6 gram in accordance with paragraph
7 (2)(A)(i)(I); and

8 “(iii) make the information publicly
9 available, subject to the exemptions from
10 disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5,
11 United States Code.”;

12 (2) in subsection (f)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)—

14 (i) in the heading, by inserting “AND
15 NAPCS” before “CODES”;

16 (ii) by inserting “and North American
17 Products Classification System codes” be-
18 fore “for—”; and

19 (iii) by striking subparagraphs (A)
20 and (B) and inserting the following:

21 “(A) renewable chemicals manufacturers
22 and biobased products manufacturers; and

23 “(B) renewable chemicals and biobased
24 products.”; and

1 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
2 paragraph (3) and inserting after paragraph
3 (1) the following:

4 “(2) REPORT.—To inform the development of
5 codes under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall,
6 within 90 days after the date of the enactment of
7 this paragraph, submit to the Committee on Agri-
8 culture of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
10 of the Senate, a report that provides—

11 “(A) the Federal statistical collections of
12 information related to the North American In-
13 dustry Classification System codes and the
14 North American Product Classification System
15 codes that utilize bioeconomy-specific data;

16 “(B) recommendations to implement any
17 bioeconomy related changes as part of the 2027
18 revisions of the North American Industry Clas-
19 sification System codes and the North Amer-
20 ican Product Classification System codes; and

21 “(C) an assessment of the impacts that
22 bioeconomy-specific North American Industry
23 Classification System codes and North Amer-
24 ican Products Classification System codes
25 would have on the measurement by the agency

1 of the economic contributions of the bio-
2 economy.”; and

3 (3) in subsection (k)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2024”
5 and inserting “2029”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
7 and inserting “2029”.

8 **SEC. 9003. BIOREFINERY ASSISTANCE.**

9 Section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
10 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

12 (A) by inserting “or innovative” before
13 “commercial-scale”; and

14 (B) by inserting “, renewable chemicals, or
15 biobased products” after “end-user products”;

16 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (i) by striking all that precedes “a
19 loan guarantee” and inserting the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(B) FEASIBILITY.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving”;

23 and

24 (ii) by adding after and below the end
25 the following:

1 “(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may
2 waive the requirement that the applicant
3 must demonstrate commercial viability for
4 projects adopting commercially available
5 technology.”;

6 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)
7 and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respec-
8 tively; and

9 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
10 the following:

11 “(C) TECHNICAL REVIEW AGREEMENT.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
13 shall enter into an agreement with each
14 project applicant that clearly outlines the
15 specific objectives, outcomes, and condi-
16 tions by which the Secretary determines
17 successful technical feasibility of the
18 project under this section.

19 “(ii) CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT.—
20 The agreement provided under clause (i)
21 shall include clear guidelines and expecta-
22 tions for the methodologies, protocols, and
23 procedures, and what the eligible tech-
24 nology must demonstrate, for the Depart-
25 ment to determine technical feasibility

1 from an integrated demonstration unit, in-
2 cluding—

3 “(I) a set timeline for the inte-
4 grated demonstration unit campaign
5 and final technical report to show reli-
6 able evidence of continuous, steady-
7 state production;

8 “(II) criteria and methods for
9 evaluating the project’s success, in-
10 cluding any third-party assessments
11 or evaluations that may be conducted
12 during the demonstration period and
13 at the conclusion of the set timeline;

14 “(III) criteria and methods to
15 prove the ability of the integrated
16 demonstration unit to use project-spe-
17 cific feedstock for the production of
18 advanced biofuels, renewable chemi-
19 cals, or biobased products at a yield
20 and quality consistent with the design
21 basis of the project;

22 “(IV) required information and
23 conditions that demonstrate operation
24 duration, quality, and quantity speci-
25 fications; and

1 “(V) any other information that,
2 if supplied to the Secretary, would as-
3 sist the eligible entity in sufficiently
4 demonstrating a project’s technical
5 feasibility.

6 “(iii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH
7 AGREEMENT.—

8 “(I) NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICA-
9 TION.—If a project applicant fails to
10 comply with the technical feasibility
11 requirements as provided under clause
12 (ii), the Secretary shall issue a written
13 notice to the project applicant detail-
14 ing the specific deficiencies and pro-
15 viding a reasonable timeframe for the
16 project applicant to rectify the issues.

17 “(II) CORRECTIVE ACTION PE-
18 RIOD.—The project applicant shall
19 have a period of not more than 90
20 days from the date of issuance of the
21 noncompliance notice to address the
22 identified deficiencies and submit a
23 revised technical feasibility assessment
24 for reconsideration.

1 “(iv) TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AP-
2 PROVAL.—Upon fulfillment of the condi-
3 tions of agreement established under
4 clause (ii) or approval of the revised tech-
5 nical feasibility assessment under clause
6 (iii)(II), the Secretary shall determine the
7 project to be technically feasible.”;

8 (3) in subsection (g)—

9 (A) by striking all that precedes “is au-
10 thorized” and inserting the following:

11 “(g) FUNDING.—There”; and.

12 (B) by striking “2023” and inserting
13 “2029”;

14 (4) in subsection (h)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2031”
16 and inserting “2029”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2031”
18 and inserting “2029”;

19 (5) in subsection (i)(1), by striking “2031” and
20 inserting “2029”; and

21 (6) in subsection (j)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2031”
23 and inserting “2029”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (5)—

- 1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “2031” and inserting “2029”; and
3 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
4 “2031” and inserting “2029”.

5 **SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING REPORT.**

6 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
7 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by insert-
8 ing after section 9003 the following:

9 **“SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING REPORT.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of
11 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit
12 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
14 and Forestry of the Senate, a report containing an anal-
15 ysis of the potential effects of a program to implement
16 national uniform labeling standards for bioproducts de-
17 scribed under subsection (b), including the effects on—

- 18 “(1) consumer trust, certainty, and adoption;
19 “(2) the scope and accuracy of bioproduct in-
20 dustry data; and
21 “(3) market growth.

22 “(b) BIOPRODUCT TERMINOLOGY.—In preparing the
23 report required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

- 24 “(1) consider national uniform labeling stand-
25 ards for—

1 “(A) bio-attributed products;

2 “(B) biobased products;

3 “(C) biobased plastics;

4 “(D) bio-attributed plastics;

5 “(E) plant-based products;

6 “(F) renewable chemicals; and

7 “(G) renewable biomass; and

8 “(2) define the bioproducts identified in para-
9 graph (1), unless otherwise defined in statute.

10 “(c) CONSULTATION.—In defining the terminology
11 described in subsection (b) and preparing the report re-
12 quired by subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult
13 with—

14 “(1) biomanufacturers;

15 “(2) entities engaged in research and develop-
16 ment of bioproducts;

17 “(3) feedstock growers; and

18 “(4) other industry stakeholders.”.

19 **SEC. 9005. BIOENERGY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED**
20 **BIOFUELS.**

21 Section 9005(g) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
22 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105(g)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)(F), by striking “2024”
24 and inserting “2029”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2029”.

3 **SEC. 9006. BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

4 Section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
5 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106) is repealed.

6 **SEC. 9007. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

7 Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
8 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “,
11 cost savings,” after “savings”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking
13 “and” at the end;

14 (C) in subparagraph (F), by striking the
15 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (D) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(G) the potential of the proposed program
18 to meaningfully improve the financial conditions
19 of the agricultural producers or rural small
20 businesses.”;

21 (2) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (F), by striking
24 “and” at the end;

1 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
2 (G) as subparagraph (H); and

3 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
4 (F) the following:

5 “(G) the potential improvements to the fi-
6 nancial conditions of the agricultural producer
7 or rural small business; and”;

8 (B) in paragraph (3)—

9 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to
10 read as follows:

11 “(A) GRANTS.—With respect to grants
12 made under paragraph (1)(A)(i), the amount of
13 a grant shall not exceed—

14 “(i) 50 percent of the cost of the ac-
15 tivity carried out using funds from the
16 grant for—

17 “(I) a beginning farmer or ranch-
18 er, a socially disadvantaged farmer or
19 rancher, or a veteran farmer or ranch-
20 er (as those terms are defined in sec-
21 tion 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture,
22 Conservation and Trade Act of 1990
23 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)); and

24 “(II) a recipient with a proposed
25 project located in an area where 20

1 percent or more of the population is
2 living in poverty over the last 30
3 years, as defined by the United States
4 Census Bureau, or an area that has
5 experienced long-term population de-
6 cline or loss of employment, as deter-
7 mined by the Secretary; or

8 “(ii) 35 percent of the cost of the ac-
9 tivity carried out using funds from the
10 grant in all other cases.”; and

11 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
12 “\$25,000,000” and inserting
13 “\$50,000,000”;

14 (3) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “2023” and
15 inserting “2029”; and

16 (4) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(g) PROJECT DIVERSITY.—In approving grant or
18 loan guarantee applications under this section, the Sec-
19 retary shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, there
20 is diversity in the types of projects approved for grants
21 or loan guarantees to ensure that as wide a range as pos-
22 sible of technologies, products, and approaches are as-
23 sisted.”.

1 **SEC. 9008. FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY.**

2 Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
3 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “2023”
5 and inserting “2029”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “2023”
7 and inserting “2029”.

8 **SEC. 9009. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

9 Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural
10 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1)) is amended
11 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

12 **SEC. 9010. CARBON UTILIZATION AND BIOGAS EDUCATION**
13 **PROGRAM.**

14 Section 9014 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
15 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8115) is repealed.

16 **SEC. 9011. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTALLA-**
17 **TIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.**

18 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
19 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by adding
20 at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 9015. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTAL-**
22 **LATIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
24 with the Secretary of Energy, shall conduct a study on
25 the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion

1 of covered farmland out of agricultural production in ac-
2 cordance with this section.

3 “(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this
4 section, the Secretary shall—

5 “(1) analyze the economic effects of solar panel
6 installations on covered farmland, including the ef-
7 fects on—

8 “(A) crop yields;

9 “(B) land values, including adjacent prop-
10 erties;

11 “(C) land access and tenure;

12 “(D) local economies; and

13 “(E) food security;

14 “(2) investigate impacts of solar panel installa-
15 tion, operation, and decommissioning on covered
16 farmland, and suggest best practices to protect—

17 “(A) soil health;

18 “(B) water resources;

19 “(C) wildlife;

20 “(D) vegetation;

21 “(E) water drainage; and

22 “(F) air quality;

23 “(3) assess the impacts of shared solar energy
24 and agricultural production on covered farmland, in-
25 cluding best practices to—

1 “(A) maintain or increase agricultural pro-
2 duction;

3 “(B) increase agricultural resilience;

4 “(C) retain covered farmland;

5 “(D) increase economic opportunities in
6 farming and rural communities, including new
7 revenue streams and job creation;

8 “(E) reduce nonfarmer ownership of cov-
9 ered farmland; and

10 “(F) enhance biodiversity;

11 “(4) assess the types of agricultural land best
12 suited and worst suited for shared solar energy and
13 agricultural production;

14 “(5) study the compatibility of different species
15 of livestock with different solar panel system de-
16 signs, including—

17 “(A) the optimal height of and distance be-
18 tween solar panels for livestock grazing and
19 shade for livestock;

20 “(B) manure management considerations;

21 “(C) fencing requirements; and

22 “(D) other animal handling considerations;

23 “(6) study the compatibility of different crop
24 types with different solar panel system designs, in-
25 cluding—

1 “(A) the optimal height of and distance be-
2 tween solar panels for plant shading and farm
3 equipment use; and

4 “(B) the impact on crop yield;

5 “(7) evaluate the degree to which existing Fed-
6 eral, State, or local tax incentives result in the devel-
7 opment of covered farmland under study;

8 “(8) recommend effective incentives that could
9 shift solar panel installations towards the built envi-
10 ronment, brownfield sites, and other contaminated
11 sites;

12 “(9) evaluate the effectiveness of programs ad-
13 ministered by the federal government related to solar
14 energy development that—

15 “(A) results in the development of con-
16 taminated lands, the built environment, and
17 other preferred sites; and

18 “(B) discourages solar panel installations
19 that would convert covered farmland out of ag-
20 ricultural production; and

21 “(10) estimate the loss of agricultural produc-
22 tion on covered farmland due to solar panel installa-
23 tions.

24 “(c) CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT STAKE-
25 HOLDERS.—In addition to consultation with the Secretary

1 of Energy, while conducting the study under this section,
2 the Secretary shall consult with—

3 “(1) farmers;

4 “(2) ranchers;

5 “(3) landowners;

6 “(4) agricultural organizations;

7 “(5) State departments of agriculture and en-
8 ergy;

9 “(6) units of local government;

10 “(7) conservation organizations;

11 “(8) land-grant colleges and universities (as de-
12 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural
13 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
14 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); and

15 “(9) solar developers.

16 “(d) REPORT.—Within 2 years after the date of en-
17 actment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall sub-
18 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
20 and Forestry of the Senate, a written report on the find-
21 ings of the study and recommendations under this section.

22 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 “(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term ‘covered
24 farmland’ includes—

1 “(A) farmland, as defined in section
2 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

4 “(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as
5 defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Secu-
6 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

7 “(2) BROWNFIELD SITE.—The term ‘brownfield
8 site’ has the meaning given that term in section
9 101(39) of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
10 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
11 U.S.C. 9601(39)).

12 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
13 the Secretary of Agriculture.”.

14 **SEC. 9012. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND**
15 **MOUNTED SOLAR SYSTEMS.**

16 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
17 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is further amended
18 by adding at the end the following:

19 **“SEC. 9016. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND**
20 **MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

21 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term ‘covered
23 farmland’ includes—

1 “(A) farmland, as defined in section
2 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

4 “(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as
5 defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Secu-
6 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

7 “(2) CONVERSION.—The term ‘conversion’
8 means, with respect to covered farmland, any activ-
9 ity that results in the covered farmland failing to
10 meet the requirements of a State (as defined in sec-
11 tion 343 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
12 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991)) for agricultural pro-
13 duction, activity, or use or timber harvest.

14 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
15 the Secretary of Agriculture.

16 “(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide
17 financial assistance for a project that would result in the
18 conversion of covered farmland for solar energy produc-
19 tion.

20 “(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to
21 a project if the project—

22 “(1) results in the conversion of less than 5
23 acres;

1 “(2) results in the conversion of less than 50
2 acres of covered farmland and the majority of the
3 energy produced is for on-farm use; or

4 “(3) has received a resolution of approval or
5 support, or other similar instrument from each coun-
6 ty and municipality in which the project is sited.

7 “(d) COVERED FARMLAND PROTECTION.—

8 “(1) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN RE-
9 QUIRED.—A person who has applied to the Secretary
10 for financial assistance for a project subject to sub-
11 section (c)(3) shall—

12 “(A) develop a farmland conservation plan
13 for the project to—

14 “(i) implement best practices to pro-
15 tect future soil health and productivity,
16 and mitigate soil erosion, compaction, and
17 other effects of solar energy production
18 during construction, operation, and decom-
19 missioning; and

20 “(ii) remediate and restore the soil
21 health of the farmland to that of the farm-
22 land before the solar energy production
23 project construction; and

24 “(B) ensure that sufficient funds, as deter-
25 mined by the Secretary, are provided for the de-

1 commissioning of the solar energy production
2 system and the remediation and restoration of
3 covered farmland to carry out the farmland
4 conservation plan described in subparagraph
5 (A).

6 “(2) OBLIGATION AND DISBURSMENT OF
7 FUNDS.—The Secretary may obligate financial as-
8 sistance for a project described in paragraph (1),
9 but shall not disburse the financial assistance until
10 the Secretary has determined that the applicant for
11 the financial assistance has complied with paragraph
12 (1).

13 “(3) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN IMPLE-
14 MENTATION.—A person referred to in paragraph (1)
15 shall carry out—

16 “(A) the provisions of the plan that are de-
17 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(i), on the receipt
18 by the project of financial assistance from the
19 Secretary and for the duration of solar energy
20 production under the project; and

21 “(B) the provisions of the plan that are de-
22 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), on the cessation
23 of solar energy production under the project.

24 “(4) COMPLIANCE.—A person who fails to com-
25 ply with paragraph (3) with respect to a project

1 shall repay to the Secretary the full amount of the
2 financial assistance provided by the Secretary to the
3 person for the project.”.

4 **TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MAR-**
5 **KETING, AND REGULATORY**
6 **REFORM**

7 **Subtitle A—Horticulture**

8 **SEC. 10001. PLANT PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND**
9 **DISASTER PREVENTION.**

10 Section 420(f) of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C.
11 7721) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the
13 end;

14 (2) by redesignating paragraph (6) as para-
15 graph (7);

16 (3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(6) \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018
19 through 2024; and”; and

20 (4) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), by
21 striking “\$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2018” and in-
22 serting “\$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2025”.

1 **SEC. 10002. SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS.**

2 Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness
3 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465)
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
6 paragraph (1)—

7 (A) by striking “2023” and inserting
8 “2029”; and

9 (B) by striking “specialty crops, includ-
10 ing—” and inserting “specialty crops through
11 priorities established by State program adminis-
12 trators in consultation with specialty crop pro-
13 ducers and producer groups, including—”;

14 (2) by striking subsection (e), and inserting the
15 following:

16 “(e) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The State plan shall
17 identify the lead agency charged with the responsibility of
18 carrying out the plan and indicate—

19 “(1) how the grant funds will be utilized to en-
20 hance the competitiveness of specialty crops; and

21 “(2) how outreach to, and consultation with,
22 specialty crop producers and producer groups will be
23 achieved.”; and

24 (3) in subsection (l)(1)—

25 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
26 “and” at the end;

1 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
2 subparagraph (F);

3 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
4 the following:

5 “(E) \$85,000,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2018 through 2024; and”; and

7 (D) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesign-
8 nated), by striking “\$85,000,000 for fiscal year
9 2018” and inserting “\$100,000,000 for fiscal
10 year 2025”.”.

11 **SEC. 10003. SPECIALTY CROPS MARKET NEWS ALLOCATION.**

12 Section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and En-
13 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b(b)) is amended by strik-
14 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 10004. OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVA-
16 TIVE PRODUCTION.**

17 Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
18 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

20 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
21 (A), by inserting “production” after “emerging
22 agricultural”;

23 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

1 (i) by inserting “controlled-envi-
2 nment agriculture, including” before “hy-
3 droponic”; and

4 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

5 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
6 subparagraph (H); and

7 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
8 the following:

9 “(E) using the resources of the Depart-
10 ment and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to
11 provide technical assistance for business incor-
12 poration, navigating local zoning, and managing
13 farm tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous
14 parcels to growers implementing activities de-
15 scribed in paragraph (3);

16 “(F) using the resources of the Depart-
17 ment and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to
18 promote conservation techniques unique to
19 urban agriculture and innovative production, in-
20 cluding techniques that address stormwater
21 runoff and the impacted nature of urban land
22 and the subsurface of the land;

23 “(G) assisting urban and innovative pro-
24 ducers in navigating Federal, State, Tribal, and

1 local policies and regulations that impact busi-
2 ness or operations; and”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking
5 “2023” and inserting “2029”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “the
7 date that is 5 years after the date on which the
8 members are appointed under paragraph
9 (2)(B)” and inserting “September 30, 2029”;

10 (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
11 lows:

12 “(c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

13 “(1) GRANTS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall
15 award competitive grants to support the devel-
16 opment of urban and innovative agricultural
17 production and technical or financial assistance
18 to producers.

19 “(B) SUBGRANTS.—An eligible entity may
20 use funds from a grant under subparagraph (A)
21 to provide subgrants to urban and innovative
22 producers to support the growth of the farm or
23 farm business of the urban and innovative pro-
24 ducers.

1 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
2 ble to receive a grant under subparagraph (A)
3 is—

4 “(i) a nonprofit organization;

5 “(ii) a unit of local government;

6 “(iii) a Tribal organization;

7 “(iv) an agricultural cooperative or
8 other agricultural business entity or a pro-
9 ducer network or association; or

10 “(v) a school that serves any of
11 grades kindergarten through grade 12.

12 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may
14 enter into cooperative agreements with eligible
15 entities to support the development of urban
16 and innovative agricultural production.

17 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
18 ble to enter into cooperative agreements under
19 subparagraph (A) is—

20 “(i) a nonprofit organization;

21 “(ii) a unit of local government;

22 “(iii) a Tribal organization; or

23 “(iv) an agricultural cooperative or
24 other agricultural business entity or a pro-
25 ducer network or association.”;

1 (4) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
3 “PILOT”;

4 (B) by striking “pilot” each place it ap-
5 pears in paragraphs (1) and (2);

6 (C) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “Not
7 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of
8 this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot
9 program for not fewer than 5 years that” and
10 inserting “The Secretary shall continue to im-
11 plement a program that”;

12 (D) in paragraph (1)(C), in the matter
13 preceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and in-
14 serting “2029”; and

15 (E) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
17 “and construct at-scale composting, food-
18 to-feed, or anaerobic digestion food waste-
19 to-energy projects” before the period at the
20 end; and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

22 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
23 strike “PILOT”;

24 (II) in the matter preceding
25 clause (i), by inserting “Tribal gov-

1 ernments,” after “local govern-
2 ments,”;

3 (III) by redesignating clauses (vi)
4 through (viii) as clauses (vii) through
5 (ix), respectively; and

6 (IV) by inserting after clause (v)
7 the following:

8 “(vi) develop food waste-to-energy op-
9 erations;”; and

10 (5) in subsection (e), by striking “2023” and
11 inserting “2029”.

12 **SEC. 10005. NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTICS NETWORK.**

13 Section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement
14 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)(5)) is amended by striking
15 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

16 **SEC. 10006. HEMP PRODUCTION.**

17 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 297A of the Agricultural
18 Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639o) is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
20 (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively; and

21 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(2) INDUSTRIAL HEMP.—The term ‘industrial
24 hemp’ means hemp—

1 “(A) grown for the use of the stalk of the
2 plant, fiber produced from such a stalk, or any
3 other non-cannabinoid derivative, mixture, prep-
4 aration, or manufacture of such a stalk;

5 “(B) grown for the use of the whole grain,
6 oil, cake, nut, hull, or any other non-
7 cannabinoid compound, derivative, mixture,
8 preparation, or manufacture of the seeds of
9 such plant;

10 “(C) that is an immature hemp plant in-
11 tended for human consumption;

12 “(D) that is a plant that does not enter
13 the stream of commerce and is intended to sup-
14 port hemp research at an institution of higher
15 education (as defined in section 101 of the
16 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
17 1001)) or an independent research institute; or

18 “(E) grown for the use of a viable seed of
19 the plant produced solely for the production or
20 manufacture of any material described in sub-
21 paragraphs (A) through (D).”.

22 (b) STATE AND TRIBAL PLANS.—Section 297B of
23 the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639p)
24 is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

- 1 (A) in paragraph (2)—
- 2 (i) in subparagraph (A)—
- 3 (I) by redesignating clauses (ii)
- 4 through (vii) as clauses (iii) through
- 5 (viii), respectively;
- 6 (II) by inserting after clause (i)
- 7 the following:
- 8 “(ii) a procedure under which a hemp
- 9 producer shall be required to designate the
- 10 type of production of the hemp producer
- 11 as—
- 12 “(I) only industrial hemp; or
- 13 “(II) hemp grown for any pur-
- 14 pose other than industrial hemp;”;
- 15 and
- 16 (III) in clause (iii), as redesi-
- 17 gnated by clause (i) of this subpara-
- 18 graph, by inserting “except as pro-
- 19 vided in subparagraph (B)(i),” before
- 20 “a procedure”; and
- 21 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
- 22 “include any other practice” and inserting
- 23 the following: “include—
- 24 “(i) notwithstanding subparagraph
- 25 (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual

1 inspections, performance-based sampling
2 methodologies, certified seed, or a similar
3 procedure when developing sampling plans
4 for any producer who elects to be des-
5 ignated as a producer of only industrial
6 hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I);

7 “(ii) notwithstanding subsection
8 (e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating
9 the 10-year period of ineligibility following
10 the date of conviction for a felony related
11 to a controlled substance for producers
12 who elect to be designated as producers of
13 only industrial hemp under subparagraph
14 (A)(ii); and

15 “(iii) any other practice”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(4) INSPECTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRO-
18 DUCERS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State or Tribal
20 plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes pro-
21 cedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or
22 testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i)
23 for a producer of industrial hemp, the State or
24 Indian tribe shall require the producer to pro-
25 vide documentation that demonstrates a clear

1 intent to produce, and use in-field practices
2 consistent with production of, only industrial
3 hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm
4 Service Agency report, harvest technique, or
5 harvest inspection.

6 “(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to pro-
7 vide the documentation required under subpara-
8 graph (A), the State or Indian tribe involved
9 shall require the producer to conduct the test-
10 ing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”; and
11 (2) in subsection (e)(3)—

12 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
13 as follows:

14 “(A) REPORTING.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
16 State department of agriculture or a Tribal
17 government with respect to which a State
18 or Tribal plan is approved under sub-
19 section (b), such State department of agri-
20 culture or Tribal government (as applica-
21 ble) shall immediately report a hemp pro-
22 ducer to the Attorney General, and, as ap-
23 plicable, the chief law enforcement officer
24 of the State or Indian tribe, if the State
25 department of agriculture or Tribal gov-

1 ernment (as applicable) determines that
2 the hemp producer has—

3 “(I) violated the State or Tribal
4 plan with a culpable mental state
5 greater than negligence; or

6 “(II) violated the State or Tribal
7 plan by producing a crop that is in-
8 consistent with the designation of only
9 industrial hemp under subsection
10 (a)(2)(A)(ii).

11 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)
12 shall not apply with respect to—

13 “(I) a violation described in sub-
14 clause (I) of clause (i); or

15 “(II) the production of a crop in-
16 consistent with its designation, as de-
17 scribed in subclause (II) of such
18 clause.”;

19 (B) in subparagraph (B), by amending
20 clause (ii) to read as follows:

21 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall
22 not apply to any person growing hemp that
23 designates the type of production as only
24 industrial hemp under subsection
25 (a)(2)(A)(ii) if—

1 “(I) the State or Tribal plan ap-
2 proved under subsection (b) includes a
3 procedure described in subsection
4 (a)(2)(B)(ii); or

5 “(II) the plan established by the
6 Secretary under section 297C includes
7 a procedure described in subsection
8 (a)(2)(B)(ii) of such section.”; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(D) PRODUCTION INCONSISTENT WITH
11 INDUSTRIAL HEMP DESIGNATION.—Any person
12 who knowingly produces a crop that is incon-
13 sistent with the designation of only industrial
14 hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) shall be in-
15 eligible to participate in the program estab-
16 lished under this section for a period of 5 years
17 beginning on the date of the violation.”.

18 (c) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Section 297C
19 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
20 1639q) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) by striking “paragraph (1) shall”

24 and all that follows through “practice to

1 maintain” and inserting the following:
2 “paragraph (1)—
3 “(A) shall include—
4 “(i) a practice to maintain”;
5 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by redesignig-
6 nating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I)
7 and (II), respectively, and moving the mar-
8 gins of such subclauses (as so redesignig-
9 nated) two ems to the right;
10 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
11 (B) through (E) as clauses (iii) through
12 (vi), respectively, and moving the margins
13 of such clauses (as so redesignated) two
14 ems to the right;
15 (iv) by inserting after clause (i) (as
16 designated by clause (i) of this subpara-
17 graph) the following:
18 “(ii) a procedure under which the Sec-
19 retary shall require a hemp producer to
20 designate the type of production of the
21 hemp producer as—
22 “(I) only industrial hemp; or
23 “(II) hemp grown for any pur-
24 pose other than industrial hemp;”;

- 1 (v) in clause (iii) (as redesignated by
2 clause (iii) of this subparagraph), by in-
3 sserting “except as provided in subpara-
4 graph (B)(i),” before “a procedure”;
- 5 (vi) by striking subparagraph (F); and
- 6 (vii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:
- 8 “(B) may include—
- 9 “(i) notwithstanding subparagraph
10 (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual
11 inspections, performance-based sampling
12 methodologies, certified seed, or a similar
13 procedure when developing sampling plans
14 for any producer who elects to be des-
15 ignated as a producer of only industrial
16 hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii);
- 17 “(ii) notwithstanding section
18 297B(e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for elimi-
19 nating the 10-year period of ineligibility
20 following the date of conviction for a felony
21 related to a controlled substance for pro-
22 ducers who elect to be designated as pro-
23 ducers of only industrial hemp under sub-
24 paragraph (A)(ii); and

1 “(iii) such other practices or proce-
2 dures as the Secretary considers to be ap-
3 propriate, to the extent that the practice or
4 procedure is consistent with this subtitle.”;
5 and

6 (B) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(3) INSPECTIONS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRO-
8 DUCERS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan referred to
10 in paragraph (1) includes procedures for reduc-
11 ing or eliminating sampling or testing require-
12 ments under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer
13 of only industrial hemp, the Secretary shall re-
14 quire the producer to provide documentation
15 that demonstrates a clear intent to produce,
16 and use in-field practices consistent with pro-
17 duction of, industrial hemp, such as a seed tag,
18 sales contract, Farm Service Agency report,
19 harvest technique, or harvest inspection.

20 “(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to pro-
21 vide the appropriate documentation required
22 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall re-
23 quire the producer to conduct the testing de-
24 scribed in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”; and

25 (2) in subsection (d)(2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

4 (i) by redesignating clauses (i) and
5 (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

6 (ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as
7 so redesignated), the following:

8 “(i) the designation of the type of pro-
9 duction of the hemp producers under sec-
10 tion 297B(a)(2)(A)(ii) or under subsection
11 (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section;” and

12 (iii) in clause (iii), (as so redesign-
13 ated), by striking the period at the end
14 and inserting “; and”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(D) the laboratory certificate of analysis
17 for hemp disposed of under section
18 297B(a)(2)(A)(iv) or subsection (a)(2)(A)(iv) of
19 this section.”.

20 (d) REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES; EFFECT ON
21 OTHER LAW.—Section 297D of the Agricultural Mar-
22 keting Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639r) is amended—

23 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**REGU-**
24 **LATIONS AND GUIDELINES**” and inserting “**AD-**

1 **MINISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDE-**
2 **LINES”**; and

3 (2) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
5 “PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS AND
6 GUIDELINES” and inserting “ADMINISTRATION,
7 REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES”; and

8 (B) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(3) LABORATORY ACCREDITATION.—The Sec-
10 retary, in consultation with the Administrator of the
11 Drug Enforcement Administration, shall establish a
12 process by which the Department of Agriculture can
13 issue certificates of accreditation to laboratories for
14 the purposes of testing hemp in accordance with this
15 subtitle.”.

16 **SEC. 10007. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZA-**
17 **TIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGI-**
18 **NEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AU-**
19 **THORIZED PARTIES.**

20 Subtitle A of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C.
21 7711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 420A. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZA-**
2 **TIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGI-**
3 **NEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AU-**
4 **THORIZED PARTIES.**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) COVERED MICROORGANISM.—The term
7 ‘covered microorganism’—

8 “(A) means a genetically engineered micro-
9 organism that is a plant pest or may pose a
10 plant pest risk; and

11 “(B) does not include listed agents or tox-
12 ins (as defined in section 212(l) of the Agricul-
13 tural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (7
14 U.S.C. 8401(l))).

15 “(2) COVERED UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—The
16 term ‘covered unauthorized release’ means an unau-
17 thorized release of a covered microorganism, includ-
18 ing such a release that a responsible party suspects
19 took place.

20 “(3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ‘pilot pro-
21 gram’ means the pilot program established under
22 subsection (b).

23 “(4) PLANT PEST RISK.—The term ‘plant pest
24 risk’ has the meaning given such term in section
25 340.3 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or
26 successor regulations).

1 “(5) RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—The term ‘respon-
2 sible party’ means a partnership, corporation, asso-
3 ciation, joint venture, or other legal entity that—

4 “(A) has a physical address in the United
5 States;

6 “(B) is not owned by or otherwise affili-
7 ated with the government of a country of con-
8 cern (as defined in section 10638 of the CHIPS
9 Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237));

10 “(C) has more than 1 responsible party
11 biocontainment facility;

12 “(D) employs quality control personnel
13 that are capable of overseeing the movement
14 and control of covered microorganisms;

15 “(E) has, in each of the 3 years preceding
16 enrollment in the pilot program, moved plant
17 pests pursuant to permits granted by the Sec-
18 retary under this Act;

19 “(F) has the ability and resources to en-
20 sure compliance with the requirements under
21 subsection (e) for the duration of the pilot pro-
22 gram;

23 “(G) has implemented the precautions
24 specified in subsection (e) to prevent the unau-
25 thorized release of covered microorganisms; and

1 “(H) has not, during the 5-year period
2 preceding the date on which the relevant appli-
3 cation is submitted under subsection (c)—

4 “(i) caused an unauthorized release of
5 a plant pest;

6 “(ii) materially failed to comply with
7 a permit granted by the Secretary for the
8 interstate movement of plant pests; or

9 “(iii) violated any provision of this
10 section (including regulations promulgated
11 thereunder).

12 “(6) RESPONSIBLE PARTY BIOCONTAINMENT
13 FACILITY.—The term ‘responsible party biocontain-
14 ment facility’—

15 “(A) means a physical structure or portion
16 thereof, constructed and maintained in order to
17 contain plant pests, that is under the control of,
18 or operated by, a responsible party within the
19 contiguous United States; and

20 “(B) includes sites under the control of, or
21 operated by, any parent organization, sub-
22 sidiary, or affiliate of the responsible party.

23 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 100 days
24 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary

1 shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary
2 shall authorize not more than 75 responsible parties—

3 “(1) to move covered microorganisms in inter-
4 state commerce between responsible party bio-
5 containment facilities without a permit; and

6 “(2) to maintain control over and dispose of
7 such covered microorganisms.

8 “(c) APPLICATION.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept
10 applications from responsible parties for enrollment
11 in the pilot program during a 45-day application pe-
12 riod, beginning on the date on which the pilot pro-
13 gram is established under subsection (b), using a
14 web-based application process established by the
15 Secretary.

16 “(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by
17 a responsible party for enrollment in the pilot pro-
18 gram shall include the following:

19 “(A) The name and contact information of
20 the responsible party and any agent of the re-
21 sponsible party that will be involved in the
22 movement of a covered microorganism.

23 “(B) The methods by which a covered
24 microorganism will be moved and the measures

1 taken to ensure that there is no unauthorized
2 release of the covered microorganism.

3 “(C) The manner in which a shipping con-
4 tainer, packaging material, or any other mate-
5 rial accompanying the covered microorganism
6 will be disposed of to prevent the unauthorized
7 release of a covered microorganism.

8 “(D) A list of responsible party biocontain-
9 ment facilities to which the responsible party
10 intends to move covered microorganisms.

11 “(E) A list of the predominant covered
12 microorganism chassis strains that, at the time
13 of the application, the responsible party intends
14 to move.

15 “(F) A sworn certification that the respon-
16 sible party meets each criterion specified in sub-
17 section (a)(5).

18 “(3) SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party
20 may submit a supplemental application to the
21 Secretary to update a list under subparagraph
22 (D) or (E) of paragraph (2) at any time during
23 such enrollment. The Secretary shall make a
24 determination with respect to such supple-
25 mental application not later than 30 days after

1 the date on which such supplemental applica-
2 tion is submitted to the Secretary.

3 “(B) DENIALS.—The Secretary may only
4 deny a supplemental application if the Sec-
5 retary has made the determination set forth in
6 subsection (d)(2)(B). A denial of a supple-
7 mental application shall be subject to appeal in
8 accordance with the terms specified in sub-
9 section (d)(3).

10 “(d) SELECTION PROCESS.—

11 “(1) TIMING.—The Secretary shall—

12 “(A) evaluate applications received under
13 subsection (c)(1) in the order in which the ap-
14 plications are received; and

15 “(B) approve or deny all applications re-
16 ceived during the period described in that sub-
17 section not later than 45 days after the end of
18 that period.

19 “(2) DENIAL.—The Secretary shall deny an ap-
20 plication received under subsection (c)(1) if—

21 “(A) the Secretary has already selected 75
22 responsible parties for enrollment in the pilot
23 program; or

24 “(B) the Secretary determines that the re-
25 sponsible party submitting the application does

1 not meet each criterion specified in subsection
2 (a)(5).

3 “(3) APPEAL.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party
5 seeking to enroll in the pilot program whose ap-
6 plication has been denied under paragraph (2)
7 may submit to the Secretary a written appeal
8 within—

9 “(i) the 10-day period beginning on
10 the date on which the responsible party re-
11 ceives written notification of the denial; or

12 “(ii) a longer period, if the responsible
13 party makes a request for additional time
14 to submit such appeal and the Secretary
15 grants such request.

16 “(B) DECISION.—The Secretary shall,
17 within a reasonably prompt period, grant or
18 deny an appeal under subparagraph (A) in writ-
19 ing, which shall include the reasons for the de-
20 cision.

21 “(e) REQUIREMENTS.—A responsible party shall, as
22 a condition of enrollment in the pilot program, agree to—

23 “(1) maintain, move, and dispose of covered
24 microorganisms in a manner that prevents unau-

1 thorized release, spread, dispersal, or persistence of
2 those covered microorganisms in the environment;

3 “(2) unless otherwise authorized under a permit
4 under this Act, only move a covered microorganism
5 between sites that are responsible party biocontain-
6 ment facilities;

7 “(3) maintain, move, and dispose of each cov-
8 ered microorganism separately from other orga-
9 nisms;

10 “(4) ensure that each covered microorganism is
11 maintained, moved, and disposed of in a manner
12 commensurate with the plant pest risk posed by that
13 covered microorganism;

14 “(5) use, at a minimum, a package for move-
15 ment—

16 “(A) that consists of a securely sealed
17 inner and outer container, each of which is an
18 effective barrier to the escape or unauthorized
19 dissemination of the covered microorganism;

20 “(B) the inner container of which—

21 “(i) contains all of the applicable cov-
22 ered microorganism; and

23 “(ii) is cushioned and sealed in such
24 a manner as to remain sealed during any
25 shock, impact, or change in pressure; and

1 “(C) the outer container of which is rigid
2 and strong enough to withstand typical ship-
3 ping conditions (such as dropping, stacking,
4 and impact from other freight) without opening;

5 “(6) on request, grant the Secretary access—

6 “(A) to sample materials associated with
7 the interstate movement of covered microorga-
8 nisms under the pilot program;

9 “(B) to observe and inspect the interstate
10 movement of those covered microorganisms; and

11 “(C) to audit records of the activities of
12 the responsible party under the pilot program;

13 “(7) maintain detailed and accurate records of
14 all activities carried out under the pilot program to
15 demonstrate compliance with the applicable require-
16 ments;

17 “(8) on request, grant the Secretary access to
18 each responsible party biocontainment facility for in-
19 spection in relation to a responsible party’s enroll-
20 ment in the pilot program; and

21 “(9) comply with any additional requirement
22 for the containment of covered microorganisms in
23 interstate commerce that the Secretary may require
24 if—

1 “(A) the Secretary determines that such
2 an additional requirement is reasonable; and

3 “(B) the sole purpose of such additional
4 requirement is to avoid a covered unauthorized
5 release.

6 “(f) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PREFERENCES.—In
7 carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall take
8 no action or promulgate any regulation that—

9 “(1) treats genetically engineered covered
10 microorganisms less favorably than nongenetically
11 engineered covered microorganisms; or

12 “(2) limits the quantity or type of covered
13 microorganisms that may be moved under the pilot
14 program between responsible party biocontainment
15 facilities.

16 “(g) REPORTING BY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—A re-
17 sponsible party shall submit to the Secretary a quarterly
18 report that describes the activities of the responsible party
19 under the pilot program during the period covered by the
20 report, including—

21 “(1) a description of each covered microorga-
22 nism moved in interstate commerce, including—

23 “(A) the 1 or more countries or localities
24 at which the covered microorganism was col-

1 lected, developed, manufactured, reared, cul-
2 tivated, or cultured, as applicable;

3 “(B) the genus, species, and any relevant
4 subspecies and common name information of
5 the covered microorganism; and

6 “(C) when applicable, a brief description of
7 the genetic modifications made in the micro-
8 organism, including—

9 “(i) the intended phenotype that the 1
10 or more modifications are expected to con-
11 fer;

12 “(ii) any targeted deletions, inser-
13 tions, or base pair substitutions; and

14 “(iii) the genetic elements used in im-
15 parting the modification, including the
16 name, donor organism, and a brief descrip-
17 tion of the function;

18 “(2) each method by which the covered micro-
19 organism was moved in interstate commerce;

20 “(3) the quantity of the covered microorganism
21 moved in interstate commerce; and

22 “(4) the specific responsible party biocontain-
23 ment facilities between which the covered microorga-
24 nism was moved in interstate commerce.

1 “(h) UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—In the case of a
2 covered unauthorized release, a responsible party shall—

3 “(1) contact the applicable office within the
4 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within
5 48 hours of discovery of the covered unauthorized
6 release; and

7 “(2) submit to the Secretary a statement of
8 facts pertaining to such release, in writing, not later
9 than 5 business days after the date of that dis-
10 covery.

11 “(i) DISENROLLMENT FROM PILOT PROGRAM.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall termi-
13 nate the enrollment of a responsible party in the
14 pilot program if the Secretary has a sound factual
15 basis to determine that—

16 “(A) the responsible party no longer meets
17 the eligibility criteria of a responsible party de-
18 scribed in subsection (a)(5);

19 “(B) the responsible party has materially
20 failed to comply with the requirements under
21 subsection (e); or

22 “(C) as a result of a failure by a respon-
23 sible party under subparagraph (B), the respon-
24 sible party caused a covered unauthorized re-
25 lease during the pilot program.

1 “(2) DISENROLLMENT DECISION.—If the Sec-
2 retary terminates the enrollment of a responsible
3 party under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall sub-
4 mit that decision in writing to the responsible party.

5 “(3) APPEAL.—The appeal process described in
6 subsection (d)(3) shall apply in the case of a respon-
7 sible party that seeks to appeal a termination of en-
8 rollment under paragraph (1).

9 “(j) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-
10 nate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which
11 the Secretary completes the application selection process
12 under subsection (d)(1)(B).

13 “(k) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the
14 date of termination of the pilot program described in sub-
15 section (j), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
16 that describes—

17 “(1) the activities carried out under the pilot
18 program, including—

19 “(A) the quantities and identities of cov-
20 ered microorganisms that were moved; and

21 “(B) a description of any unauthorized re-
22 lease of covered microorganisms that were
23 moved, including a description of the cause and
24 consequence of any unauthorized release; and

25 “(2) recommendations on—

1 “(A) whether the pilot program should be-
2 come a permanent program; and

3 “(B) whether, as a permanent program,
4 changes should be made to the criteria for a re-
5 sponsible party under subsection (a)(5) or to
6 the requirements under subsection (e).”.

7 **Subtitle B—Marketing**

8 **SEC. 10101. MARKETING ORDERS.**

9 Section 8e(a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7
10 U.S.C. 608e–1(a)), reenacted with amendments by the Ag-
11 ricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amend-
12 ed—

13 (1) by inserting “almonds,” after “onions,”;
14 and

15 (2) by striking “, other than dates for proc-
16 essing,” each place it appears.

17 **SEC. 10102. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.**

18 Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
19 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
22 through (13) as paragraphs (6) through (14),
23 respectively; and

24 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
25 following:

1 “(5) FOOD HUB.—The term ‘food hub’ means
2 a business or organization that actively manages the
3 aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-
4 identified food products to multiple buyers from
5 multiple producers, who are primarily local and re-
6 gional producers, to strengthen the ability of such
7 producers to satisfy local and regional wholesale, re-
8 tail, and institutional demands.”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, regional
10 food chain coordination,” after “collaboration”;

11 (3) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “stake-
12 holders” and inserting “stakeholders before and
13 after providing grants under the program”;

14 (4) in subsection (d)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
16 and inserting “2029”;

17 (B) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (I), by striking
19 “or” ;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (J)(ii), by strik-
21 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
22 or”; and

23 (iii) by inserting at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(K) to support the purchase of special
2 purpose equipment.”; and
3 (C) in paragraph (6)—
4 (i) in subparagraph (B)—
5 (I) by redesignating clauses (vii)
6 and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), re-
7 spectively; and
8 (II) by inserting after clause (vi)
9 the following:
10 “(vii) a food hub;”;
11 (ii) in subparagraph (C)—
12 (I) in the matter preceding clause
13 (i), by striking “applications that”
14 and inserting “applications, outreach,
15 and technical assistance that would” ;
16 (II) in clause (i), by striking “or”
17 at the end;
18 (III) by redesignating clause (ii)
19 as clause (iii);
20 (IV) by inserting after clause (i)
21 the following:
22 “(ii) provide greater geographic bal-
23 ance relative to the benefits of the Pro-
24 gram; or”; and

1 (V) in clause (iii) (as so redesignig-
2 nated), by striking “are used” and in-
3 serting “be used”;

4 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
5 (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and
6 (F); and

7 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
8 (C) the following:

9 “(D) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
11 shall establish a simplified application form
12 for eligible entities described in subpara-
13 graph (B) that—

14 “(I) request less than \$100,000;
15 and

16 “(II) choose from the project cat-
17 egories described in clause (ii), which
18 shall include a specific, limited set of
19 key activities with predefined require-
20 ments established by the Secretary.

21 “(ii) PROJECT CATEGORIES.—The
22 Secretary shall establish a simplified appli-
23 cation form for the following project cat-
24 egories but may include additional project
25 categories as necessary:

1 “(I) DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER
2 PROJECTS.—In the case of a direct-to-
3 consumer project, an application form
4 described in clause (i) may be avail-
5 able for the following categories of
6 projects:

7 “(aa) An outreach and pro-
8 motion project.

9 “(bb) A project to provide
10 funding for farmers market man-
11 ager staff time.

12 “(cc) A project to provide
13 vendor training.

14 “(dd) A planning and design
15 project.

16 “(ee) A data collection and
17 evaluation project.

18 “(II) LOCAL AND REGIONAL
19 FOOD MARKETS AND ENTERPRISE
20 PROJECTS.—In the case of a local and
21 regional food market and enterprise
22 project, an application form described
23 in clause (i) may be available for the
24 following categories of projects:

1 “(aa) A food hub feasibility
2 study project.

3 “(bb) A project to provide
4 funding for regional food chain
5 coordination staff time.

6 “(cc) A project to provide
7 technical assistance.

8 “(dd) A data collection and
9 evaluation project.

10 “(ee) A project to support
11 the purchase of special purpose
12 equipment.”;

13 (5) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “2019
14 through 2023” and all that follows through the pe-
15 riod at the end and inserting the following: “2025
16 through 2029 to support partnerships—

17 “(i) to plan a local or regional food
18 system;

19 “(ii) to implement a local or regional
20 food system plan;

21 “(iii) to develop and implement a re-
22 gional food chain coordination project; and

23 “(iv) to develop and implement a re-
24 gional outreach, technical assistance, and
25 evaluation project.”;

1 (6) in subsection (f)(1)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-
3 section (d); or” and inserting “subsection
4 (d)(5)”;

5 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
6 subparagraph (C); and

7 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
8 the following:

9 “(B) are eligible to submit an application
10 in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D); or”;
11 and

12 (7) in subsection (i)(3)(B)—

13 (A) by striking “Of the funds” and insert-
14 ing the following:

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds”;

16 and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(ii) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—Of
19 the funds made available for grants under
20 subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal year, not less
21 than 10 percent, and not more than 50
22 percent, shall be used to provide grants to
23 eligible entities that submit an application
24 in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D).”.

1 **SEC. 10103. ACER ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

2 Section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
3 U.S.C. 1632c) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as
5 subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(e) CONSULTATIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first re-
10 quest for applications under this section that occurs
11 at least 1 year after the date of enactment of this
12 Act, not later than 6 months before such a request
13 for applications, the Secretary shall solicit input
14 from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect
15 to the research and education priorities of the maple
16 syrup industry.

17 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary shall
18 consider the information provided through the con-
19 sultation required under paragraph (1) when making
20 grants under this section.”; and

21 (3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by
22 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

23 **SEC. 10104. ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA INI-**
24 **TIATIVE.**

25 Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
26 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
3 the end;

4 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
5 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(4) collect and publish cost-of-production data
8 for organic milk, through support from regional and
9 national programs, including regularly reported data
10 related to—

11 “(A) the costs of major organic feedstuffs,
12 including—

13 “(i) the prices for major organic
14 feedstuffs produced domestically;

15 “(ii) the prices for imported major or-
16 ganic feedstuffs; and

17 “(iii) all other costs relating to the
18 production of organic milk;

19 “(B) establishment of an Organic All Milk
20 Prices Survey, which shall be analogous to the
21 existing All Milk Prices Survey conducted by
22 the National Agricultural Statistics Service, to
23 gather and report monthly data about the
24 amounts organic dairy farmers are being paid

1 for organic milk and prices received for organic
2 dairy cows, including—

3 “(i) national data; and

4 “(ii) data relating to, at a minimum,
5 the 6 regions with the greatest quantity of
6 organic dairy production; and

7 “(C) periodic organic milk reporting under
8 which the Secretary, using data collected by the
9 National Agricultural Statistics Service, the
10 Economic Research Service, or the Agricultural
11 Marketing Service, publishes new periodic re-
12 ports that include, or add to existing periodic
13 reports relating to, data for organic milk, which
14 shall be equivalent to data reported for conven-
15 tionally produced milk.”; and

16 (2) in subsection (d)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
19 “and” at the end;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
21 the period at the end and inserting “;
22 and”; and

23 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(D) \$10,000,000 for the period of fiscal
2 years 2025 through 2029.”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
4 and inserting “2029”.

5 **SEC. 10105. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.**

6 (a) REPORTS.—Section 2122(d)(1) of the Organic
7 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521(d)(1)) is
8 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

9 (b) ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Or-
10 ganic Foods Production Act of 1990 is amended by insert-
11 ing after section 2122A (7 U.S.C. 6521a) the following:

12 **“SEC. 2122B. ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this title, the
14 Secretary may provide technical assistance, outreach, and
15 education to support organic production through existing
16 programs implemented by a covered agency.

17 “(b) COVERED AGENCY.—For the purposes of this
18 section, the term ‘covered agency’ means—

19 “(1) the Agricultural Marketing Service;

20 “(2) the Agricultural Research Service;

21 “(3) the National Institute of Food and Agri-
22 culture;

23 “(4) the Farm Service Agency;

24 “(5) the Risk Management Agency;

1 **SEC. 10107. REPORT ON PROCUREMENT.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
3 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024,
4 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
5 culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
6 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
7 ate a report that examines—

8 (1) the process by which domestic commodities
9 or products (as defined in section 220.16 of title 7,
10 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-
11 lation)) are procured by the Secretary, including the
12 solicitation process used to procure such commod-
13 ities or products;

14 (2) barriers to entry into such procurement
15 process that are for nontraditional, culturally rel-
16 evant, or local and regional commodities or products;

17 (3) the diet quality and accessibility of commod-
18 ities or products that are so procured; and

19 (4) the Secretary's recommendations for admin-
20 istrative, regulatory, and legislative changes to im-
21 prove such procurement process.

1 **Subtitle C—Regulatory Reform**

2 **PART I—FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE,**
3 **AND RODENTICIDE ACT**

4 **SEC. 10201. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Federal Insecti-
6 cide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136) is
7 amended—

8 (1) by amending subsection (v) to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(v) PLANT REGULATOR.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant regulator’
12 means any substance or mixture of substances in-
13 tended, through physiological action, for accelerating
14 or retarding the rate of growth or rate of matura-
15 tion, or for otherwise altering the behavior of plants
16 or the produce thereof.

17 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term shall not in-
18 clude—

19 “(A) substances to the extent that they
20 are—

21 “(i) intended to be produced and used
22 within a plant; or

23 “(ii) intended as plant nutrients, trace
24 elements, nutritional chemicals, plant in-

1 oculants, soil amendments, or vitamin hor-
2 mone products; or

3 “(B) plant biostimulants that—

4 “(i) have a low-risk profile in relation
5 to humans and other organisms, as deter-
6 mined by the Agency; and

7 “(ii) are of biological origin or include
8 chemical compounds that are synthetically
9 derived, but structurally-similar and func-
10 tionally identical to, substances of biologi-
11 cal origin.”;

12 (2) in subsection (hh)—

13 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or”;

14 (B) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
16 graph (A), by striking “substances.” and
17 inserting “substances”; and

18 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

19 (I) by striking “volatilization
20 urease” and inserting “volatilization,
21 or urease”;

22 (II) by striking the period at the
23 end and inserting a semicolon; and

24 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
25 following:

1 “(4) a plant biostimulant; or

2 “(5) a nutritional chemical.”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(pp) PLANT BIOSTIMULANT.—The term ‘plant bio-
5 stimulant’ means any substance or mixture of substances
6 that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, or soil
7 or other growth media, acts to support a plant’s natural
8 nutrition processes independently of the nutrient content
9 of that substance or mixture of substances, and that there-
10 by improves—

11 “(1) nutrient availability, uptake, or use effi-
12 ciency;

13 “(2) tolerance to abiotic stress; or

14 “(3) consequent growth, development, quality,
15 or yield.

16 “(qq) NUTRITIONAL CHEMICAL.—The term ‘nutri-
17 tional chemical’ means any substance or mixture of sub-
18 stances that interacts with plant nutrients in a manner
19 that improves nutrient availability or aids the plant in ac-
20 quiring or utilizing plant nutrients.

21 “(rr) VITAMIN HORMONE PRODUCT.—The term ‘vi-
22 tamin hormone product’ means a product that—

23 “(1) consists of a mixture of plant hormones,
24 plant nutrients, plant inoculants, soil amendments,
25 trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant biostimu-

1 lants, or vitamins that is intended for the improve-
2 ment, maintenance, survival, health, and propaga-
3 tion of plants;

4 “(2) is nontoxic and nonpoisonous in the undi-
5 luted packaged concentrations of the product; and

6 “(3) is not intended for use on food crop sites
7 and is labeled accordingly.

8 “(ss) PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant-incor-
10 porated protectant’ means a pesticide that is—

11 “(A) intended for preventing, destroying,
12 repelling, or mitigating a pest; and

13 “(B) a substance or mixture of substances
14 intended to be produced and used within a liv-
15 ing plant, or in the produce thereof, and the ge-
16 netic material necessary for its production.

17 “(2) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes any
18 inert ingredient (as defined in section 174.3 of title
19 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor
20 regulation)).”.

21 (b) EXEMPTION FROM REGULATION.—Section 25(b)
22 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
23 (7 U.S.C. 136w(b)) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(b) EXEMPTION OF PESTICIDES.—

1 “(1) EXEMPTION BY RULE.—The Adminis-
2 trator may exempt from the requirements of this Act
3 by regulation any pesticide which the Administrator
4 determines either—

5 “(A) to be adequately regulated by another
6 Federal agency; or

7 “(B) to be of a character which is unneces-
8 sary to be subject to this Act in order to carry
9 out the purposes of this Act.

10 “(2) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PLANT-INCOR-
11 PORATED PROTECTANTS.—

12 “(A) EXEMPTION.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon the issuance
14 of guidance as described in subparagraph
15 (B), plant-incorporated protectants result-
16 ing from endogenous genetic material
17 found within or that could arise from the
18 plant’s gene pool are exempt from the re-
19 quirements of this Act.

20 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—A specific plant-
21 incorporated protectant arising from en-
22 dogenous genetic material found within or
23 that could arise from the plant’s gene pool
24 shall not be exempt from the requirements
25 of this Act if the Administrator determines

1 that such plant-incorporated protectant is
2 of a character which is necessary to be
3 subject to this Act in order to carry out
4 the purposes of this Act.

5 “(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year
6 after the date of the enactment of the Farm,
7 Food, and National Security Act of 2024, the
8 Administrator shall issue guidance for the im-
9 plementation of subparagraph (A). The Admin-
10 istrator may update such guidance, as the Ad-
11 ministrator determines to be appropriate.

12 “(C) ORDER.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Adminis-
14 trator makes a determination described in
15 subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to a
16 plant-incorporated protectant, the Admin-
17 istrator shall issue an order explaining the
18 basis for such determination, which may be
19 issued directly to any person who owns,
20 controls, or has custody of such plant-in-
21 corporated protectant or published in the
22 Federal Register.

23 “(ii) EFFECT OF ORDER.—After re-
24 ceipt or publication of an order described
25 in clause (i), the plant-incorporated pro-

1 tectant described in the order will no
2 longer be exempt from the requirements of
3 this Act.”.

4 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 17(c) of
5 the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
6 (7 U.S.C. 136o(c)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (2)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
9 (A), by striking “(as defined in section 174.3 of
10 title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any
11 successor regulation))”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”
13 at the end;

14 (C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
15 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

16 (D) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(D) that plant-incorporated protectant is
18 exempt under section 25(b)(2) or part 174 of
19 title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any
20 successor regulation).”; and

21 (2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “(as de-
22 fined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal
23 Regulations (or any successor regulation))”.

1 **SEC. 10202. COORDINATION.**

2 Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
3 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a) is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 “(i) COORDINATION.—

6 “(1) RISK MITIGATION MEASURES.—If any risk
7 mitigation measures are required for any pesticide
8 registered under this Act, the Administrator shall—

9 “(A) develop such measures in coordina-
10 tion with the Secretary of Agriculture; and

11 “(B) conduct, and publish in the docket,
12 with the corresponding action, an economic
13 analysis determining the cost of implementation
14 of such measures.

15 “(2) DATA AND INFORMATION.—

16 “(A) COORDINATION OF DATA AND INFOR-
17 MATION.—With regard to the registration or
18 registration review of a pesticide under this Act
19 and for making a determination under section
20 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
21 Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) with respect to any action
22 that impacts the sale, distribution, or use of a
23 pesticide, the Administrator shall coordinate
24 with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
25 through the Director of the Office of Pest Man-
26 agement Policy, so that the Administrator has

1 for the Administrator's use and consideration
2 for such processes—

3 “(i) agronomic use data from—

4 “(I) the Department of Agri-
5 culture; and

6 “(II) industry; and

7 “(ii) any information relating to the
8 availability and economic viability of alter-
9 natives to such pesticide.

10 “(B) DATA AND INFORMATION.—When
11 issuing any decision resulting from the proc-
12 esses referred to in subparagraph (A), the Ad-
13 ministrator shall publish—

14 “(i) a description of the use by the
15 Administrator of any data or information
16 provided by the Secretary of Agriculture
17 under subparagraph (A); and

18 “(ii) the determination of the Admin-
19 istrator on whether to use such data or in-
20 formation, including, as applicable, the
21 reasons that the data or information was
22 not used.

23 “(3) REASONABLE AND PRUDENT ACTIONS AND
24 MEASURES.—For implementation of reasonable and
25 prudent actions and measures with respect to the

1 use of a pesticide registered under this Act, the Ad-
2 ministrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of
3 Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the
4 Secretary of Commerce—

5 “(A) to review the development of any such
6 actions and measures that are a result of con-
7 sultations relating to actions under this Act;

8 “(B) to fully consider the risks and bene-
9 fits of any such actions and measures in a man-
10 ner consistent with practices established to
11 evaluate the risks and benefits of a pesticide
12 registered under this Act; and

13 “(C) to provide feedback to the Secretary
14 of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce
15 on decisions relating to any such actions and
16 measures that may affect end users of a pes-
17 ticide registered under this Act.

18 “(4) WAIVER.—The coordination requirements
19 imposed by this subsection may be waived or modi-
20 fied for a specific action to the extent agreed upon
21 by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture,
22 and the registrant so long as such agreement is pub-
23 lished by the Administrator in the docket for the
24 corresponding action.”.

1 **SEC. 10203. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

2 Section 3(c)(11) of the Federal Insecticide, Fun-
3 gicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(c)(11)) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (A) by striking “The Administrator shall”
7 and inserting the following:

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
9 shall”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(ii) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary
12 of Agriculture shall include the Director of
13 the Office of Pest Management Policy in
14 all meetings of the interagency working
15 group.”;

16 (2) in subparagraph (D)—

17 (A) in clause (iv)—

18 (i) by striking “every 180 days there-
19 after” and inserting “each year there-
20 after”; and

21 (ii) by striking “during the 5-year pe-
22 riod beginning on that date”; and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(v) AVAILABILITY.—All reports re-
25 quired under this subparagraph shall be

1 published on the website of the Environ-
2 mental Protection Agency.”; and

3 (3) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as
4 follows:

5 “(E) CONSULTATION.—

6 “(i) WORKING GROUP WITH PRIVATE
7 SECTOR.—In carrying out the duties under
8 this paragraph, the working group shall, as
9 appropriate—

10 “(I) consult, including through
11 public meetings, with representatives
12 of interested industry stakeholders
13 and nongovernmental organizations
14 not less than once every year; and

15 “(II) take into consideration fac-
16 tors, such as actual and potential dif-
17 ferences in interest between, and the
18 views of, those stakeholders and orga-
19 nizations.

20 “(ii) ADMINISTRATOR WITH WORKING
21 GROUP.—Before the Administrator imple-
22 ments any policy, strategy, workplan, or
23 pilot program regarding the application of
24 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
25 U.S.C.1531 et seq.) to the processes for

1 the registration or registration review of a
2 pesticide under this Act, the Administrator
3 shall—

4 “(I) consult with the covered
5 agencies on the policy, strategy,
6 workplan, or pilot program and take
7 into consideration input received; and

8 “(II) publish the input received
9 from the covered agencies in the dock-
10 et with the corresponding policy,
11 strategy, workplan, or pilot pro-
12 gram.”.

13 **SEC. 10204. UNIFORMITY OF PESTICIDE LABELING RE-**
14 **QUIREMENTS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 24(b) of the Federal In-
16 secticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C.
17 136v(b)) shall be applied to require uniformity in national
18 pesticide labeling, and prohibit any State, instrumentality
19 or political subdivision thereof, or a court from directly
20 or indirectly imposing or continuing in effect any require-
21 ments for, or penalize or hold liable any entity for failing
22 to comply with requirements with respect to, labeling or
23 packaging that is in addition to or different from the label-
24 ing or packaging approved by the Administrator of the
25 Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this sec-

1 tion as the “Administrator”) under such Act (7 U.S.C.
2 136 et seq.), including any requirements relating to warn-
3 ings on such labeling or packaging.

4 (b) PROHIBITION.—The Administrator may not issue
5 or adopt any guidance or any policy, take any regulatory
6 action, or approve any labeling (or change to such label-
7 ing) that is inconsistent with or in any respect different
8 from the conclusion of—

9 (1) a human health assessment performed pur-
10 suant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
11 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.); or

12 (2) a carcinogenicity classification for a pes-
13 ticide performed pursuant to such Act (7 U.S.C. 136
14 et seq.).

15 **SEC. 10205. AUTHORITY OF STATES.**

16 Section 24 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
17 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v) is amended—

18 (1) in the section heading by inserting “**AND**
19 **LOCALITIES**” after “**STATES**”; and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(d) LOCAL REGULATION.—A political subdivision of
22 a State shall not impose, or continue in effect, any require-
23 ment relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, applica-
24 tion, or use of any pesticide or device that is subject to
25 regulation—

1 “(1) by a State pursuant to this section; or
2 “(2) by the Administrator under this Act.”.

3 **PART II—OTHER REGULATORY REFORM**

4 **PROVISIONS**

5 **SEC. 10211. MULTIPLE CROP AND PESTICIDE USE SURVEY.**

6 Section 10109 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
7 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4906) is amend-
8 ed—

9 (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

12 “(1) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit
13 to the Administrator of the Environmental Protec-
14 tion Agency, and make publicly available, the survey
15 described in subsection (a).

16 “(2) COMMERCIAL DATA.—The Secretary, act-
17 ing through the Director of the Office of Pest Man-
18 agement Policy, shall obtain commercial data on pes-
19 ticide use to inform the conduct of, and enhance the
20 results of, the survey described in subsection (a).”;
21 and

22 (2) in subsection (c), by amending paragraph
23 (1) to read as follows:

1 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
2 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
3 shall use to carry out this section—

4 “(A) \$500,000 for fiscal year 2019, to re-
5 main available until expended;

6 “(B) \$100,000 for fiscal year 2024, to re-
7 main available until expended; and

8 “(C) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to
9 remain available until expended.”.

10 **SEC. 10212. CRITICAL MINERALS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
12 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of the In-
13 terior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture,
14 shall evaluate potash, phosphates, and other minerals nec-
15 essary for the production of fertilizer and other agricul-
16 tural products used to promote crop development for des-
17 ignation as critical minerals under section 7002(c)(4) of
18 the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(c)(4)).

19 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days
20 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
21 of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agri-
22 culture, shall evaluate current policies related to permit-
23 ting and leasing of projects for the exploration, develop-
24 ment, and production of the minerals described in sub-

1 section (a) and issue recommendations to support domes-
2 tic production of such minerals to—

3 (1) the Committee on Natural Resources and
4 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives; and

6 (2) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
7 sources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
8 tion, and Forestry of the Senate.

9 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
10 of enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior,
11 in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall
12 prepare a report that describes how each mineral de-
13 scribed in subsection (a) meets each aspect of the method-
14 ology under section 7002(c)(3) of the Energy Act of 2020
15 (30 U.S.C. 1606(c)(3)), as of the date of enactment of this
16 section, to determine eligibility for the list as described
17 under section 7002(c)(4) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30
18 U.S.C. 1606(c)(4) and issue such report to—

19 (1) the Committee on Natural Resources and
20 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives; and

22 (2) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
23 sources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
24 tion, and Forestry of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 10213. SAFE HARBOR FOR CERTAIN DISCHARGES OF**
2 **WILDLAND FIRE CHEMICALS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), no
4 court may enjoin under the Federal Water Pollution Con-
5 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) a covered entity from
6 conducting an aerial application of a covered fire retardant
7 and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or
8 prevention activities that results in a discharge, if such
9 aerial application is conducted in accordance with the re-
10 quirements of the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement
11 between the Environmental Protection Agency and the
12 U.S. Forest Service, as agreed to on February 16, 2023.

13 (b) PERIOD OF APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall
14 apply to any aerial application described in such sub-
15 section that is conducted before the effective date of a per-
16 mit issued by the Administrator of the Environmental
17 Protection Agency or a State, as applicable, under section
18 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
19 U.S.C. 1342) that authorizes the discharge, from such
20 aerial application, of a covered fire retardant and water
21 enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention
22 activities.

23 (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the au-
24 thority of any court under the Federal Water Pollution
25 Control Act with respect to any discharge resulting from

1 an aerial application not conducted in accordance with the
2 requirements described in subsection (a).

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
5 tity” means—

6 (A) any Federal agency, agency of a State
7 or political subdivision thereof, or Tribal agen-
8 cy, authorized by law to conduct an aerial appli-
9 cation of fire retardants and water enhancers
10 for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention
11 activities; and

12 (B) any contractor, subcontractor, or other
13 agent of an agency described in subparagraph
14 (A).

15 (2) COVERED FIRE RETARDANT AND WATER
16 ENHANCER.—The term “covered fire retardant and
17 water enhancer” means a fire retardant and water
18 enhancer that—

19 (A) has been evaluated, qualified, and ap-
20 proved by the Secretary; and

21 (B) appears on the most current Forest
22 Service Qualified Products List.

23 (3) DISCHARGE; STATE.—The terms “dis-
24 charge” and “State” have the meanings given those

1 terms in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution
2 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362).

3 (e) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective
4 on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment
5 of this section.

6 **SEC. 10214. SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE ENVIRON-**
7 **MENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.**

8 Section 8 of the Environmental Research, Develop-
9 ment, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 (42
10 U.S.C. 4365) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “the Com-
12 mittee on Environment and Public Works of the
13 United States Senate, or the Committee on Science,
14 Space, and Technology, on Energy and Commerce,
15 or on Public Works and Transportation of the
16 House of Representatives” and inserting “the Com-
17 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
18 the Committee on Environment and Public Works,
19 or the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
20 Forestry of the Senate or the Committee on Science,
21 Space, and Technology, the Committee on Energy
22 and Commerce, the Committee on Transportation
23 and Infrastructure, or the Committee on Agriculture
24 of the House of Representatives”; and

25 (2) in subsection (i)—

1 (A) by striking “the Committees on Envi-
2 ronment and Public Works and Agriculture of
3 the Senate and the Committees on Transpor-
4 tation and Infrastructure, Energy and Com-
5 merce, and Agriculture of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives” and inserting “the Committee on
7 Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the
8 Committee on Environment and Public Works,
9 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
10 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee
11 on Science, Space, and Technology, the Com-
12 mittee on Energy and Commerce, the Com-
13 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
14 and the Committee on Agriculture of the House
15 of Representatives”; and

16 (B) by inserting “and any additional agri-
17 culture-related committees and investigative
18 panels established pursuant to subsection
19 (e)(2)(A)(ii)” before the period.

20 **SEC. 10215. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

21 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
22 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended
23 by inserting after section 220 (7 U.S.C. 6920) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 220A. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in
3 the Department an Office of Biotechnology Policy to pro-
4 vide for the effective coordination of policies and activities
5 within the Department of Agriculture related to bio-
6 technology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and re-
7 lated emerging technologies, while taking into account the
8 effects of regulatory actions of other government agencies.

9 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office of Biotechnology Policy
10 shall be under the direction of a Director appointed by
11 the Secretary, who shall report directly to the Secretary
12 or a designee of the Secretary.

13 “(c) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office of Bio-
14 technology Policy shall—

15 “(1) develop and coordinate Department policy
16 on biotechnology and related topics;

17 “(2) coordinate activities and services of the
18 Department on biotechnology and related topics, in-
19 cluding—

20 “(A) research and development;

21 “(B) extension and education;

22 “(C) communication;

23 “(D) regulation and labeling; and

24 “(E) commercialization, use, and trade;

1 “(3) assist other offices and agencies of the De-
2 partment in fulfilling their responsibilities related to
3 biotechnology under applicable Federal law; and

4 “(4) perform such other functions as may be
5 required under Federal law or prescribed by the Sec-
6 retary.

7 “(d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying out
8 the duties under subsection (b), the Director of the Office
9 of Biotechnology Policy shall provide leadership to ensure
10 coordination of interagency activities with the Environ-
11 mental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Adminis-
12 tration, and other Federal and State agencies.

13 “(e) OUTREACH.—The Director of the Office of Bio-
14 technology Policy shall consult with biotechnology devel-
15 opers, academics, agricultural producers, and other enti-
16 ties that may be affected by biotechnology-related activi-
17 ties or actions of the Department or other Federal and
18 State agencies as necessary in carrying out the Office’s
19 responsibilities under this section.

20 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

1 **TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE**

2 **SEC. 11001. SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Federal Crop
4 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1505) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
8 (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F),
9 (G), and (H), respectively;

10 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
11 (D) the following:

12 “(E) The Chairperson of the Specialty
13 Crop Advisory Committee established by sub-
14 section (f).”; and

15 (iii) in subparagraph (H), as so reded-
16 ignated, by striking “specialty crop” and
17 inserting “livestock”;

18 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “sub-
19 paragraphs (E), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2)”
20 and inserting “subparagraphs (F), (G), and
21 (H) of paragraph (2) and the members of the
22 Specialty Crop Advisory Committee described in
23 subsection (f)(2)”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

25 “(f) SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
3 the Secretary shall—

4 “(A) establish a Specialty Crop Advisory
5 Committee (in this subsection, referred to as
6 ‘the Committee’); and

7 “(B) appoint to the Committee in accord-
8 ance with paragraph (2) the initial members
9 that will assist the Corporation in the research,
10 creation, and improvement of policies or plans
11 of insurance for specialty crops.

12 “(2) COMPOSITION.—

13 “(A) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of
14 the Committee shall be an individual with expe-
15 rience in crop insurance and familiarity with
16 the unique nature of the specialty crop indus-
17 try.

18 “(B) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall
19 consist of—

20 “(i) individuals with an understanding
21 of the production methods, markets, and
22 risks (including losses due to weather,
23 trade damages, and supply chain disrup-
24 tions) unique to specialty crop production;

1 “(ii) not less than 5 producers and
2 not more than 10 total members; and

3 “(iii) not less than one producer from
4 each of the West, Midwest, South, and
5 Northeast regions of the United States (as
6 identified by the Bureau of the Census).

7 “(3) DUTIES.—The Committee established by
8 this subsection shall—

9 “(A) advise the manager of the Corpora-
10 tion on issues relating to specialty crop insur-
11 ance policies;

12 “(B) provide input, through the Chair-
13 person of the Committee, to the Board on deci-
14 sions relating to specialty crop insurance poli-
15 cies;

16 “(C) review available educational programs
17 and make recommendations to the manager of
18 the Corporation on how to enhance the effec-
19 tiveness of such programs for specialty crop
20 producers;

21 “(D) provide recommendations to the man-
22 ager of the Corporation regarding the presen-
23 tation of policies to the Board required by sec-
24 tion 508(a)(6);

1 “(E) advise the manager of the Corpora-
2 tion on entering into partnerships to carry out
3 subsections (d) and (e)(2)(B) of section 522;
4 and

5 “(F) meet not less than two times each
6 year to carry out these duties.”.

7 (b) SPECIALTY CROPS COORDINATOR.—Section
8 507(g)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
9 1507(g)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

10 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Specialty Crops
12 Coordinator shall have primary responsibility
13 for addressing the needs of specialty crop pro-
14 ducers, and for providing information and ad-
15 vice, in connection with the activities of the
16 Corporation to improve and expand the insur-
17 ance program for specialty crops.

18 “(B) OTHER DUTIES.—In carrying out
19 this paragraph, the Specialty Crops Coordinator
20 shall—

21 “(i) act as the liaison of the Corpora-
22 tion with representatives of specialty crop
23 producers and the Specialty Crop Advisory
24 Committee; and

1 “(ii) assist the Corporation with the
2 knowledge, expertise, and familiarity of the
3 producers with risk management and pro-
4 duction issues pertaining to specialty
5 crops.”.

6 (c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEW AND SPECIALTY
7 CROPS.—Section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insur-
8 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(6)(A)) is amended by insert-
9 ing “(in consultation with the Specialty Crop Advisory
10 Committee)” after “Corporation”.

11 **SEC. 11002. IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTAN-**
12 **TIAL INTERESTS.**

13 Section 506(m) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
14 (7 U.S.C. 1506(m)) is amended—

15 (1) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
16 lows:

17 “(3) IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUB-
18 STANTIAL INTERESTS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Manager of the
20 Corporation may require each policyholder to
21 provide to the Manager, at such times and in
22 such manner as prescribed by the Manager, the
23 name of each individual or other entity that ac-
24 quires or holds a substantial beneficial interest
25 in such policyholder.

1 “(B) EXTENSION AVAILABLE.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
3 policyholder that does not provide the in-
4 formation required pursuant to subpara-
5 graph (A) to the Manager at the time pre-
6 scribed by the Manager, the Manager shall
7 allow such policyholder to provide to the
8 Manager such information at any time
9 during the applicable crop year.

10 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall
11 not apply to a policyholder that an ap-
12 proved insurance provider determines—

13 “(I) would receive dispropor-
14 tionate benefits under a crop insur-
15 ance program as a result of failing to
16 provide the information required pur-
17 suant to subparagraph (A) to the
18 Manager at the time prescribed by the
19 Manager; or

20 “(II) failed to provide such infor-
21 mation to avoid an obligation or re-
22 quirement under any State or Federal
23 law.”; and

24 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “5 percent”
25 and inserting “10 percent”.

1 **SEC. 11003. ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW**
2 **PRODUCTS.**

3 Section 506(n) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
4 U.S.C. 1506(n)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(4) ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW
7 PRODUCTS.—The Corporation shall—

8 “(A) review each policy or product devel-
9 oped under section 508(h) periodically for actu-
10 arial soundness; and

11 “(B) take such actions, in consultation
12 with persons described in paragraph (1)(A) of
13 such section, as are necessary to improve the
14 actuarial soundness of such policies and prod-
15 ucts.”.

16 **SEC. 11004. COVERAGE OF REVENUE LOSSES.**

17 Section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
18 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)) is amended, in the second sentence,
19 by inserting “or a decline in the market price of the in-
20 sured commodity, so long as such decline was not directly
21 caused by the producer (as determined by the Secretary)”
22 before the period at the end.

1 **SEC. 11005. SUPPLEMENTAL AND AGGREGATE COVERAGE**
2 **ENHANCEMENTS.**

3 (a) **COVERAGE LEVEL.**—Section 508(c)(4) of the
4 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(c)(4)) is
5 amended—

6 (1) by amending subparagraph (A)(ii) to read
7 as follows:

8 “(ii) may be purchased at any level
9 not to exceed—

10 “(I) in the case of the individual
11 yield or revenue coverage, 85 percent;

12 “(II) in the case of individual
13 yield or revenue coverage aggregated
14 across multiple commodities, 90 per-
15 cent; and

16 “(III) in the case of area yield or
17 revenue coverage (as determined by
18 the Corporation), 95 percent.”; and

19 (2) in subparagraph (C)—

20 (A) clause (ii), by striking “14” and in-
21 serting “10”; and

22 (B) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “86” and
23 inserting “90”.

24 (b) **PREMIUM SUBSIDY.**—Section 508(e)(2)(H)(i) of
25 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.

1 1508(e)(2)(H)(i) is amended by striking “65” and insert-
2 ing “80”.

3 **SEC. 11006. LIMITATION ON FARM PROGRAM PARTICIPA-**
4 **TION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Crop Insurance Act
6 (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq) is amended—

7 (1) in section 508(e)(4)(C)(iv)—

8 (A) in the heading, by striking “CROPS
9 AND”; and

10 (B) by striking “Crops” and all that fol-
11 lows through “acres” and inserting “Acres”;
12 and

13 (2) in section 508B(f) is amended by striking
14 “Effective beginning with the 2019 crop year” and
15 inserting “Effective for the 2019 through 2024 crop
16 years”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1115 of the
18 Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9015), as amended
19 by section 1103, is further amended by adding at the end
20 the following subsection:

21 “(i) LIMITATION.—Beginning with the 2025 crop
22 year—

23 “(1) in the case of a farm for which a producer
24 obtains coverage under the Stacked Income Protec-
25 tion Plan for upland cotton under section 508B of

1 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508b)
2 for a crop year, such farm shall not be eligible to re-
3 ceive payments for seed cotton for such crop year
4 under—

5 “(A) price loss coverage under section
6 1116; and

7 “(B) agriculture risk coverage under sec-
8 tion 1117; and

9 “(2) in the case of a crop on a farm for which
10 a producer obtains supplemental coverage under sec-
11 tion 508(c)(4)(C) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
12 (7 U.S.C. 1508(c)(4)(C)) for a crop year, such crop
13 on such farm shall not be eligible to receive pay-
14 ments under agriculture risk coverage under section
15 1117 for such crop year.”.

16 **SEC. 11007. LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.**

17 Section 508(d) of Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
18 U.S.C. 1508(d)) is amended by inserting at the end the
19 following new paragraph:

20 “(5) LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUED.—Ef-
21 fective beginning with the 2025 reinsurance year, in
22 the case of a producer that is delinquent in paying
23 a premium or administrative fee, an approved insur-
24 ance provider may charge such producer with re-
25 spect to such delinquency an amount less than or

1 equal to 1 percent of the simple interest of the
2 amount for which such producer is delinquent, for
3 each month (not to exceed 60-consecutive months)
4 the producer is so delinquent.”.

5 **SEC. 11008. CROP INSURANCE SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING**
6 **AND VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.**

7 (a) DEFINITION OF BEGINNING AND VETERAN
8 FARMER OR RANCHER.—Section 502(b) of the Federal
9 Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)) is amended

10 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “5 crop years”
11 and inserting “10 crop years”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (14)(B)—

13 (A) in clause (ii) by striking “5 years” and
14 inserting “10 years”; and

15 (B) in clause (iii) by striking “5-year” and
16 inserting “10-year”.

17 (b) INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE.—Section 508(e)(8) of
18 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)(8)) is
19 amended—

20 (1) by striking “Notwithstanding” and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding”;

23 (2) by striking “is 10 percentage points greater
24 than” and inserting “is the amount of percentage

1 points specified in subparagraph (B) greater than”;
2 and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(B) PERCENTAGE POINTS ADJUST-
5 MENTS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A),
6 the percentage points specified in this subpara-
7 graph are as follows:

8 “(i) For each of the first and second
9 reinsurance years that a beginning farmer
10 or rancher participates as a beginning
11 farmer or rancher in the applicable policy
12 or plan of insurance, 15 percentage points.

13 “(ii) For the third reinsurance year
14 that a beginning farmer or rancher partici-
15 pates as a beginning farmer or rancher in
16 the applicable policy or plan of insurance,
17 13 percentage points.

18 “(iii) For the fourth reinsurance year
19 that a beginning farmer or rancher partici-
20 pates as a beginning farmer or rancher in
21 the applicable policy or plan of insurance,
22 11 percentage points.

23 “(iv) For each of the fifth through
24 tenth reinsurance years that a beginning
25 farmer or rancher participates as a begin-

1 ning farmer or rancher in the applicable
2 policy or plan of insurance, 10 percentage
3 points.”.

4 **SEC. 11009. MARKETABILITY.**

5 Section 508(h)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
6 (7 U.S.C. 1508(h)(4)) is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (A), by amending clause
8 (iii) to read as follows:

9 “(iii) APPLICATION.—

10 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
11 provided in subclause (II), this sub-
12 paragraph shall apply with respect to
13 a proposal only during the period pre-
14 ceding any approval of the proposal
15 by the Board.

16 “(II) EXCEPTION.—An approved
17 insurance provider that submits a let-
18 ter of support for a concept proposal,
19 a policy, or plan of insurance shall—

20 “(aa) not be considered the
21 public for purposes of clause (ii);

22 “(bb) have access to data
23 and other product development
24 information submitted to the

1 Board during its review under
2 this subsection, and;

3 “(cc) be subject to the con-
4 fidentiality requirements as appli-
5 cable to the Board pursuant to
6 clauses (i) and (ii).”;

7 (2) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end
8 the following:

9 “(iv) MARKETABILITY DEADLINE.—
10 Any new policy, plan of insurance, or other
11 material approved by the Board under this
12 subsection during a reinsurance year and
13 after the Standard Reinsurance Agreement
14 closing date of July 1, shall not be imple-
15 mented for such reinsurance year unless at
16 least 90 days prior to the sales closing date
17 for such policy, plan of insurance, or other
18 material, the Board makes available to the
19 approved insurance providers all necessary,
20 as determined by the Board, handbooks,
21 training materials, and other resources as-
22 sociated with such policy, plan of insur-
23 ance, or other material.”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

25 “(F) MARKETABILITY DETERMINATION.—

1 “(i) SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD.—

2 Prior to the approval of a product, any ap-
3 proved insurance provider that submitted a
4 letter of support for the product shall pro-
5 vide information and analysis to the Board
6 on the marketability of such product.

7 “(ii) DEEMED MARKETABLE.—In re-
8 viewing a policy, plan of insurance, or
9 other material submitted to the Board
10 under this subsection such product shall be
11 deemed marketable in accordance with
12 paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I) if at least one ap-
13 proved insurance provider, in its submis-
14 sion pursuant to clause (i), expresses sup-
15 port for such policy, plan, or material.

16 “(iii) EVALUATION BY THE BOARD.—
17 In evaluating whether a product is market-
18 able in accordance with paragraph
19 (3)(A)(ii)(I), the Board shall take into con-
20 sideration any information and analysis
21 submitted pursuant to clause (ii).

22 “(iv) AIP PARTICIPATION.—The
23 Board shall not require the submission of
24 a letter of support from an approved insur-
25 ance provider in order to review and ap-

1 prove any policy, plan of insurance, or
2 other materials submitted pursuant to this
3 subsection.”.

4 **SEC. 11010. REINSURANCE.**

5 (a) SUPPLEMENTING LOSS ADJUSTMENT EX-
6 PENSES.—Section 508(k) of the Federal Crop Insurance
7 Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)) is further amended by adding at
8 the end the following:

9 “(10) ADDITIONAL EXPENSES.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the
11 terms and conditions of the Standard Reinsur-
12 ance Agreement, to cover additional expenses
13 for loss adjustment procedures, the Corporation
14 shall pay an additional administrative and oper-
15 ating expense subsidy to approved insurance
16 providers for eligible contracts.

17 “(B) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—In the case of
18 an eligible contract, the payment to an ap-
19 proved insurance provider required under sub-
20 paragraph (A) shall be the amount equal to 6
21 percent of the net book premium.

22 “(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

23 “(i) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term ‘eli-
24 gible State’ means a State—

1 “(I) identified in State Group 2
2 or State Group 3 (as defined in the
3 Standard Reinsurance Agreement for
4 reinsurance year 2025); and

5 “(II) in which, with respect to an
6 insurance year, the loss ratio for eligi-
7 ble contracts is greater than 120 per-
8 cent of the total net book premium
9 written by all approved insurance pro-
10 viders.

11 “(ii) ELIGIBLE CONTRACTS.—The
12 term ‘eligible contract’—

13 “(I) means a crop insurance con-
14 tract entered into by an approved in-
15 surance provider in an eligible State;
16 and

17 “(II) does not include a contract
18 for—

19 “(aa) catastrophic risk pro-
20 tection under subsection (b);

21 “(bb) an area-based plan of
22 insurance or similar plan of in-
23 surance, as determined by the
24 Corporation; or

1 “(cc) a policy under which
2 an approved insurance provider
3 does not incur loss adjustment
4 expenses, as determined by the
5 Corporation.”.

6 (b) REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND OP-
7 ERATING EXPENSES WITH RESPECT TO SPECIALTY
8 CROPS CONTRACTS.—Section 508(k) of the Federal Crop
9 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)) is further amended by
10 adding at the end of the following:

11 “(11) SPECIALTY CROPS.—

12 “(A) MINIMUM REIMBURSEMENT.—Begin-
13 ning with the 2025 reinsurance year and for
14 each reinsurance year thereafter, the rate of re-
15 imbursement to approved insurance providers
16 for administrative and operating expenses with
17 respect to crop insurance contracts covering ag-
18 ricultural commodities described in section 101
19 of title I of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness
20 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note) shall be
21 equal to or greater than the percent that is the
22 greater of the following:

23 “(i) 17 percent of the premium used
24 to define loss ratio.

1 “(ii) The percent of the premium used
2 to define loss ratio that is otherwise appli-
3 cable for the reinsurance year under the
4 terms of the Standard Reinsurance Agree-
5 ment in effect for the reinsurance year.

6 “(B) OTHER CONTRACTS.—In carrying out
7 subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall not re-
8 duce, with respect to any reinsurance year, the
9 amount or the rate of reimbursement to ap-
10 proved insurance providers under the Standard
11 Reinsurance Agreement described in clause (ii)
12 of such subparagraph for administrative and
13 operating expenses with respect to contracts
14 covering agricultural commodities that are not
15 subject to such subparagraph.

16 “(C) SHORT-TERM EQUITABLE RELIEF.—
17 With respect to the 2022 through 2024 reinsur-
18 ance years, in addition to the amount of reim-
19 bursement for administrative and operating ex-
20 penses available for crop insurance contracts
21 described in subparagraph (A), the Corporation
22 shall use \$50,000,000, to remain available until
23 expended, to pay, with respect to such con-
24 tracts, an amount that is equal to the difference
25 between—

1 “(i) the amount to be paid pursuant
2 to the Standard Reinsurance Agreement
3 for the applicable reinsurance year; and

4 “(ii) the amount that would be paid if
5 such contracts were—

6 “(I) not subject to a reduction
7 described in subsection (a)(2)(G) of
8 section III of the Standard Reinsur-
9 ance Agreement; and

10 “(II) subject to a reimbursement
11 rate equal to 17 percent of the net
12 book premium.

13 “(D) ADMINISTRATION.—The require-
14 ments of this paragraph and the adjustments
15 made pursuant to this paragraph shall not be
16 considered a renegotiation under paragraph
17 (8)(A).

18 “(12) ADJUSTMENT.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the
20 2025 reinsurance year and for each reinsurance
21 year thereafter, the Corporation shall increase
22 the total administrative and operating expense
23 reimbursements otherwise required under the
24 Standard Reinsurance Agreement in effect for
25 the reinsurance year in order to account for in-

1 flation in a manner that is consistent with the
2 increases provided with respect to the 2011
3 through 2015 reinsurance years under the en-
4 closure, included in the Risk Management
5 Agency’s Bulletin, MGR–10–007, dated June
6 30, 2010.

7 “(B) ADMINISTRATION.—The increase de-
8 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall—

9 “(i) apply with respect to all contracts
10 covering agricultural commodities that
11 were subject to an increase during the pe-
12 riod of the 2011 through 2015 reinsurance
13 years under the enclosure described in
14 such subparagraph; and

15 “(ii) not be considered a renegotiation
16 under paragraph (8)(A).

17 “(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR THE 2025 REIN-
18 SURANCE YEAR.—The increase described in
19 subparagraph (A) for the 2025 reinsurance
20 year shall not exceed the percentage change
21 from the preceding year included in the Con-
22 sumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers
23 published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of
24 the Department of Labor.”.

1 **SEC. 11011. REVENUE INSURANCE.**

2 The Federal Crop Insurance Act is amended by in-
3 serting after section 508D (7 U.S.C. 1508d) the following:

4 **“SEC. 508E. SUGARBEET REVENUE INSURANCE.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning with the
6 2026 crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the
7 Corporation shall make available to producers of sugar
8 beets a revenue crop insurance policy for sugar beets.

9 “(b) COVERAGE.—The policy required under sub-
10 section (a) shall provide for a combination of—

11 “(1) individual-based yield coverage; and

12 “(2) coverage against a decrease in a gross beet
13 sugar payment to a producer from a cooperative
14 processor due to a shortfall in sugar production at
15 the cooperative level as the result of one or more of
16 the following conditions:

17 “(A) cooperative-level sugar beet produc-
18 tion that is below average;

19 “(B) cooperative-level raw sugar content of
20 the beets that is below average, irrespective of
21 the quantity of sugar beets produced; or

22 “(C) a decrease in price in the refined
23 sugar market relative to the expected price at
24 the beginning of the crop year.”.

1 **SEC. 11012. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS**
2 **OF COVERAGE PENALTY.**

3 The Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended by sec-
4 tion 11011, is further amended by inserting after section
5 508E the following:

6 **“SEC. 508F. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS**
7 **OF COVERAGE PENALTY.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning with the
9 2025 crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the
10 Corporation shall establish a pilot program to evaluate the
11 effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn
12 and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, plant-
13 ed during the late planting period (as defined in section
14 457.8 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
15 regulation)).

16 “(b) LOCATION AND DURATION OF PILOT.—The
17 pilot program established under subsection (a) shall—

18 “(1) be conducted in not less than 10 counties
19 located within or adjacent to the North Plains
20 Ground Conservation District or the Panhandle
21 Ground Conservation District in the State of Texas;
22 and

23 “(2) operate for a period of not less than four
24 crop years.

1 “(c) EVALUATION.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
2 gram established under subsection (a), the Risk Manage-
3 ment Agency and the Corporation shall—

4 “(1) suspend any reduction to the insurance
5 guarantee applied to an insurance policy for a crop
6 that is planted during the late planting period;

7 “(2) gather and analyze data to determine if
8 the number of days beyond the final plant date in
9 which a crop was planted during the late planting
10 period correlates with a decrease in crop yields; and

11 “(3) determine if planting a crop after the final
12 plant date results in reduced usage of irrigation
13 from the Ogallala Aquifer.

14 “(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
15 after the last day of crop year 2029, the Risk Management
16 Agency and the Corporation shall submit to the Com-
17 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
18 the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition of
19 the Senate a report that includes—

20 “(1) a summary of the results of the pilot pro-
21 gram established under subsection (a);

22 “(2) an analysis of the correlation between
23 planting date and final yields; and

1 “(3) any changes to existing policies that the
2 Corporation intends to make as a result of the infor-
3 mation obtained during the pilot program.

4 “(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—Of the amounts made avail-
5 able in section 522(e)(2)(A)(ii), the Corporation may use
6 not more than \$200,000 to enter into a partnership or
7 cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization,
8 State agency, or public university that is familiar with ag-
9 ricultural production in the region described in subsection
10 (b)(1) to conduct the research and evaluation required
11 under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).”.

12 **SEC. 11013. PROGRAM COMPLIANCE AND INTEGRITY.**

13 Section 515 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
14 U.S.C. 1515) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) in the heading, by inserting “, RE-
17 SPONSE, AND FINAL DETERMINATION” after
18 “NOTIFICATION”;

19 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “shall
20 notify in writing” and inserting “shall, through
21 an initial finding in writing, notify (unless such
22 notification is pursuant to the responsibilities to
23 conduct reviews and make corrections)”;

24 (C) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in the heading, by striking “TIME
2 FOR NOTIFICATION” and inserting “RE-
3 QUIRED TIMING”;

4 (ii) by striking “Notice” and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(A) INITIAL FINDING.—Notice”; and

7 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(B) RESPONSE.—During the 90-day pe-
10 riod beginning on the date the Corporation no-
11 tifies an approved insurance provider through
12 an initial finding under paragraph (1), such ap-
13 proved insurance provide may appeal such ini-
14 tial finding in writing.

15 “(C) FINAL FINDING.—Not later than 90
16 days after the date on which an approved insur-
17 ance provider appeals pursuant to subpara-
18 graph (B), the Corporation shall issue a final
19 finding in writing to such approved insurance
20 provider.

21 “(D) REQUEST FOR FINAL ADMINISTRA-
22 TIVE DETERMINATION.—An approved insurance
23 provider shall have not more than 90 days after
24 the receipt of the Corporation’s final finding
25 under subparagraph (C) to request, in writing,

1 a final agency determination, if such approved
2 insurance provider has reason to believe that
3 the Corporation’s final finding under subpara-
4 graph (C) is not in accordance with—

5 “(i) the applicable laws, regulations,
6 custom, or practice of the crop insurance
7 industry; or

8 “(ii) the approved policy and proce-
9 dure of the Corporation.

10 “(E) FINAL DETERMINATION.—The Cor-
11 poration shall have not more than 90 days after
12 the receipt of a request for a final administra-
13 tive determination under subparagraph (D) to
14 provide such final administrative determination,
15 unless substantial new information, as deter-
16 mined by the Corporation, is provided by the
17 approved insurance provider.

18 “(F) APPEAL TO CIVILIAN BOARD OF CON-
19 TRACT APPEALS.—An approved insurance pro-
20 vider shall have not more than 90 days after re-
21 ceipt of final administrative determination pro-
22 vided pursuant to subparagraph (E) to appeal
23 such determination to the Civilian Board of
24 Contract Appeals.”; and

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

3 “(3) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO TIMELY NO-
4 TIFY.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
6 subparagraph (B), failure of the Corporation to
7 comply with the requirements under paragraph
8 (2) shall relieve the approved insurance provider
9 from the debt owed to the Corporation.

10 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)
11 shall not apply to any matters referred to the
12 Office of the Inspector General or the Depart-
13 ment of Justice.”.

14 (2) in subsection (l)(2), by striking “than” and
15 all that follows through the period at the end and
16 inserting the following: “than—

17 “(A) \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years
18 2009 through 2024; and

19 “(B) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and
20 each subsequent fiscal year.”.

21 **SEC. 11014. REVIEWS, COMPLIANCE, AND INTEGRITY.**

22 Section 516(b)(2)(C)(i) of the Federal Crop Insur-
23 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516(b)(2)(C)(i)) is amended by strik-
24 ing “each fiscal year” and inserting “for each of fiscal

1 years 2014 through 2024 and \$10,000,000 for fiscal year
2 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

3 **SEC. 11015. WHOLE FARM IMPROVEMENTS.**

4 Section 522(c)(7)(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance
5 Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)(E)) is amended by adding at
6 the end the following:

7 “(iii) **ADDITIONAL REVIEW.**—Not
8 later than 12 months after the date of en-
9 actment of this clause and annually there-
10 after, the Corporation shall—

11 “(I) review any limitations on in-
12 surable revenue (including the overall
13 limitation and limitations specific to
14 animals, animal products, greenhouse
15 and nursery, and aquaculture) to en-
16 sure such limitations are adequate to
17 cover the financial risks associated
18 with the production of high-value agri-
19 cultural products; and

20 “(II) submit to the Committee on
21 Agriculture of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on
23 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
24 of the Senate a report that includes a
25 summary of the most recent review

1 conducted and any expected changes
2 to the policy for the following reinsur-
3 ance year.”.

4 **SEC. 11016. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.**

5 (a) EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.—Section
6 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
7 522(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(20) EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
10 carry out research and development, or offer to
11 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
12 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
13 velopment, to expand the availability of policies
14 that provide coverage against losses of revenue
15 for—

16 “(i) oilseeds, including camelina,
17 carinata, and pennycress;

18 “(ii) alfalfa;

19 “(iii) pulse crops (including dry edible
20 beans);

21 “(iv) sugarcane; and

22 “(v) other crops for which only indi-
23 vidual yield-based insurance policies are
24 available.

1 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
2 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
3 and section 508(a)(2), the Corporation shall
4 make a policy described in subparagraph (A)
5 available if the requirements of section 508(h)
6 are met.

7 “(C) DETERMINATION OF PROJECTED
8 PRICE.—In developing a policy described in sub-
9 paragraph (A) the Corporation may utilize al-
10 ternative methods of determining a projected
11 price for a crop, including the correlation of ac-
12 tual prices received for such crop to the futures
13 markets prices of other commodities.

14 “(D) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
15 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
16 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
17 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
18 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
19 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
20 scribes—

21 “(i) the crops for which research and
22 development has been carried out under
23 subparagraph (A);

1 “(ii) the results of the research and
2 development carried out under subpara-
3 graph (A);

4 “(iii) any recommendations with re-
5 spect to those results; and

6 “(iv) additional crops for which re-
7 search and development under this para-
8 graph is planned to be carried out.”.

9 (b) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EXPO-
10 SURE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
11 (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the
12 end the following:

13 “(21) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EX-
14 POSURE.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
16 after the date of the enactment of this para-
17 graph, the Corporation shall carry out research
18 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or
19 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons
20 to carry out research and development, regard-
21 ing a policy to insure wine grapes (including
22 wine grapes produced in the States of Cali-
23 fornia, Oregon, and Washington) against losses
24 due to wildfire smoke exposure.

1 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
2 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
3 and section 508(a)(2), not later than 18
4 months after the date of the enactment of this
5 paragraph, the Corporation shall make available
6 a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the
7 requirements of section 508(h) are met.

8 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
9 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
10 the Corporation shall submit to the Committees
11 on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House
12 of Representatives and the Committees on Ap-
13 propriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and
14 Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

15 “(i) the results of the research con-
16 ducted under subparagraph (A);

17 “(ii) a description of the policies made
18 available under this paragraph; and

19 “(iii) the feasibility of a product that
20 allows producers of wine grapes to claim
21 an indemnity through post-harvest, post-
22 vinification testing, if such testing dem-
23 onstrates smoke damage that was not de-
24 tectable prior to harvest.”.

1 (c) MUSHROOMS.—Section 522(c) of the Federal
2 Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amend-
3 ed by adding at the end the following:

4 “(22) MUSHROOMS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
6 carry out research and development, or offer to
7 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
8 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
9 velopment, regarding a policy to insure—

10 “(i) the production of mushroom
11 growing media; and

12 “(ii) the production of mushrooms.

13 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
14 standing the second sentence of section
15 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), the Corpora-
16 tion shall make a policy described in subpara-
17 graph (A) available if the requirements of sec-
18 tion 508(h) are met.

19 “(C) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DE-
20 SCRIBED.—Research and development described
21 in subparagraph (A) shall evaluate the effective-
22 ness of policies described in that subparagraph,
23 including policies that—

24 “(i) are based on the risk of—

1 “(I) pests, including mushroom
2 phorid flies and sciarid flies;
3 “(II) fungal pathogens; and
4 “(III) viral pathogens;
5 “(ii) consider other causes of loss ap-
6 plicable to mushroom compost and mush-
7 room production, such as—
8 “(I) a loss of electricity due to
9 weather; and
10 “(II) loss of growing media due
11 to excessive 5-year, 10-year, or 20-
12 year rainfall events;
13 “(iii) consider appropriate best prac-
14 tices to minimize the risk of loss;
15 “(iv) consider whether to provide cov-
16 erage for mushrooms under 1 policy or to
17 provide coverage for various phases of pro-
18 duction;
19 “(v) have streamlined reporting and
20 paperwork requirements that take into ac-
21 count short propagation schedules, variable
22 crop years, and the variety of mushrooms
23 that may be produced in a single facility;
24 and

1 “(vi) provide protection for revenue
2 losses.

3 “(D) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
4 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
5 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
6 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
7 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
8 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
9 scribes—

10 “(i) the results of the research and
11 development carried out under subpara-
12 graph (A); and

13 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
14 spect to those results.”.

15 (d) STUDY ON HURRICANE INSURANCE.—Section
16 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(23) STANDALONE POLICY FOR HURRICANES
20 AND TROPICAL STORMS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
22 carry out research and development, or offer to
23 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
24 qualified persons to conduct a study to deter-
25 mine the feasibility of offering insurance

1 against tropical storms and hurricanes made
2 available regardless of underlying crop insur-
3 ance policy (or lack thereof).

4 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
5 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
6 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
7 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
8 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
9 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
10 scribes the results of the study conducted under
11 subparagraph (A).”.

12 (e) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—Section
13 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
14 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(24) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSUR-
17 ANCE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
19 carry out research and development, or offer to
20 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
21 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
22 velopment, regarding an index-based policy to
23 insure crops (including tomatoes, peppers, sug-
24 arcane, strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches,
25 blueberries, and any other crop) on a nation-

1 ally-available basis against losses due to a frost
2 or cold weather event.

3 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
4 Research and development under subparagraph
5 (A) shall—

6 “(i) evaluate the effectiveness of risk
7 management tools, such as the use of an
8 index, with respect to low frequency and
9 catastrophic loss weather events; and

10 “(ii) result in a policy that provides
11 protection for at least 1 of the following:

12 “(I) Production loss.

13 “(II) Revenue loss.

14 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
15 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
16 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
17 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
18 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
19 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
20 scribes—

21 “(i) the results of the research and
22 development carried out under this para-
23 graph; and

24 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
25 spect to those results.”.

1 (f) STUDY OF INCLUSION OF CERTAIN OILSEED
2 CROPS UNDER DOUBLE AND ROTATIONAL CROPPING
3 POLICIES.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance
4 Act (7 4 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 “(25) DOUBLE CROPPING AND ROTATIONAL
7 CROPPING OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS.—

8 “(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED OILSEED
9 CROPS.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered
10 oilseed crops’ means rapeseed, canola, camelina,
11 and other oilseed crops, as determined by the
12 Corporation.

13 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
14 The Corporation shall carry out research and
15 development, or offer to enter into 1 or more
16 contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to
17 carry out research and development, with re-
18 spect to insurance policies for covered oilseed
19 crops under double cropping and rotational
20 cropping practices.

21 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The research and
22 development carried out pursuant to subpara-
23 graph (B) shall be conducted in consultation
24 with stakeholders to evaluate—

1 “(i) the factors impacting availability
2 and cost of crop insurance when incor-
3 porating covered oilseed crops into double
4 cropping and rotational cropping policies;
5 and

6 “(ii) the potential risk management
7 benefits associated with incorporating cov-
8 ered oilseed crops into double cropping and
9 rotational cropping policies, specifically
10 with respect to winter planted covered oil-
11 seed crops, including risk management
12 benefits to soil health, biodiversity, and the
13 profitability of farming operations.

14 “(D) EMPHASIS.—In awarding contracts
15 under subparagraph (B), the Corporation may
16 give priority to awarding contracts to qualified
17 persons that—

18 “(i) have previous research experience
19 with covered oilseed crops; and

20 “(ii) have access to a facility with the
21 capacity to carry out the applicable re-
22 search.

23 “(E) REPORT.—Not later than 13 months
24 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
25 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee

1 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
2 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
3 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
4 scribes—

5 “(i) the results of the research and
6 development carried out under subpara-
7 graph (B); and

8 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
9 spect to those results.”.

10 (g) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—Section 522(c) of the
11 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 4 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is fur-
12 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

13 “(26) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
15 after the date of the enactment of this para-
16 graph, the Corporation shall carry out research
17 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or
18 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons
19 to carry out research and development, regard-
20 ing harvest incentives for policies that provide
21 coverage against losses of revenue.

22 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
23 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
24 and section 508(a)(2), not later than 24
25 months after the date of the enactment of this

1 paragraph, the Corporation shall make available
2 a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the
3 requirements of section 508(h) are met.

4 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
5 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
6 the Corporation shall submit to the Committees
7 on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House
8 of Representatives and the Committees on Ap-
9 propriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and
10 Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

11 “(i) the results of the research con-
12 ducted under subparagraph (A); and

13 “(ii) a description of the policies made
14 available under this paragraph.”.

15 (h) REVENUE OR MORTALITY INSURANCE FOR POUL-
16 TRY.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
17 (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the
18 end the following:

19 “(27) REVENUE OR MORTALITY INSURANCE
20 FOR POULTRY.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
22 carry out research and development, or offer to
23 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
24 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
25 velopment, regarding an index or revenue policy

1 to insure poultry (including broilers, layers, pul-
2 lets, turkeys, ducks, pheasants, and quail) on a
3 nationally-available basis against losses from
4 mortality caused by naturally occurring weather
5 or infectious disease events.

6 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
7 Research and development under subparagraph
8 (A) shall—

9 “(i) evaluate the effectiveness of risk
10 management tools, such as the use of an
11 index, with respect to low frequency and
12 catastrophic loss weather or zoonotic dis-
13 ease events; and

14 “(ii) result in a policy that provides
15 protection for at least 1 of the following:

16 “(I) Mortality on an area level.

17 “(II) Revenue on an area level.

18 “(III) Cost of inputs on an area
19 level.

20 “(IV) Future revenue from loss
21 of flock placement on an individual
22 level.

23 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
24 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
25 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee

1 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
2 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
3 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
4 scribes—

5 “(i) the results of the research and
6 development carried out under this para-
7 graph; and

8 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
9 spect to those results.”.

10 **TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS**
11 **PROVISIONS**

12 **Subtitle A—Livestock and Other**
13 **Animals**

14 **PART I—ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION**

15 **SEC. 12001. ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGE-**
16 **MENT.**

17 (a) NADPRP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section
18 10409A(b)(2) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7
19 U.S.C. 8308A(b)(2)) is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (F)—

21 (A) by striking “including training addi-
22 tional emergency response personnel.” and in-
23 serting the following: “including—

24 “(i) training additional emergency re-
25 sponse personnel; and”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(ii) improving animal disease
3 traceability.”; and

4 (2) in subparagraph (I), by inserting before the
5 period at the end the following: “, including activi-
6 ties approved by the Secretary as of the date of the
7 enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security
8 Act of 2024”.

9 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 10409A(d)(1)
10 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C.
11 8308a(d)(1)) is amended—

12 (1) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as
13 follows:

14 “(A) FISCAL YEARS 2025 THROUGH 2029.—
15 Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corpora-
16 tion, the Secretary shall make available to carry
17 out this section \$233,000,000 for each of fiscal
18 years 2025 through 2029, of which—

19 “(i) not less than \$10,000,000 shall
20 be made available for each such fiscal year
21 to carry out subsection (a);

22 “(ii) not less than \$70,000,000 shall
23 be made available for each such fiscal year
24 to carry out subsection (b); and

1 “(iii) not less than \$153,000,000 shall
2 be made available for each such fiscal year
3 to carry out subsection (c).”; and

4 (2) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (A) by striking “\$30,000,000 for fiscal
6 year 2023” and inserting “\$75,000,000 for fis-
7 cal year 2025”; and

8 (B) by striking “\$18,000,000” and insert-
9 ing “\$45,000,000”.

10 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 (1) NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORA-
12 TORY.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(A) of the Animal
13 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(A)) is
14 amended—

15 (A) by striking “\$30,000,000” and insert-
16 ing “\$45,000,000”; and

17 (B) by striking “2019 through 2023” and
18 inserting “2025 through 2029”.

19 (2) NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS
20 AND RESPONSE PROGRAM; NATIONAL ANIMAL VAC-
21 CINE AND VETERINARY COUNTERMEASURES
22 BANK.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(B) of the Animal
23 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(B)) is
24 amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and in-
25 serting “2025 through 2029”.

1 (3) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF FUND-
2 ING.—Section 10409A(e)(1) of the Animal Health
3 Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(e)(1)) is amended
4 by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting
5 “2025 through 2029”.

6 **SEC. 12002. CATTLE FEVER TICK ERADICATION PROGRAM**
7 **REVIEW AND REPORT.**

8 (a) PROGRAM REVIEW.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
10 the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
11 retary shall offer to enter into a contract with a cov-
12 ered institution under which the covered institution
13 shall conduct a review of the Program.

14 (2) REVIEW ELEMENTS.—The review conducted
15 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an evalua-
16 tion of—

17 (A) the effectiveness of the Program with
18 respect to preventing and reducing the spread
19 of tick-borne illnesses in cattle, including a re-
20 view of places from which the cattle fever tick
21 has been eradicated and the resulting economic
22 impact;

23 (B) with respect to cattle producers—

24 (i) the benefits of the Program; and

1 (ii) the burden of compliance with the
2 Program;

3 (C) the treatment protocols developed and
4 implemented under the Program; and

5 (D) the Federal and State funds allocated
6 to support the Program for the most recent fis-
7 cal year, including the funds allocated to each
8 research project associated with the Program.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
10 on which the Secretary and a covered institution enter into
11 a contract pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the Secretary
12 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House
13 of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
14 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that in-
15 cludes—

16 (1) the results of the review conducted pursuant
17 to subsection (a); and

18 (2) recommendations for improvements to the
19 Program, including recommendations for reducing
20 the burden of compliance with the Program with re-
21 spect to cattle producers.

22 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term “cov-
24 ered institution” means—

1 (A) a land-grant college or university (as
2 defined in section 1404(13) of the National Ag-
3 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
4 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(13))); or

5 (B) a non-land-grant college of agriculture
6 (as defined in section 1404(14) of the National
7 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
8 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(14))).

9 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
10 the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program carried
11 out by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
12 Service of the Department in coordination with the
13 Texas Animal Health Commission.

14 **SEC. 12003. DOG DETECTION TRAINING CENTER.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National
16 Detector Dog Training Center (referred to in this Act as
17 the “Center”).

18 (b) DUTIES.—The Center shall have the following du-
19 ties:

20 (1) Training dogs for the purpose of safe-
21 guarding domestic agricultural and natural resources
22 from foreign and invasive pests and diseases.

23 (2) Training human handlers to successfully se-
24 lect and train dogs for the purpose described in
25 paragraph (1).

1 (3) Collaborating with relevant Federal agen-
2 cies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection,
3 to safeguard domestic agricultural and natural re-
4 sources.

5 (4) Collaborating with external stakeholders, in-
6 cluding State departments of agriculture, local and
7 county agricultural officials, private sector entities,
8 and other relevant non-Federal partners.

9 (5) Ensuring the health and welfare of all dogs
10 under the care of the Center, including by ensuring
11 access to necessary veterinary care, adequate shelter,
12 and proper nutrition.

13 (6) Providing opportunities for private adoption
14 of retirement-age trained dogs and dogs that do not
15 complete training.

16 (7) Any other duties necessary to safeguard do-
17 mestic agricultural and natural resources from for-
18 eign and invasive pests and diseases, as determined
19 by the Secretary, acting through the Administrator
20 of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

21 (c) **ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES.**—In addition
22 to the Center established under subsection (a), the Sec-
23 retary may—

1 (1) establish other dog training facilities, which
2 shall have the same duties as are specified in sub-
3 section (b) for the Center; and

4 (2) enter into a cooperative agreement with the
5 department of agriculture of a State (or political
6 subdivision thereof) to establish an off-site training
7 program for the purpose of providing training and
8 technical assistance in the training of dogs, as de-
9 scribed in subsection (b).

10 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
11 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through
12 the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-
13 tion Service, shall submit to Congress a report that con-
14 tains—

15 (1) a description of current and emerging
16 threats to domestic agricultural and natural re-
17 sources from foreign pests and diseases within the
18 purview of the operations of the Center;

19 (2) an examination of the role that the Center
20 plays in the protection against foreign pests and dis-
21 eases;

22 (3) a description of improvements needed in
23 Federal programs to minimize threats from foreign
24 pests and diseases within the purview of the oper-
25 ations of the Center, including strengthened coordi-

1 nation among the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-
2 tion Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection,
3 and other relevant Federal agencies;

4 (4) recommendations to strengthen the capabili-
5 ties of the Center in protecting against foreign pests
6 and diseases;

7 (5) an evaluation of the need for, and feasibility
8 of, additional dog detector training facilities or off-
9 site training options to address regional demands,
10 taking into consideration—

11 (A) the location of international ports of
12 entry;

13 (B) the volume of international passengers
14 and cargo; and

15 (C) regional agricultural production trends
16 and associated pest and disease threats; and

17 (6) recommendations to improve—

18 (A) the dog procurement procedures of the
19 Center; and

20 (B) private adoption opportunities for re-
21 tirement-age trained dogs and dogs that do not
22 complete the training described in subsection
23 (b).

24 (e) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority pro-
25 vided by this section shall expire on September 30, 2029.

1 **SEC. 12004. REGIONALIZATION, ZONING, AND**
2 **COMPARTMENTALIZATION AGREEMENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10405 of the Animal
4 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
6 section (e); and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(d) ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY EXPORT MARKETS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To reduce the impact of
11 animal disease outbreaks on United States exports,
12 the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of
13 the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the
14 Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and For-
15 eign Agricultural Affairs, and the Administrator of
16 the Food Safety and Inspection Service, in consulta-
17 tion with the United States Trade Representative, is
18 authorized to negotiate in advance, to the extent
19 practicable, regionalization, zoning,
20 compartmentalization, and other agreements regard-
21 ing outbreaks of known animal disease threats of
22 trade significance with the governments of countries
23 with export markets for livestock animals or animal
24 products from the United States.

1 “(2) RESEARCH.—A negotiation carried out
2 under paragraph (1) should seek to take into ac-
3 count accepted global research advances.”.

4 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
5 tion may be construed—

6 (1) to limit the ability of the United States
7 Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements;
8 or

9 (2) to require the United States Trade Rep-
10 representative to condition other trade agreements on
11 the inclusion of language relating to reducing the
12 impact of animal disease outbreaks on United States
13 exports, as described in subsection (d)(1) of section
14 10405 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7
15 U.S.C. 8304) (as inserted by subsection (a)(2)).

16 (c) NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall
17 promulgate a regulation to require that, in the case of any
18 language removed from the Import and Export Library
19 of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, the Adminis-
20 trator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service shall di-
21 rectly notify each State department of agriculture, each
22 lead State agency for animal disease, and any State and
23 national producer organizations representing impacted
24 livestock producers not later than 3 days after such re-
25 moval.

1 **SEC. 12005. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Health Protection
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
4 section 10404 (7 U.S.C. 8303) the following:

5 **“SEC. 10404A. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) COMPENSATION.—The term ‘compensa-
8 tion’ means any act, consideration, or thing of value
9 received by a person directly, including cash or
10 noncash benefits, cost-avoidance, obtaining positive
11 or avoiding negative publicity, an exchange of serv-
12 ices, or maintaining a license issued under any local,
13 State, or Federal government authority.

14 “(2) IMPORTER.—The term ‘importer’ means
15 any person who transports or causes the transpor-
16 tation of a dog into the United States from a foreign
17 country.

18 “(3) IMPORT TRANSPORTER.—The term ‘import
19 transporter’ means any person or entity that—

20 “(A) receives an imported dog from any
21 importer, dealer, research facility, exhibitor, op-
22 erator of an auction sale, or department, agen-
23 cy, or instrumentality of the United States or
24 of any State or local government; and

25 “(B) receives compensation for moving
26 such dog in commerce.

1 “(4) TRANSFER.—The term ‘transfer’ means a
2 change of ownership or control of an imported dog
3 to another person, including by sale, adoption, ex-
4 change, or donation.

5 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
7 graph (2), no person shall import a dog into the
8 United States unless prior to transport to the
9 United States, the Secretary receives electronic doc-
10 umentation necessary, as determined by the Sec-
11 retary, to demonstrate that the dog—

12 “(A) is in good health;

13 “(B) has received all necessary vaccina-
14 tions and internal and external parasite treat-
15 ment, and demonstrated negative test results,
16 as required by the Secretary and evidenced by
17 a certificate that—

18 “(i) is issued by a licensed veteri-
19 narian accredited by a competent veteri-
20 nary authority recognized by the Secretary;
21 and

22 “(ii) is endorsed by that authority in
23 a manner representing that the veteri-
24 narian issuing the certificate was author-
25 ized to do so;

1 “(C) is officially identified by a permanent
2 method approved by the Secretary; and

3 “(D) in the case that the dog is intended
4 for transfer—

5 “(i) is at least 6 months old; and

6 “(ii) is accompanied by an import per-
7 mit issued by the Secretary under this Act.

8 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, by regula-
9 tion, shall provide an exception to any requirement
10 under this Act in any case in which a dog is im-
11 ported for purposes of transfer—

12 “(A) as a personal pet of United States or-
13 igin returning to the United States;

14 “(B) as a United States military working
15 dog or contracted working dog supporting a
16 military mission or tasking;

17 “(C) for research purposes;

18 “(D) for veterinary treatment which is
19 paid for by the importer, subject to the condi-
20 tion that the dog—

21 “(i) is taken directly to a veterinary
22 facility for treatment with appropriate
23 quarantine until the dog meets the criteria
24 described in paragraph (1); and

1 “(ii) is then exported to its country of
2 origin; or

3 “(E) in the case of a dog that is less than
4 6 months old, for lawful importation into the
5 State of Hawaii from the British Isles, Aus-
6 tralia, Guam, or New Zealand in compliance
7 with the regulations of the State of Hawaii and
8 the other requirements of this section, if the
9 dog is not transported out of the State of Ha-
10 wahi for transfer at less than 6 months of age.

11 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATIONS.—Not
12 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the
13 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, the Sec-
14 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and
15 Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Sec-
16 retary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Trans-
17 portation, shall promulgate such regulations as the Sec-
18 retary determines necessary to implement and enforce this
19 section, including regulations—

20 “(1) to facilitate electronic submission and
21 interagency sharing of all documentation required
22 prior to the importation of a dog into the United
23 States under subsection (b)(1);

24 “(2) to establish any necessary post-arrival
25 verification processes for imported dogs;

1 “(3) to ensure the denial of entry into the
2 United States of any dog attempted to be imported
3 into the United States in violation of subsection
4 (b)(1);

5 “(4) to provide that each importer, import
6 transporter, intermediate handler, or carrier receiv-
7 ing a certificate of veterinary inspection required
8 under this section shall submit a copy of the certifi-
9 cate to the Secretary, who shall record the informa-
10 tion in a centralized, publicly available database and,
11 upon request by a State veterinarian, share the in-
12 formation with such State veterinarian; and

13 “(5) to determine and establish such fees for
14 the verification of documentation and issuance of
15 permits required under subsection (b)(1) as may be
16 necessary to fund the implementation and enforce-
17 ment of this section.

18 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
19 section (c)(5) shall be construed as limiting the availability
20 of funding made available under section 10417 to carry
21 out this section.

22 “(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

23 “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have
24 the authority granted under section 10414 to en-
25 force this section.

1 “(2) PENALTIES.—An importer or import
2 transporter that fails to comply with this section
3 shall—

4 “(A) be subject to penalties under section
5 10414; and

6 “(B) provide, as the Secretary may deter-
7 mine, at the expense of the importer or import
8 transporter, for—

9 “(i) the care (including appropriate
10 veterinary care), forfeiture, quarantine,
11 and removal from the United States of
12 each applicable dog; and

13 “(ii) the return of each applicable dog
14 to its place of export, with due care for the
15 welfare of each applicable dog.”.

16 (b) TRANSITION PERIOD.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the transition pe-
18 riod, regulations promulgated under section 18 of
19 the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) (as in ef-
20 fect on the day before the date of enactment of this
21 Act) shall continue to apply to the extent that such
22 regulations do not conflict with section 10404A of
23 the Animal Health Protection Act (as inserted by
24 subsection (a)).

1 (3) ensure that producers of covered livestock
2 are not subject to a patchwork of State laws restrict-
3 ing access to a national market; and

4 (4) ensure that the United States continues to
5 uphold its international trade obligations.

6 (b) IN GENERAL.—Producers of covered livestock
7 have a Federal right to raise and market their covered
8 livestock in interstate commerce and therefore no State
9 or subdivision thereof may enact or enforce, directly or
10 indirectly, a condition or standard on the production of
11 covered livestock other than for covered livestock phys-
12 ically raised in such State or subdivision.

13 (c) PROTECTING INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—Pro-
14 ducers of covered livestock have a Federal right to raise
15 and market their covered livestock in interstate commerce
16 and therefore no State or subdivision thereof may enact
17 or enforce, directly or indirectly, as a condition for sale
18 or consumption, any condition or standard of production
19 on products derived from covered livestock not physically
20 raised in such State or subdivision that is in addition to,
21 or different from, the conditions or standards of produc-
22 tion in the State in which the production occurs.

23 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) COVERED LIVESTOCK.—The term “covered
25 livestock”—

1 (A) means any domestic animal raised for
2 the purpose of—

3 (i) slaughter for human consumption;

4 or

5 (ii) producing products manufactured
6 for human consumption which are derived
7 from the processing of milk, including fluid
8 milk products; and

9 (B) does not include domestic animals
10 raised for the primary purpose of egg produc-
11 tion.

12 (2) PRODUCTION.—The term “production”—

13 (A) means the raising (including breeding)
14 of covered livestock; and

15 (B) does not include the movement, har-
16 vesting, or further processing of covered live-
17 stock.

18 **SEC. 12008. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LIVESTOCK AND**
19 **POULTRY PRODUCERS DURING A FOREIGN**
20 **ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-
23 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
25 and Forestry of the Senate a report on the Department’s

1 preparedness to support livestock producers and poultry
2 growers facing economic losses in the event of an outbreak
3 of a foreign animal disease.

4 (b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under sub-
5 section (a) shall include, with respect to the Department’s
6 ability to protect producers and growers from significant
7 economic losses as a result of a foreign animal disease—

8 (1) an assessment of—

9 (A) existing Federal programs, including
10 catastrophic risk management tools, indemnity,
11 direct payments, and herd buyouts; and

12 (B) the Department’s capacity to utilize
13 such programs to provide benefits to producers
14 and growers experiencing economic losses as a
15 result of having to sell livestock and poultry at
16 a reduced price, having to quarantine, treat, de-
17 stroy, or dispose of animals, or as a result of
18 catastrophic market conditions;

19 (2) a determination of gaps that exist in the
20 Department’s ability to provide economic support for
21 producers and growers suffering such losses; and

22 (3) recommendations of the Secretary for modi-
23 fications to Federal law (including regulations) relat-
24 ing to protecting producers and growers from sig-

1 nificant economic losses related to a foreign animal
2 disease outbreak.

3 (c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of
6 facilitating the preparation of the report submitted
7 under subsection (a), the relevant Department offi-
8 cials described in paragraph (2) shall inform the
9 Secretary of the information described in subsection
10 (b).

11 (2) RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DE-
12 SCRIBED.—The relevant Department officials de-
13 scribed in this paragraph are the following:

14 (A) The Under Secretary for Farm Pro-
15 duction and Conservation.

16 (B) The Under Secretary for Food, Nutri-
17 tion and Consumer Services.

18 (C) The Under Secretary for Rural Devel-
19 opment.

20 (D) The Under Secretary for Food Safety.

21 (E) The Under Secretary for Trade and
22 Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

23 (F) Other officials, as specified by the Sec-
24 retary.

1 **PART II—MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND**
2 **INSPECTION**

3 **SEC. 12111. AMPLIFYING PROCESSING OF LIVESTOCK IN**
4 **THE UNITED STATES (A-PLUS).**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise
7 section 201.67 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, as
8 in effect on January 1, 2024, to specify that—

9 (1) market agencies may have an ownership in-
10 terest in, finance, or participate in the management
11 or operation of, a packer, so long as such packer—

12 (A) with respect to cattle and sheep, has a
13 cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

14 (i) 2,000 animals per day; or

15 (ii) 700,000 animals per year; and

16 (B) with respect to hogs, has a cumulative
17 slaughter capacity of less than—

18 (i) 10,000 animals per day; or

19 (ii) 3,000,000 animals per year; and

20 (2) market agencies that have an ownership in-
21 terest in, finance, or participate in the management
22 or operation of, a packer shall disclose to sellers of
23 livestock the existence of such ownership interest, fi-
24 nancial relationship, or participation.

25 (b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall
26 be interpreted as a limitation on the authority of the Sec-

1 retary to adopt or enforce rules or regulations under the
2 Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.)
3 related to the protection of producers, competition, market
4 integrity, or the prevention of conflicts of interest.

5 **SEC. 12112. HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL**
6 **POINT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES FOR**
7 **SMALL AND VERY SMALL POULTRY AND**
8 **MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.**

9 (a) MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Federal Meat In-
10 spection Act is amended by inserting after section 25 (21
11 U.S.C. 625) the following:

12 **“SEC. 26. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUID-**
13 **ANCE AND RESOURCES.**

14 “(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18
15 months after the date of the enactment of this section,
16 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable,
17 make publicly available—

18 “(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Sec-
19 retary shall update as necessary) for use by small
20 establishments and very small establishments in de-
21 veloping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control
22 Points plan;

23 “(2) guidelines relating to best practices and
24 techniques by small establishments and very small

1 establishments in the production of raw or further
2 processed meat and meat food products; and

3 “(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis
4 and Critical Control Points plans for small establish-
5 ments and very small establishments, including
6 model plans for—

7 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

8 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

9 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
10 ments.

11 “(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
12 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
13 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
14 for public comment, providing information on the require-
15 ments that need to be met for small establishments and
16 very small establishments to develop, pursuant to this Act,
17 a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan.

18 “(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this
19 section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential busi-
20 ness information of any meat processing establishment, in-
21 cluding a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
22 plan of a meat processing establishment.

23 “(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ES-
24 TABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms
25 ‘small establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have

1 the meanings given the terms ‘smaller establishment’ and
2 ‘very small establishment’, respectively, in the final rule
3 entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Crit-
4 ical Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg.
5 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).”.

6 (b) POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Poultry Prod-
7 ucts Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section
8 14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:

9 **“SEC. 14A. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUID-
10 ANCE AND RESOURCES.**

11 “(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18
12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the
13 Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make
14 publicly available—

15 “(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Sec-
16 retary shall update as necessary) for use by small
17 establishments and very small establishments in de-
18 veloping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control
19 Points plan;

20 “(2) guidelines relating to best practices and
21 techniques used by small establishments and very
22 small establishments in the production of raw or fur-
23 ther processed poultry products; and

24 “(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis
25 and Critical Control Points plans for small establish-

1 ments and very small establishments, including
2 model plans for—

3 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

4 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

5 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
6 ments.

7 “(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
8 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
9 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
10 for public comment, providing information on the require-
11 ments that need to be met for small establishments and
12 very small establishments to develop a Hazard Analysis
13 and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this Act.

14 “(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this
15 section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential busi-
16 ness information of any poultry processing establishment,
17 including a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
18 plan of a poultry processing establishment.

19 “(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ES-
20 TABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms
21 ‘small establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have
22 the meanings given the terms ‘smaller establishment’ and
23 ‘very small establishment’, respectively, in the final rule
24 entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Crit-

1 ical Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg.
2 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).”.

3 **SEC. 12113. OUTREACH ON COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE**
4 **SHIPMENT.**

5 (a) MEAT.—Section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspec-
6 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 683) is amended by adding at the
7 end the following:

8 “(k) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years
9 2025 through 2029, the Secretary shall conduct outreach
10 to States that—

11 “(1) have a State meat inspection program in
12 effect pursuant to section 301; and

13 “(2) do not have a selected establishment.”.

14 (b) POULTRY.—Section 31 of the Poultry Products
15 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended by adding at
16 the end the following:

17 “(j) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years
18 2024 through 2029, the Secretary shall conduct outreach
19 to States that—

20 “(1) have a State poultry product inspection
21 program in effect pursuant to section 5; and

22 “(2) do not have a selected establishment.”.

23 (c) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of fiscal
24 years 2024 through 2029, the Secretary shall submit a
25 report detailing the activities and results of the outreach

1 conducted during that fiscal year under subsection (k) of
2 section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
3 683) and subsection (j) of section 31 of the Poultry Prod-
4 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472), as added by sub-
5 sections (a) and (b), to—

6 (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
7 of Representatives;

8 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
9 and Forestry of the Senate;

10 (3) the Committee on Appropriations of the
11 House of Representatives; and

12 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the
13 Senate.

14 **SEC. 12114. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CUSTOM**
15 **SLAUGHTER ESTABLISHMENTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—

17 (1) STATE OPERATED PILOT PROGRAM.—Upon
18 the receipt of an application from a custom exempt
19 facility and subject to the requirements specified in
20 subsection (c), a State department of agriculture
21 may operate a pilot program to allow such custom
22 facility to sell slaughtered meat and meat food prod-
23 ucts (referred to in this section as “meat products”)
24 directly to consumers within the State in which the

1 facility is located in accordance with the pilot pro-
2 gram.

3 (2) LACK OF A STATE PILOT PROGRAM.—If a
4 State department of agriculture does not elect to op-
5 erate a pilot program, the Secretary shall, upon re-
6 quest from a custom exempt facility in such a State,
7 operate a pilot program administered by the Sec-
8 retary for that State in accordance with this section.

9 (b) ALLOWABLE NUMBER OF FACILITIES.—

10 (1) INITIAL APPROVAL.—Except as provided in
11 paragraph (2)—

12 (A) a State department of agriculture may
13 approve not more than 5 facilities in such State
14 for participation in a pilot program established
15 under subsection (a)(1); and

16 (B) the Secretary may approve not more
17 than 10 facilities to participate in all pilot pro-
18 grams established under subsection (a)(2).

19 (2) SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF FACILITIES.—
20 Not less than 2 years after the establishment of a
21 pilot program, a State department of agriculture or
22 the Secretary may, if no product produced at a facil-
23 ity that was initially approved under paragraph (1)
24 for participation in such pilot program has been sub-
25 ject to an emergency action under subsection (f)

1 during the 2-year period following such establish-
2 ment, approve—

3 (A) in the case of a State department of
4 agriculture, not more than 5 additional facilities
5 in the respective State; and

6 (B) in the case of the Secretary, not more
7 than 10 additional facilities in all States.

8 (c) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot pro-
9 gram established under this section shall, at a minimum,
10 require—

11 (1) that meat products sold under the pilot pro-
12 gram are—

13 (A) sold directly to consumers within the
14 State from—

15 (i) the owner of the animals from
16 which such meat products are derived; or

17 (ii) the custom exempt facility at
18 which the meat products were processed;

19 (B) not eligible for re-sale; and

20 (C) clearly labeled to indicate—

21 (i) the name and address of the facil-
22 ity at which the meat products were proc-
23 essed;

1 (ii) the name and address of the
2 owner of the animals from which such
3 meat products are derived;

4 (iii) the location where animals from
5 which such meat products are derived were
6 raised;

7 (iv) the date of slaughter of such ani-
8 mals and the period of time over which the
9 owner raised such animals;

10 (v) that such meat products were not
11 subject to Federal inspection; and

12 (vi) that such meat products shall not
13 be resold;

14 (2) that custom exempt facilities participating
15 in the pilot program comply with—

16 (A) Public Law 85–765 (7 U.S.C. 1901 et
17 seq.; commonly known as the “Humane Meth-
18 ods of Slaughter Act of 1958”);

19 (B) applicable State and local laws;

20 (C) section 23(d) of the Federal Meat In-
21 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 623(d)); and

22 (D) Federal regulations pertaining to—

23 (i) sanitation standards and record
24 keeping requirements for custom exempt
25 facilities; and

1 (ii) the handling and disposition of
2 specified risk materials;

3 (3) that custom exempt facilities participating
4 in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection
5 by the Secretary to ensure compliance with the re-
6 quirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2); and

7 (4) that custom exempt facilities participating
8 in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection
9 at least annually by the local authority responsible
10 for restaurant inspections or the State department
11 of agriculture.

12 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
14 issue, and make publicly available, guidance for partici-
15 tion in a pilot program established pursuant to this sec-
16 tion.

17 (e) INELIGIBILITY.—An establishment subject to in-
18 spection by the Secretary under the Federal Meat Inspec-
19 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or operating pursuant
20 to a State meat inspection program authorized under sec-
21 tion 301 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
22 661) shall not be eligible to participate in a pilot program
23 established pursuant to this section.

24 (f) AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY ACTION.—If the
25 Secretary has credible evidence that a meat product pro-

1 duced at a custom exempt facility participating in a pilot
2 program established pursuant to this section is adulter-
3 ated, the Secretary—

4 (1) shall, pursuant to the Federal Meat Inspec-
5 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), take such actions
6 as may be necessary to address the risk to public
7 health posed by such products; and

8 (2) may terminate the participation of a custom
9 exempt facility in a pilot program established pursu-
10 ant to this section.

11 (g) REPORT REQUIRED.—

12 (1) REPORTS BY STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AG-
13 RICULTURE TO SECRETARY.—Beginning September
14 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter until Sep-
15 tember 30, 2029, each State department of agri-
16 culture operating a pilot program pursuant to this
17 section shall submit to the Secretary a report detail-
18 ing, with respect to each such pilot program within
19 the relevant State for the preceding fiscal year—

20 (A) the number and location of persons or
21 custom exempt facilities selling meat products
22 under each such pilot program;

23 (B) the outcomes of each such pilot pro-
24 gram; and

1 (C) any instances in which a meat product
2 was subject to an emergency action under sub-
3 section (f).

4 (2) REPORT BY SECRETARY TO CONGRESS.—
5 Not later than 2 years after initiating a pilot pro-
6 gram under this section, the Secretary shall submit
7 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
8 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
9 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report de-
10 tailing—

11 (A) the information received from partici-
12 pating State departments of agriculture under
13 paragraph (1); and

14 (B) for any custom exempt facilities par-
15 ticipating in a pilot program established by the
16 Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(2)—

17 (i) the number and location of persons
18 or custom exempt facilities selling products
19 pursuant to such pilot program;

20 (ii) the outcomes of such pilot pro-
21 gram; and

22 (iii) any instances in which a meat
23 product was subject to an emergency ac-
24 tion under subsection (f).

1 (h) CUSTOM EXEMPT FACILITY DEFINED.—In this
2 section, the term “custom exempt facility” means an es-
3 tablishment engaged in the slaughter of animals and the
4 preparation of the carcasses, parts thereof, meat, and
5 meat food products for commerce that is not subject to
6 the Federal inspection requirements under title I of the
7 Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

8 (i) SUNSET.—A State and the Secretary may not op-
9 erate a pilot program under this section on or after Sep-
10 tember 30, 2029, and no facility that is exempt from in-
11 spection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21
12 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) pursuant to this section shall be ex-
13 empt from that inspection on or after September 30,
14 2029.

15 **Subtitle B—Department of Agri-**
16 **culture Reorganization Act of**
17 **1994**

18 **SEC. 12201. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

19 Section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
20 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6922) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (d)—

22 (A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at
23 the end;

24 (B) by redesignating paragraph (8) as
25 paragraph (9); and

1 (C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the
2 following:

3 “(8) conducting annual cross-sector crisis sim-
4 ulation exercises related to a food-related emergency
5 or disruption; and”;

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(f) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may detail employ-
8 ees of the Department of Agriculture to, and accept em-
9 ployees detailed from, the intelligence community (as de-
10 fined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947)
11 to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Home-
12 land Security.

13 “(g) RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.—

14 “(1) RISK ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 1
15 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,
16 and National Security Act of 2024, and not less
17 than every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall
18 conduct an assessment of risks and security
19 vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical in-
20 frastructure sector, including—

21 “(A) naturally occurring, unintentional, or
22 intentional threats, including chemical, biologi-
23 cal, cybersecurity, or bioterrorism attacks;

24 “(B) influence of state-owned enterprise;

1 “(C) control of and access to agricultural
2 data;

3 “(D) foreign acquisition of intellectual
4 property, agricultural assets, and land;

5 “(E) agricultural input shortages and de-
6 pendence on foreign-sourced inputs;

7 “(F) supply chain and trade disruptions;

8 “(G) science and technology cooperation;

9 “(H) unequal investments in research, de-
10 velopment, and commercialization;

11 “(I) incongruent regulatory policies; and

12 “(J) any other vulnerabilities identified by
13 the Secretary.

14 “(2) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
16 days after the completion of a risk assessment
17 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall pro-
18 vide a briefing on the results of the risk assess-
19 ment and submit to the Committee on Agri-
20 culture and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
21 rity of the House of Representatives and the
22 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
23 estry and the Committee on Homeland Security
24 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a re-
25 port that includes—

1 “(i) an assessment of any gaps or lim-
2 itations in national security efforts related
3 to the food and agriculture critical infra-
4 structure sector;

5 “(ii) any actions taken by the Sec-
6 retary to address any gaps or limitations
7 identified under clause (i), including
8 through interagency coordination, threat
9 information sharing, and stakeholder out-
10 reach;

11 “(iii) any recommendations for admin-
12 istrative, regulatory, or legislative actions
13 that can be taken to reduce any gaps or
14 limitations identified under clause (i), in-
15 cluding—

16 “(I) recommendations to reduce
17 the dependence on foreign-source in-
18 puts necessary for the food and agri-
19 culture critical infrastructure sector;
20 and

21 “(II) recommendations to ad-
22 dress the cybersecurity threats to, and
23 security vulnerabilities in, the food
24 and agriculture critical infrastructure
25 sector; and

1 “(iv) resources the Secretary requires
2 to address current and future national se-
3 curity vulnerabilities related to the food
4 and agriculture critical infrastructure sec-
5 tor.

6 “(B) EXEMPTION FROM ACCESS TO CON-
7 GRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.—A
8 report required under subparagraph (A) shall
9 be exempt from the requirements of the Access
10 to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (sub-
11 title D of title VII of Public Law 117–263; 136
12 Stat. 3677).”.

13 **SEC. 12202. FARM SERVICE AGENCY.**

14 (a) FUNCTIONS.—Section 226(b) of the Department
15 of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
16 6932(b)) is amended—

17 (1) by striking paragraph (4); and

18 (2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
19 graph (4).

20 (b) SPECIAL CONCURRENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR
21 CERTAIN FUNCTIONS.—Section 226(c) of the Department
22 of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
23 6932(c)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph
24 (1) by striking “the programs specified in subsection
25 (b)(4)” and inserting “any conservation programs that are

1 under the jurisdiction of the Farm Service Agency pursu-
2 ant to subsection (b)”.

3 **SEC. 12203. OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC EN-**
4 **GAGEMENT.**

5 Section 226B(f)(3)(B) of the Department of Agri-
6 culture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
7 6934(f)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-
8 ing “2029”.

9 **SEC. 12204. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERV-**
10 **ICE.**

11 Section 228 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
12 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6936) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “, except
15 subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of such
16 title”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “, except
18 functions under subchapter B of chapter 1 of
19 subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act
20 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.)”; and

21 (2) in subsection (g)(3), by striking “2023”
22 and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 12205. BURDEN OF PROOF FOR NATIONAL APPEALS**
2 **DIVISION HEARINGS.**

3 Section 277(c)(4) of the Department of Agriculture
4 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6997(c)(4)) is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 “(4) BURDEN OF PROOF.—The agency shall
7 bear the burden of proving by substantial evidence
8 that the adverse decision of the agency was valid.”.

9 **SEC. 12206. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

10 Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
11 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended
12 by adding at the end the following:

13 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry
14 out the amendments made to this title by the Farm,
15 Food, and National Security Act of 2024.”.

16 **SEC. 12207. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELA-**
17 **TIONS.**

18 Section 309 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform
19 and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
20 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) by striking “shall advise” and all that
23 follows through the period at the end and in-
24 sserting “shall—”; and

25 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(1) advise the Secretary on policies related to
2 Indian tribes;

3 “(2) oversee—

4 “(A) each self-determination contract (as
5 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
6 mination and Education Assistance Act (25
7 U.S.C. 5304)) entered into between the Sec-
8 retary and a tribal organization; and

9 “(B) each self-governance compact (as de-
10 fined in section 401 of such Act (25 U.S.C.
11 5361)) entered into between the Secretary and
12 an Indian tribe; and

13 “(3) carry out such other functions as the Sec-
14 retary considers appropriate.”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “this sub-
16 section” and inserting “this section”.

17 **SEC. 12208. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN.**

18 Title III of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and
19 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
20 U.S.C. 2231b et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
21 the following:

22 **“SEC. 310. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after
24 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
25 establish within the Department an Office of the Ombuds-

1 man (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’). The Office
2 shall be independent of Department agencies and offices.

3 “(b) OMBUDSMAN.—The Office shall be headed by an
4 Ombudsman that shall—

5 “(1) be considered a senior official; and

6 “(2) have a background in civil rights enforce-
7 ment.

8 “(c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Office shall
9 be to—

10 “(1) assist producers and other customers of
11 Department programs in navigating the civil rights
12 review process;

13 “(2) ensure that participants (as defined in sec-
14 tion 271) are aware of the appeals process under
15 subtitle H of title II, including informal hearings
16 under section 275;

17 “(3) promote awareness of the Office and its
18 responsibilities among producers and other cus-
19 tomers of Department programs; and

20 “(4) raise issues and concerns with respect to,
21 and make recommendations to the Secretary about,
22 equitable access or implementation of Department
23 programs.

24 “(d) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall
25 establish procedures to provide the Ombudsman access to

1 all departmental records necessary to execute the func-
2 tions of the Office under subsection (d) not later than 60
3 days after a request from the Ombudsman for such infor-
4 mation.

5 “(e) EFFECT ON PROCEDURES FOR GRIEVANCES,
6 APPEALS, OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—The estab-
7 lishment of the Office shall not affect any procedures for
8 grievances, appeals, or administrative matters in any other
9 provision of this Act, any other provision of law, or any
10 other Federal regulation.

11 “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning not later than 1
12 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annu-
13 ally thereafter, the Ombudsman shall prepare and submit
14 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
16 and Forestry of the Senate a report on—

17 “(1) the activities carried out by the Office; and

18 “(2) the findings and recommendation of the
19 Office with respect to equitable access or implemen-
20 tation of Department programs.

21 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out
23 this section for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

1 **Subtitle C—National Security**

2 **SEC. 12301. AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DIS-**
3 **CLOSURE IMPROVEMENTS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) AFIDA.—The term “AFIDA” means the
6 Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of
7 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

8 (2) FPAC–BC.—The term “FPAC–BC” means
9 the Farm Production and Conservation Business
10 Center of the Department of Agriculture.

11 (b) MOU WITH CFIUS.—Not later than 1 year after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter
13 into 1 or more memoranda of understanding with the
14 Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States
15 under which the Secretary shall provide the Committee
16 with all relevant information relating to reports on foreign
17 ownership of United States agricultural land submitted to
18 the Secretary under section 2 of AFIDA (7 U.S.C. 3501),
19 including information on—

20 (1) each report submitted to the Secretary; and

21 (2) with respect to each such report, the iden-
22 tity of the person submitting the report and the date
23 of submission.

24 (c) AFIDA HANDBOOK UPDATES.—

1 (1) FIRST UPDATE.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary shall—

4 (A) update the most recent version of the
5 Farm Service Agency handbook titled “Foreign
6 Investment Disclosure” as determined nec-
7 essary by the Secretary for the effective imple-
8 mentation of AFIDA; and

9 (B) incorporate in such update the rec-
10 ommendations made by the report of the Gov-
11 ernment Accountability Office titled “Foreign
12 Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: En-
13 hancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share
14 Key Information Could Better Identify National
15 Security Risks” and dated January 18, 2024.

16 (2) SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.—After updating
17 the handbook described in subparagraph (A) of
18 paragraph (1) under that paragraph, the Secretary
19 shall carry out an update of that handbook every 10
20 years thereafter, including by incorporating any rec-
21 ommendations of the Government Accountability Of-
22 fice.

23 (d) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 3 of the Agricultural
24 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C.
25 3502) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
2 section (c);

3 (2) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
4 paragraph (1), by striking “(a) If the” and all that
5 follows through “Any such civil penalty shall be re-
6 coverable” and inserting the following:

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A person shall be subject to a
8 civil penalty imposed by the Secretary if the Secretary de-
9 termines that the person—

10 “(1) has failed to submit a report in accordance
11 with the provisions of section 2; or

12 “(2) has knowingly submitted a report under
13 section 2 that—

14 “(A) does not contain all the information
15 required to be in such report; or

16 “(B) contains information that is mis-
17 leading or false.

18 “(b) CIVIL ACTION.—Any civil penalty imposed by
19 the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be recoverable”;
20 and

21 (3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

22 (A) by striking the subsection designation
23 and all that follows through “The amount” and
24 inserting the following:

25 “(c) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—The amount”;

1 (B) by striking “of this section”; and

2 (C) by striking “shall not exceed 25 per-
3 cent” and inserting “for violations under (a)(1)
4 shall not exceed 25 percent, and for violations
5 under (a)(2) shall be not less than 5 percent,
6 but not more than 25 percent,”.

7 (e) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT AC-
8 TIONS.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment
9 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by
10 subsection (b)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(d) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT AC-
13 TIONS.—The Secretary shall publicly disclose the name of
14 each person who paid to the Secretary a civil penalty im-
15 posed under subsection (a), including, if applicable, after
16 the completion of an appeal of a civil penalty.”.

17 (f) PUBLICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—
18 Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dislo-
19 sure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by sub-
20 section (c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(e) OUTREACH.—Using existing resources and ef-
22 forts to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary
23 shall carry out a nationwide outreach program directed
24 primarily toward landlords, operators, owners, persons,
25 producers, and tenants (as those terms are defined in sec-

1 tion 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in
2 effect on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
3 National Security Act of 2024)) of agricultural land and
4 county property appraiser offices, land appraisal compa-
5 nies, and real estate auction companies to increase public
6 awareness and provide education regarding the reporting
7 requirements under this Act.”.

8 **SEC. 12302. REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND PUR-**
9 **CHASING ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES**
10 **BY COUNTRIES DESIGNATED AS STATE SPON-**
11 **SORS OF TERRORISM AND CERTAIN OTHER**
12 **COUNTRIES.**

13 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—The term “agricul-
15 tural land” has the meaning given the term in sec-
16 tion 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dis-
17 closure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

18 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
19 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
20 gress” means—

21 (A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
22 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

23 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
24 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

1 (C) the Committee on Intelligence of the
2 Senate;

3 (D) the Committee on Homeland Security
4 of the House of Representatives;

5 (E) the Committee on Agriculture of the
6 House of Representatives; and

7 (F) the Permanent Select Committee on
8 Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

9 (3) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term
10 “covered foreign country” means a foreign country
11 of concern (as defined in section 10638 of the
12 CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237)).

13 (4) COVERED FOREIGN PERSON.—The term
14 “covered foreign person” means a foreign person (as
15 defined in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign In-
16 vestment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508))
17 that is a citizen of, or headquartered in, as applica-
18 ble, a covered foreign country.

19 (5) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
20 ing given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural
21 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
22 U.S.C. 3508).

23 (6) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term
24 “state sponsor of terrorism” means a country the
25 government of which the Secretary of State has de-

1 terminated has repeatedly provided support for acts of
2 international terrorism, for purposes of—

3 (A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export
4 Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.
5 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

6 (B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance
7 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

8 (C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Con-
9 trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

10 (D) any other provision of law.

11 (b) REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
14 thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordina-
15 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security and
16 the head of any other appropriate Federal agency,
17 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
18 gress a report describing the national security risks
19 of the purchase and management of agricultural
20 land by covered foreign persons.

21 (2) CONTENTS.—A report submitted under
22 paragraph (1) shall include the following with re-
23 spect to the year covered by the report:

24 (A) A description of—

1 (i) the number of acres of agricultural
2 land owned, leased, or managed by covered
3 foreign persons, organized by State; and

4 (ii) for each State, the percentage of
5 land owned or managed by covered foreign
6 persons compared to the total acreage of
7 the State.

8 (B) An analysis of the possible threat to
9 food security, food safety, biosecurity, or envi-
10 ronmental protection due to the ownership of
11 agricultural land by each covered foreign coun-
12 try through covered foreign persons.

13 (C) An analysis of the annual and total
14 cost of support for agricultural land owned by
15 covered foreign persons through farm programs
16 administered by the Farm Service Agency.

17 (D) An analysis of the use of agricultural
18 land for industrial espionage or intellectual
19 property transfer by covered foreign persons.

20 (E) An analysis of the potential use by
21 covered foreign persons of agricultural land in
22 close proximity to manufacturing facilities,
23 water sources, and other critical infrastructure
24 to monitor, interrupt, or disrupt activities crit-

1 ical to the national and economic security of the
2 United States.

3 (F) An analysis of other threats to the ag-
4 ricultural industry or national security of the
5 United States due to the ownership of agricul-
6 tural land by covered foreign persons.

7 (3) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—A report submitted
8 under this subsection shall—

9 (A) be submitted in unclassified form, but
10 may include a classified annex; and

11 (B) be consistent with the protection of in-
12 telligence sources and methods.

13 **SEC. 12303. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

14 (a) INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.—Section 4 of the Agri-
15 cultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
16 U.S.C. 3503) is amended to read as follows:

17 **“SEC. 4. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint an
19 employee in the Senior Executive Service (as described in
20 section 3131 of title 5, United States Code) of the Depart-
21 ment of Agriculture to serve as Chief of Operations of In-
22 vestigative Actions (referred to in this section as the ‘Chief
23 of Operations’), who shall hire, appoint, and maintain ad-
24 ditional employees to monitor compliance with the provi-
25 sions of this Act.

1 “(b) CHIEF OF OPERATIONS.—The Chief of Oper-
2 ations may serve in such position simultaneously with a
3 concurrent position within the Department of Agriculture.

4 “(c) SECURITY.—The Secretary shall—

5 “(1) provide classified storage, meeting, and
6 other spaces, as necessary, for personnel of the Chief
7 of Operations; and

8 “(2) assist such personnel in obtaining security
9 clearances.

10 “(d) DUTIES.—The Chief of Operations shall—

11 “(1) monitor compliance with this Act;

12 “(2) refer noncompliance with this Act to the
13 Secretary, the Farm Service Agency, and any other
14 appropriate authority;

15 “(3) conduct investigations, in coordination
16 with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau
17 of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Secu-
18 rity, the Department of the Treasury, the National
19 Security Council, and State and local law enforce-
20 ment agencies, on malign efforts—

21 “(A) to steal agricultural knowledge and
22 technology; or

23 “(B) to disrupt the United States agricul-
24 tural base;

1 “(4) conduct an annual audit of the database
2 developed under section 12304(c) of the Farm,
3 Food, and National Security Act of 2024;

4 “(5) seek to enter into memoranda of agree-
5 ment and memoranda of understanding with the
6 Federal agencies described in paragraph (3)—

7 “(A) to ensure compliance with this Act;
8 and

9 “(B) to prevent the malign efforts de-
10 scribed in that paragraph;

11 “(6) refer to the Committee on Foreign Invest-
12 ment in the United States transactions that—

13 “(A) raise potential national security con-
14 cerns; and

15 “(B) result in agricultural land acquisition
16 by a foreign person that is a citizen of, or
17 headquartered in, as applicable, a foreign entity
18 of concern; and

19 “(7) publish annual reports that summarize the
20 information contained in every report received by the
21 Secretary under section 2 during the period covered
22 by the report.

23 “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Chief of Operations
24 shall report to—

25 “(1) the Secretary; or

1 “(2) if delegated by the Secretary, to—

2 “(A) the Administrator of the Farm Serv-
3 ice Agency; or

4 “(B) the Director of the Department of
5 Agriculture Office of Homeland Security.”.

6 (b) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN ENTITY OF CON-
7 CERN.—Section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment
8 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508) is amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
10 striking “For purposes of this Act—” and inserting
11 “In this Act:”;

12 (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (6)—

13 (A) by striking “the term” and inserting
14 “The term”; and

15 (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the
16 text of which comprises the term defined in that
17 paragraph;

18 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
19 (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), (6), (7), and (8), respec-
20 tively;

21 (4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(2) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The
24 term ‘foreign entity of concern’ has the meaning
25 given the term in section 9901 of the William M.

1 (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization
2 Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).”; and
3 (5) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so re-
4 designated) the following:

5 “(5) **MALIGN EFFORT.**—The term ‘malign ef-
6 fort’ means any hostile effort undertaken by, at the
7 direction of, on behalf of, or with the substantial
8 support of the government of a foreign entity of con-
9 cern.”.

10 **SEC. 12304. DIGITIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF FOR-**
11 **EIGN LAND OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION**
12 **AND PUBLICATION.**

13 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

14 (1) **AGRICULTURAL LAND.**—The term “agricul-
15 tural land” has the meaning given the term in sec-
16 tion 781.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations
17 (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

18 (2) **DATABASE.**—The term “database” means
19 the database developed under subsection (c).

20 (3) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign per-
21 son” has the meaning given the term in section 9 of
22 the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act
23 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

24 (b) **ELECTRONIC FILING.**—Not later than 3 years
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

1 establish a streamlined process for electronic submission
2 and retention of disclosures made pursuant to the Agricul-
3 tural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
4 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

5 (c) DATABASE.—Not later than 3 years after the date
6 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a
7 database of agricultural land owned by foreign persons,
8 using data that are collected—

9 (1) pursuant to the Agricultural Foreign In-
10 vestment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et
11 seq.); and

12 (2) from—

13 (A) FSA–153 forms submitted to the
14 Farm Service Agency; or

15 (B) the electronic system established pur-
16 suant to subsection (b).

17 (d) CONTENTS.—Each entry in the database for each
18 registration or updated registration of agricultural land
19 owned or leased by a foreign person shall include pertinent
20 information, as determined by the Secretary, in the appli-
21 cable filing, except it shall not include the name of the
22 filer and the purchase or lease price of such transaction.

23 (e) AUDIT.—Not later than 180 days after the data-
24 base is made publicly available, and annually thereafter,
25 the Chief of Operations for Investigative Actions ap-

1 pointed under section 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Invest-
2 ment Disclosure Act of 1978 (as amended by section
3 12303(a)) shall—

4 (1) conduct an audit of the database; and

5 (2) submit to the appropriate committees of
6 Congress a report—

7 (A) evaluating the accuracy of the data-
8 base; and

9 (B) describing recommendations for im-
10 proving compliance with the reporting required
11 under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dis-
12 closure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

13 (f) FUNDING.—Out of the funds of the Commodity
14 Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use \$10,000,000,
15 to remain available until expended, to carry out the re-
16 quirements of this section.

17 (g) REPEAL.—Section 773 of division A of the Con-
18 solidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328)
19 is repealed.

20 **Subtitle D—Other Miscellaneous** 21 **Provisions**

22 **SEC. 12401. THRIFTY FOOD PLAN.**

23 Section 3(u) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
24 (7 U.S.C. 2012(u)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(u)(1) ‘Thrifty food plan’ means the diet required
2 to feed a family of 4 persons consisting of a man and a
3 woman 20 through 50, a child 6 through 8, and a child
4 9 through 11 years of age, based on relevant market bas-
5 kets that shall only be changed pursuant to paragraph (3).
6 The cost of such diet shall be the basis for uniform allot-
7 ments for all households regardless of their actual com-
8 position. The Secretary shall only adjust the cost of the
9 diet as specified in paragraphs (2) and (4).

10 “(2) HOUSEHOLD ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary
11 shall make household-size adjustments based on the fol-
12 lowing ratios of household size as a percentage of the max-
13 imum 4-person allotment:

14 “(A) For a 1-person household, 30 percent.

15 “(B) For a 2-person household, 55 percent.

16 “(C) For a 3-person household, 79 percent.

17 “(D) For a 4-person household, 100 percent.

18 “(E) For a 5-person household, 119 percent.

19 “(F) For a 6-person household, 143 percent.

20 “(G) For a 7-person household, 158 percent.

21 “(H) For an 8-person household, 180 percent.

22 “(I) For a 9-person household, 203 percent.

23 “(J) For a 10-person household, 224 percent.

24 “(K) For households with more than 10 per-
25 sons, such adjustment for each additional person

1 shall be 224 percent plus the product of 21 percent
2 and the difference in the number of persons in the
3 household and 10.

4 “(3) REEVALUATION OF MARKET BASKETS.—

5 “(A) EVALUATION.—Not earlier than Oc-
6 tober 1, 2027, and at not more frequently than
7 5-year intervals thereafter, the Secretary may
8 reevaluate the market baskets of the thrifty
9 food plan taking into consideration current food
10 prices, food composition data, consumption pat-
11 terns, and dietary guidance.

12 “(B) NOTICE.—Prior to any update of the
13 market baskets of the thrifty food plan based
14 on a reevaluation pursuant to subparagraph
15 (A), the methodology and results of any such
16 revelation shall be published in the Federal
17 Register with an opportunity for comment of
18 not less than 60 days.

19 “(C) COST NEUTRALITY.—The Secretary
20 shall not increase the cost of the thrifty food
21 plan based on a reevaluation or update under
22 this paragraph.

23 “(4) ALLOWABLE COST ADJUSTMENTS.—On
24 October 1 immediately following enactment of the

1 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 and
2 on each October 1 thereafter, the Secretary shall—

3 “(A) adjust the cost of the thrifty food
4 plan to reflect changes in the Consumer Price
5 Index for All Urban Consumers, published by
6 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Depart-
7 ment of Labor, for the most recent 12-month
8 period ending in June;

9 “(B) make cost adjustments in the thrifty
10 food plan for urban and rural parts of Hawaii
11 and urban and rural parts of Alaska to reflect
12 the cost of food in urban and rural Hawaii and
13 urban and rural Alaska provided such cost ad-
14 justment shall not exceed the rate of increase
15 described in the Consumer Price Index for All
16 Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of
17 Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor,
18 for the most recent 12-month period ending in
19 June; and

20 “(C) make cost adjustments in the sepa-
21 rate thrifty food plans for Guam and the Virgin
22 Islands of the United States to reflect the cost
23 of food in those States, but not to exceed the
24 cost of food in the 50 States and the District
25 of Columbia, provided that such cost adjust-

1 ment shall not exceed the rate of increase de-
2 scribed in the Consumer Price Index for All
3 Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of
4 Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor,
5 for the most recent 12-month period ending in
6 June.”.

7 **SEC. 12402. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIETARY GUIDELINES.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF DIETARY GUIDELINES.—
9 Section 301(a) of the National Nutrition Monitoring and
10 Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341(a)) is
11 amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)—

13 (A) by striking “At least every five years
14 the” and inserting “The”; and

15 (B) by inserting “jointly” after “Secre-
16 taries shall”;

17 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “be based on
18 the preponderance of the scientific and medical
19 knowledge which is current at the time the report is
20 prepared.” and inserting “be—

21 “(A) based on significant scientific agree-
22 ment that is determined by evidence-based re-
23 view;

24 “(B) current at the time the report is pre-
25 pared;

1 “(C) derived from questions—

2 “(i) generated from the Independent
3 Advisory Board described in paragraph
4 (4); and

5 “(ii) based on high priority areas of
6 concern to advance scientific outcomes;

7 “(D) designed to achieve nutritional ade-
8 quacy and promote health, as specified by the
9 Food and Nutrition Board of the National
10 Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medi-
11 cine, from the consumption of food, including
12 nutrients and bioactive food components occur-
13 ring naturally and in fortified foods;

14 “(E) include nutritional and dietary infor-
15 mation relevant to individuals with nutrition-re-
16 lated common chronic diseases, as defined by
17 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
18 and

19 “(F) include recommendations that are af-
20 fordable, available, and accessible for the gen-
21 eral population.”;

22 (3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
23 graph (7);

24 (4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(3) FREQUENCY.—The Secretaries shall pub-
2 lish the report required under paragraph (1)—

3 “(A) as necessary to promote health based
4 on updated Dietary Reference Intake values
5 specified by—

6 “(i) the Food and Nutrition Board of
7 the National Academies of Sciences, Engi-
8 neering, and Medicine; and

9 “(ii) other relevant scientific advance-
10 ments based on continuous review of the
11 totality of publicly available scientific evi-
12 dence; and

13 “(B) not less than once every 10 years.

14 “(4) INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD.—

15 “(A) When the Secretaries jointly deter-
16 mine it is appropriate to begin the process of
17 updating the Dietary Guidelines, the Secretaries
18 shall notify, in writing, the Committees on—

19 “(i) Agriculture of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives;

21 “(ii) Energy and Commerce of the
22 House of Representatives;

23 “(iii) Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
24 estry of the Senate; and

1 “(iv) Health, Education, Labor, and
2 Pensions of the Senate.

3 “(B) The notification under subparagraph
4 (A) shall include a justification for why the Sec-
5 retaries have determined it is appropriate to
6 begin the process of updating the Dietary
7 Guidelines.

8 “(C) Not later than 3 months after send-
9 ing such notification, the Secretaries shall es-
10 tablish an Independent Advisory Board (herein-
11 after referred to as the ‘Board’) and jointly ap-
12 point 4 members to the Board, no more than 2
13 of whom may be Federal employees.

14 “(D) Not later than 3 months after receiv-
15 ing such notification, the highest-ranking Mem-
16 ber on each Committee described in subpara-
17 graph (A) of the opposite political party of the
18 President of the United States shall appoint 1
19 member to the Board.

20 “(E) The Board shall consist of no more
21 than 8 members, and a working quorum shall
22 be 4 members present. No meeting of the
23 Board may take place until after 3 months
24 from the date on which the Secretaries send the
25 notification under subparagraph (A).

1 “(F) The members appointed to the Board
2 shall have expertise in nutrition science or food
3 science, including academic and applied experi-
4 ence.

5 “(G) Not later than 12 months after the
6 date on which the Secretaries send the notifica-
7 tion under subparagraph (A), the Board shall
8 generate and send to the Secretaries and the
9 Committees described in subparagraph (A) the
10 questions described in paragraph (2)(C)(i).

11 “(H) The authority of the Board shall ter-
12 minate, and the Board shall disband, imme-
13 diately after satisfying subparagraph (G).

14 “(5) DIETARY REFERENCE INTAKE UPDATES.—
15 The Secretaries shall coordinate with the Joint
16 United States-Canada Dietary Reference Intake
17 Working Group to ensure that the Food and Nutri-
18 tion Board of the National Academies of Sciences,
19 Engineering, and Medicine update the Dietary Ref-
20 erence Intake values to represent the most up-to-
21 date understanding of nutritional science. The Joint
22 United States-Canada Dietary Reference Intake
23 Working Group should initiate at least one Dietary
24 Reference Intake update per year and identify up-

1 dates which are of highest priority which necessitate
2 review.

3 “(6) EXCLUSION.—The information and guide-
4 lines contained in each report required under para-
5 graph (1) shall not be based on or include topics
6 which are not relevant to dietary guidance, including
7 taxation, social welfare policies, purchases under
8 Federal feeding programs, food and agricultural pro-
9 duction practices, food labeling, socioeconomic sta-
10 tus, race, ethnicity, culture, or regulations relating
11 to nutrition.”; and

12 (5) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(8) EVIDENCE BASED REVIEW.—

14 “(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this
15 section, the term ‘evidence-based review’ means
16 a process under which—

17 “(i) the totality of the scientific evi-
18 dence relevant to a question of interest is
19 collected, analyzed, and evaluated;

20 “(ii) scientific studies, conclusions,
21 and recommendations are rated, adhering
22 strictly to standardized, generally accepted
23 evidence-based review methods; and

24 “(iii) external peer review is con-
25 ducted by non-government experts with

1 recognized expertise in quality of evidence
2 evaluation.

3 “(B) STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE.—Each
4 guideline contained in a report published pursu-
5 ant to this subsection shall be assigned a rating
6 by the Secretaries for the strength of evidence
7 used, including to the extent by which the
8 guideline will improve the Healthy Eating
9 Index.

10 “(C) TRANSPARENCY.—

11 “(i) DISCLOSURE.—Any individual ap-
12 pointed to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory
13 Committee to review the science for the
14 guidelines, or appointed to the Independent
15 Advisory Board under paragraph (4), must
16 provide full disclosure of all financial and
17 nonfinancial conflicts of interest relevant
18 to such review, using the Office of Govern-
19 ment Ethics Form 450 (or successor
20 form).

21 “(ii) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding
22 any other provision of law, not later than
23 30 days after the date on which a Dietary
24 Guidelines Advisory Committee is estab-

1 lished, the Secretaries shall make publicly
2 available—

3 “(I) the disclosures required
4 under clause (i), categorized by the
5 name of the individual; and

6 “(II) a detailed plan for man-
7 aging any disclosed conflicts of inter-
8 est, including financial or ethical con-
9 flicts of interest, along with pref-
10 erences, values, and beliefs.

11 “(9) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Com-
12 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary of Agri-
13 culture shall make available to carry out this sub-
14 section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
15 through 2029, to remain available until expended.”.

16 (b) CONTROLLING REPORT.—The 2020 Dietary
17 Guidelines for Americans published by the Secretaries
18 under subsection (a)(1) of section 301 of the National Nu-
19 trition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7
20 U.S.C. 5341(a)(1)) shall be controlling and considered to
21 be the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans until
22 the publication of the first report under such subsection
23 in accordance with the amendments made to such section
24 by this Act.

1 **SEC. 12403. ORGANIC OR NON-ORGANIC WHOLE MILK PER-**
2 **MISSIBLE.**

3 Section 9(a)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National
4 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(2)) is amended—

5 (1) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as
6 follows:

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Lunches served by
8 schools participating in the school lunch pro-
9 gram under this Act—

10 “(i) shall offer students a variety of
11 fluid milk;

12 “(ii) may offer students flavored and
13 unflavored organic or non-organic whole,
14 reduced-fat, low-fat and fat-free fluid milk
15 and lactose-free fluid milk; and

16 “(iii) shall provide a substitute for
17 fluid milk for students whose disability re-
18 stricts their diet, on receipt of a written
19 statement from a licensed physician that
20 identifies the disability that restricts the
21 student’s diet and that specifies the sub-
22 stitute for fluid milk.”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(D) SATURATED FAT.—Milk fat included
25 in any fluid milk provided under subparagraph
26 (A) shall not be considered saturated fat for

1 purposes of measuring compliance with the al-
2 lowable average saturated fat content of a meal
3 under section 210.10 of title 7, Code of Federal
4 Regulations (or successor regulations).

5 “(E) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PUR-
6 CHASES.—The Secretary shall prohibit schools
7 participating in the school lunch program under
8 this Act from purchasing or offering milk pro-
9 duced by China state-owned enterprises.

10 “(F) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The
11 Secretary may not prohibit any school partici-
12 pating in the school lunch program under this
13 Act from offering students the milk described in
14 subparagraph (A)(ii).”.

15 **SEC. 12404. COMMISSION ON FARM TRANSITIONS—NEEDS**
16 **FOR 2050.**

17 Section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
18 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 5009) is amend-
19 ed—

20 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “There is es-
21 tablished” and inserting “Not later than 60 days
22 after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food,
23 and National Security Act of 2024, the Secretary
24 shall establish”;

25 (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
2 “AND RECOMMENDATIONS” after “STUDY”;

3 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
4 by inserting “, and make recommendations re-
5 lating to,” after “study on”;

6 (C) in paragraph (1)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
8 “and timely” after “affordable”; and

9 (ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and
10 inserting the following:

11 “(D) apprenticeships, mentoring programs,
12 business training, and technical assistance pro-
13 grams;”;

14 (D) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
16 graph (A), by striking “existing and new
17 Federal tax policies” and inserting “exist-
18 ing and new State and Federal policies, in-
19 cluding tax policies”; and

20 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
21 “or impede” after “facilitate”;

22 (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
23 the end;

24 (F) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
25 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (G) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(6) heirs’ property and succession of agricul-
3 tural land;

4 “(7) any unique barriers faced by historically
5 underserved and women farmers and ranchers in the
6 ability to transfer, inherit, or purchase agricultural
7 assets, including land; and

8 “(8) leasing and ownership trends, including
9 leasing and ownership trends by foreign persons or
10 entities.”;

11 (3) in subsection (f), by striking “1 year after
12 the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “2
13 years after the date of enactment of the Farm,
14 Food, and National Security Act of 2024”; and

15 (4) in subsection (m), by striking “2023” and
16 inserting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 12405. REPORT ON PERSONNEL.**

18 Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
19 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking
20 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

21 **SEC. 12406. IMPROVEMENTS TO UNITED STATES DROUGHT
22 MONITOR.**

23 Section 12512(d)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement
24 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856(d)(2)) is amended by striking
25 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 12407. AGRICULTURAL FIBER PRODUCTS TRUST**
2 **FUND.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUST FUND.—There is es-
4 tablished in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund
5 to be known as the “Agricultural Fiber Products Trust
6 Fund” (in this section referred to as the “Trust Fund”),
7 consisting of such amounts as may be transferred to the
8 Trust Fund pursuant to subsection (c)(1), and to be used
9 for the following purposes:

10 (1) Reducing the injury to domestic manufac-
11 turers resulting from tariffs on wool fabric that are
12 higher than tariffs on certain apparel articles made
13 of wool fabric.

14 (2) Reducing the injury to domestic manufac-
15 turers resulting from tariffs on cotton fabric that
16 are higher than tariffs on certain apparel articles
17 made of cotton fabric.

18 (3) Providing grants described in section 506(d)
19 of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (7
20 U.S.C. 7101 note).

21 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

22 (1) WOOL APPAREL MANUFACTURERS.—From
23 the amount made available in subsection (c), the
24 Secretary shall make payments annually beginning
25 in calendar year 2025 for the purposes described in
26 subsection (a)(1).

1 (A) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The Sec-
2 retary shall make payments under paragraph
3 (1) as follows:

4 (i) To each eligible manufacturer
5 under paragraph (3) of section 4002(e) of
6 the Wool Suit and Textile Trade Extension
7 Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–429; 118
8 Stat. 2600), as amended by section
9 1633(e) of the Miscellaneous Trade and
10 Technical Corrections Act of 2006 (Public
11 Law 109–280; 120 Stat. 1166) and section
12 325(b) of the Tax Extenders and Alter-
13 native Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008
14 (division C of Public Law 110–343; 122
15 Stat. 3875), and any successor-in-interest
16 to such a manufacturer as provided for
17 under paragraph (4) of such section
18 4002(e), that submits an affidavit in ac-
19 cordance with paragraph (2) for the year
20 of the payment, payments in amounts au-
21 thorized under that paragraph.

22 (ii) To each eligible manufacturer
23 under paragraph (6) of such section
24 4002(e), payments in amounts authorized
25 under that paragraph.

1 (B) SUBMISSION OF AFFIDAVITS.—An affi-
2 davit required by subparagraph (A)(i) shall be
3 submitted to the Secretary, or as directed by
4 the Secretary, and not later than March 15.

5 (C) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS.—The Sec-
6 retary shall make payments to eligible manufac-
7 turers and successors-in-interest described in
8 clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) not
9 later than April 15 of the year of the payment.

10 (D) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—
11 The Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, negotiate
13 memoranda of understanding with the Commis-
14 sioner responsible for U.S. Customs and Border
15 Protection and the Secretary of Commerce to
16 establish procedures pursuant to which the
17 Commissioner and the Secretary of Commerce
18 will assist in carrying out the provisions of this
19 section.

20 (E) INCREASE IN PAYMENTS IN THE
21 EVENT OF EXPIRATION OF DUTY SUSPEN-
22 SIONS.—

23 (i) IN GENERAL.—In any calendar
24 year in which the suspension of duty on
25 wool fabrics provided for under headings

1 9902.51.11, 9902.51.13, 9902.51.14,
2 9902.51.15, and 9902.51.16 of the Har-
3 monized Tariff Schedule of the United
4 States are not in effect, the amount of any
5 payment described in paragraph (1) to a
6 manufacturer or successor-in-interest shall
7 be increased by an amount the Secretary,
8 after consultation with the Secretary of
9 Commerce, determines is equal to the
10 amount the manufacturer or successor-in-
11 interest would have saved during the cal-
12 endar year of the payment if the suspen-
13 sion of duty on wool fabrics were in effect.

14 (ii) NO APPEAL OF DETERMINA-
15 TIONS.—A determination of the Secretary
16 under this subsection shall be final and not
17 subject to appeal or protest.

18 (2) PIMA AGRICULTURE COTTON.—From the
19 amount made available in subsection (c) the Sec-
20 retary shall make payments annually beginning in
21 calendar year 2025 for the purpose described in sub-
22 section (a)(2).

23 (A) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The Sec-
24 retary shall make payments under paragraph
25 (2) as follows:

1 (i) Twenty-five percent of the
2 amounts made available in subsection
3 (c)(2)(A) shall be paid to one or more na-
4 tionally recognized associations established
5 for the promotion of pima cotton for use in
6 textile and apparel goods.

7 (ii)(I) Except as provided in subclause
8 (II), 25 percent of the amounts made
9 available in subsection (c)(2)(A) shall be
10 paid to yarn spinners of pima cotton that
11 produce ring spun cotton yarns in the
12 United States, to be allocated to each spin-
13 ner in an amount that bears the same
14 ratio as—

15 (aa) the spinner's produc-
16 tion of ring spun cotton yarns,
17 measuring less than 83.33
18 decitex (exceeding 120 metric
19 number) from pima cotton in sin-
20 gle and plied form during the
21 prior calendar year (as evidenced
22 by an affidavit provided by the
23 spinner that meets the require-
24 ments of subparagraph (B)),
25 bears to—

1 (bb) the production of the
2 yarns described in item (aa) dur-
3 ing the prior calendar year for all
4 spinners who qualify under this
5 paragraph.

6 (II)(aa) A yarn spinner shall not
7 receive an amount under clause (ii)
8 that exceeds the cost of pima cotton
9 that—

10 (bb) was purchased during
11 the prior calendar year; and

12 (cc) was used in spinning
13 any cotton yarns.

14 (III) The Secretary shall reallo-
15 cate any amounts reduced by reason
16 of the limitation under item (aa) to
17 spinners using the ratio described in
18 subclause (I), disregarding production
19 of any spinner subject to that limita-
20 tion.

21 (iii) Fifty percent of the amounts
22 made available in subsection (c)(2)(A)
23 shall be paid to manufacturers who cut
24 and sew cotton shirts in the United States
25 who certify that they used imported cotton

1 fabric during the prior calendar year, to be
2 allocated to each such manufacturer in an
3 amount that bears the same ratio as—

4 (I) the dollar value (excluding
5 duty, shipping, and related costs) of
6 imported woven cotton shirting fabric
7 of 80s or higher count and 2-ply in
8 warp purchased by the manufacturer
9 during the prior calendar year (as evi-
10 denced by an affidavit provided by the
11 manufacturer that meets the require-
12 ments of subparagraph (C)) used in
13 the manufacturing of men's and boys'
14 cotton shirts; bears to

15 (II) the dollar value (excluding
16 duty, shipping, and related costs) of
17 the fabric described in subclause (I)
18 purchased during the prior calendar
19 year by all manufacturers who qualify
20 under this clause.

21 (B) AFFIDAVIT OF YARN SPINNERS.—The
22 affidavit required by subparagraph
23 (A)(ii)(I)(aa) is a notarized affidavit provided
24 annually by an officer of a producer of ring
25 spun yarns that affirms—

1 (i) that the producer used pima cotton
2 during the year in which the affidavit is
3 filed and during the prior calendar year to
4 produce ring spun cotton yarns in the
5 United States, measuring less than 83.33
6 decitex (exceeding 120 metric number), in
7 single and plied form;

8 (ii) the quantity, measured in pounds,
9 of ring spun cotton yarns, measuring less
10 than 83.33 decitex (exceeding 120 metric
11 number), in single and plied form during
12 the prior calendar year;

13 (iii) that the producer maintains sup-
14 porting documentation showing the quan-
15 tity of such yarns produced, and evidenc-
16 ing the yarns as ring spun cotton yarns,
17 measuring less than 83.33 decitex (exceed-
18 ing 120 metric number), in single and
19 plied form during the prior calendar year;
20 and

21 (iv) the dollar amount of pima cotton
22 purchased during the prior calendar year—

23 (I) that was used in spinning any
24 cotton yarns; and

1 (II) for which the producer main-
2 tains supporting documentation.

3 (C) AFFIDAVIT OF SHIRTING MANUFAC-
4 TURERS.—

5 (i) IN GENERAL.—The affidavit re-
6 quired by subparagraph (A)(iii)(I) is a no-
7 tarized affidavit provided annually by an
8 officer of a manufacturer of men’s and
9 boys’ shirts that affirms—

10 (I) that the manufacturer used
11 imported cotton fabric during the year
12 in which the affidavit is filed and dur-
13 ing the prior calendar year, to cut and
14 sew men’s and boys’ woven cotton
15 shirts in the United States;

16 (II) the dollar value of imported
17 woven cotton shirting fabric of 80s or
18 higher count and 2-ply in warp pur-
19 chased by the manufacturer during
20 the prior calendar year;

21 (III) that the manufacturer
22 maintains invoices along with other
23 supporting documentation (such as
24 price lists and other technical descrip-
25 tions of the fabric qualities) showing

1 the dollar value of such fabric pur-
2 chased, the date of purchase, and evi-
3 dencing the fabric as woven cotton
4 fabric of 80s or higher count and 2-
5 ply in warp; and

6 (IV) that the fabric was suitable
7 for use in the manufacturing of men's
8 and boys' cotton shirts.

9 (ii) DATE OF PURCHASE.—For pur-
10 poses of the affidavit under clause (i), the
11 date of purchase shall be the invoice date,
12 and the dollar value shall be determined
13 excluding duty, shipping, and related costs.

14 (D) FILING DEADLINE FOR AFFIDAVITS.—
15 Any person required to provide an affidavit
16 under this paragraph shall file the affidavit
17 with the Secretary or as directed by the Sec-
18 retary not later than March 15 of the applicable
19 calendar year.

20 (E) TIMING OF DISTRIBUTIONS.—The Sec-
21 retary shall make a payment under clause (ii)
22 or (iii) of subparagraph (A) not later than the
23 date that is 30 days after the filing of the affi-
24 davit required with respect to that payment.

1 (3) WOOL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION.—From
2 the amount made available in subsection (c) the Sec-
3 retary shall make payments annually beginning in
4 calendar year 2025 for the purpose described in sub-
5 section (a)(3).

6 (c) FUNDING.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds of the Com-
8 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall
9 transfer to the Trust Fund \$50,000,000 for each of
10 the calendar years 2025 through 2029.

11 (2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The funds
12 made available under paragraph (1), shall be distrib-
13 uted to the purposes of this section in the following
14 manner:

15 (A) Not less than \$30,000,000 for each of
16 the calendar years 2025 through 2029 for the
17 purposes described in (a)(1).

18 (B) Not less than \$17,750,000 for each of
19 the calendar years 2025 through 2029 for the
20 purposes described in (a)(2).

21 (C) Not less than \$2,250,000 for each of
22 the calendar years 2025 through 2029 for the
23 purposes described in (a)(3).

1 (3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts trans-
2 ferred to the Trust Fund under paragraph (1) shall
3 remain available until expended.

4 (d) SUNSET OF PREVIOUS FUNDS.—The Agricultural
5 Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) is amended—

6 (1) in section 12314 (7 U.S.C. 2101 note), by
7 adding at the end the following:

8 “(i) SUNSET.—Effective January 1, 2025, the Trust
9 Fund shall be abolished and all unobligated amounts in
10 the Trust Fund on such date shall be transferred to the
11 general fund of the Treasury of the United States.”;

12 (2) in section 12315 (7 U.S.C. 2101 note), by
13 adding at the end the following:

14 “(g) SUNSET.—Effective January 1, 2025, the Trust
15 Fund shall be abolished and all unobligated amounts in
16 the Trust Fund on such date shall be transferred to the
17 general fund of the Treasury of the United States.”; and

18 (3) in section 12316 (7 U.S.C. 2101 note)—

19 (A) in subsection (a), by adding at the end
20 the following: “Effective January 1, 2025, the
21 Secretary may not make grants under the pre-
22 ceding sentence and, any unobligated amounts
23 of the amounts made available under such pre-
24 ceding sentence, are rescinded.”; and

1 (B) in subsection (b), by adding at the end
2 the following: “Effective January 1, 2025, the
3 authority to use unexpended unobligated bal-
4 ances remaining in the Wool Research, Develop-
5 ment, and Promotion Trust Fund for the pur-
6 poses described in the preceding sentence shall
7 cease to be effective.”.

8 **SEC. 12408. REPORTS ON LAND ACCESS AND FARMLAND**
9 **OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION.**

10 Section 12607 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
11 of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204i) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
14 by inserting “and not less frequently than once
15 every 2 years thereafter,” before “the Secretary
16 of Agriculture”;

17 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
18 the end;

19 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
20 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

21 (D) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(4) a catalog of existing Federal, State, or pri-
23 vate programs that facilitate access to land, capital,
24 and markets, including programs providing assist-
25 ance relating to—

1 “(A) acquiring of real property (including
2 air rights, water rights, and other interests
3 therein), including closing costs;

4 “(B) subsidizing interest rates and mort-
5 gage principal amounts for intended bene-
6 ficiaries;

7 “(C) providing down payment assistance to
8 decrease farm mortgages;

9 “(D) securing clear title on heirs’ property
10 farmland;

11 “(E) conducting surveys and assessments
12 of agricultural land;

13 “(F) improving or remediating land, water,
14 and soil;

15 “(G) constructing or repairing infrastruc-
16 ture;

17 “(H) supporting land use planning;

18 “(I) acquiring legal or financial planning
19 assistance;

20 “(J) carrying out Tribal consultation;

21 “(K) supporting acquisition of a Depart-
22 ment of Agriculture farm number; and

23 “(L) any other activities as determined by
24 the Secretary.”; and

1 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2029”.

3 **SEC. 12409. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY REGARDING DE-**
4 **TENTION OF IMPORTED PLANTS.**

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordi-
7 nation with the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
8 Service and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Bor-
9 der Protection, shall issue guidance to clarify the process
10 by which an importer of plants that have been denied
11 entry into the United States and detained under the Lacey
12 Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) may
13 obtain additional information on such denial and deten-
14 tion.

15 (b) **INFORMATION PROVIDED.**—The process referred
16 to in subsection (a) shall ensure that the Secretary shall
17 provide to an importer described in such subsection, upon
18 the detention of any plants of such importer, the following
19 information:

20 (1) The specific reasons for which the detention
21 of the plants was initiated, including the date on
22 which the plants were presented to the Secretary for
23 examination.

24 (2) The anticipated length of the detention of
25 such plants.

1 (3) The nature of the tests or inquiries to be
2 conducted on the plants, which the importer shall be
3 able to replicate.

4 (4) The nature of any information that, if sup-
5 plied to the Secretary, would accelerate the dispo-
6 sition of the detention.

7 **SEC. 12410. ENHANCEMENT OF PET PROTECTIONS.**

8 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
9 of the enactment of this Act (or later, if the Secretary
10 determines appropriate after taking into consideration any
11 ongoing programmatic review of the Animal Care program
12 of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), the
13 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
14 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
15 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
16 tion, and Forestry and the Committee on Appropriations
17 of the Senate a report with respect to companion animals
18 that—

19 (1) evaluates the enforcement of standards
20 under, and requirements of, the Animal Welfare Act
21 (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) by the Secretary for both ef-
22 fectiveness and efficiency;

23 (2) evaluates the efforts by the Secretary to
24 educate and advise dealers of all standards under,
25 and requirements of, such Act;

1 (3) evaluates the capacity of the Secretary to
2 enforce the standards established by such Act;

3 (4) makes recommendations for the improve-
4 ment of—

5 (A) all standards (including animal welfare
6 standards) under, and requirements of, such
7 Act; and

8 (B) education efforts of the Secretary with
9 respect to such standards and requirements;
10 and

11 (5) considers the impact and associated costs of
12 any recommended improvements or amendments to
13 the standards under, and requirements of, such Act.

14 (b) VETERINARY CARE.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 13(a)(2)(A) of the
16 Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)(2)(A)) is
17 amended by inserting “(which shall include visual
18 dental examinations)” after “adequate veterinary
19 care”.

20 (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 13 of
21 the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended
22 by redesignating the second subsection (f) (prohib-
23 iting delivery of certain animals without certificate
24 of inspection), subsection (g), and subsection (h) as
25 subsections (g) through (i), respectively.

1 (c) CONFISCATION FOR UNRELIEVED SUFFERING.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 13 of the Animal
3 Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 “(i) The Secretary shall promulgate such rules and
6 regulations as may be necessary to, during the inspection
7 process under section 16—

8 “(1) provide for the notification of State law
9 enforcement officials or the State animal health offi-
10 cial (or designee of such official); or

11 “(2) consider immediate confiscation or de-
12 struction of a dog, in the event that such dog is de-
13 termined to be in a state of unrelieved suffering.”.

14 (2) DEFINITION.—Section 2 of the Animal Wel-
15 fare Act (7 U.S.C. 2132) is amended by adding at
16 the end the following:

17 “(p) The term ‘unrelieved suffering’ means, with re-
18 spect to a dog, a state in which the dog is forced to endure
19 conditions, arising out of a dealer’s failure to comply with
20 the provisions of this Act, which cause severe pain or dis-
21 tress or severe discomfort, or which could directly and neg-
22 atively impact the health and well-being of the dog if im-
23 mediate actions are not taken to remedy the situation.”.

1 **SEC. 12411. PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER.**

2 Section 12502(b)(8) of the Agriculture Improvement
3 Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking
4 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

5 **SEC. 12412. REPORT ON AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS THAT HAVE SUFFERED ECONOMIC LOSSES DUE TO THE FAILURE OF MEXICO TO DELIVER WATER.**

10 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
12 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
13 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
14 the Senate a report that lists all existing authorities of
15 the Secretary and programs within the Department that
16 are or could be made available to provide assistance to
17 agricultural producers in the State of Texas that have suf-
18 fered economic losses due to the failure of Mexico to de-
19 liver water to the United States in accordance with the
20 Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colo-
21 rado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed
22 at Washington on February 3, 1944 and the Supple-
23 mentary Protocol signed at Washington November 14,
24 1944.

1 **SEC. 12413. EXPERIENCED SERVICES PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use the tal-
3 ents of individuals who are age 55 or older, but who are
4 not employees of the Department or a State agriculture
5 department, to provide technical, professional, and admin-
6 istrative services in support of programs and authorities
7 in each mission area of the Department, other than pro-
8 grams and authorities of the Natural Resources Conserva-
9 tion Service or the Forest Service.

10 (b) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall enter into
11 agreements under section 1252(b) of the Food Security
12 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851(b)) for purposes of carrying
13 out subsection (a).

14 (c) FUNDING.—The Secretary may carry out sub-
15 section (a) using funds made available to carry out any
16 program in the applicable mission area of the Department.

17 (d) LIABILITY.—Section 1252(d) of the Food Secu-
18 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851(d)) shall apply to indi-
19 viduals providing technical, professional, or administrative
20 services pursuant to this section.

21 (e) REFERENCES TO EXPERIENCED SERVICES PRO-
22 GRAM.—For purposes of this section, references in sub-
23 sections (b) and (d) of section 1252 of the Food Security
24 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851) to the program shall be
25 deemed to be references to this section.

1 **SEC. 12414. AGRICULTURAL LABOR SURVEY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Agricultural
3 Labor Survey, the Secretary shall make such changes as
4 are necessary to—

5 (1) collect and publish data regarding the aver-
6 age hourly base rate of pay for hired agricultural
7 workers; and

8 (2) ensure survey recipients include all agricul-
9 tural employers, agricultural associations employing
10 farm labor, and farm labor contractors (as such
11 term is defined in section 500.20 of title 29, Code
12 of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

13 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
17 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
18 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
19 ate a report examining the quality of the farm labor
20 survey and the impacts of labor costs on agricultural
21 employers.

22 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
23 graph (1) shall examine—

24 (A) with regard to the Agricultural Labor
25 Survey—

26 (i) for each of the previous 5 years—

1 (I) the number of surveys that
2 were distributed;

3 (II) the number of responses to
4 such surveys; and

5 (III) relevant metrics regarding
6 the statistical soundness of such sur-
7 veys, including the survey response
8 rate; and

9 (ii) what actions can be taken by the
10 Secretary to increase the response rate and
11 improve the statistical soundness of such
12 survey; and

13 (B) with regard to agricultural labor
14 costs—

15 (i) the share of such costs as a per-
16 centage of total variable costs, broken out
17 by size of operation and by primary com-
18 modity produced;

19 (ii) an analysis of the impact of such
20 costs on beginning farmers and ranchers
21 (as defined in section 210A(a) of the Agri-
22 cultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
23 1627c(a)));

24 (iii) a comparison of the trends of
25 wages surveyed under the agricultural

1 labor survey and the non-farm wage rates
2 over the previous 10 years;

3 (iv) an analysis of the extent to which
4 the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (as defined
5 in section 500.10 of title 29, Code of Fed-
6 eral Regulations (or successor regulations))
7 utilized by the H-2A temporary agricul-
8 tural labor certification program impacts
9 costs for all agricultural workers; and

10 (v) a determination of any adverse ef-
11 fect the wage rate described in clause (iv)
12 has on domestic agricultural workers.

13 **SEC. 12415. EXTENSION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND**
14 **COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF**
15 **2000.**

16 (a) SECURE PAYMENTS FOR STATES AND COUNTIES
17 CONTAINING FEDERAL LAND.—

18 (1) SECURE PAYMENTS.—Section 101 of the
19 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Deter-
20 mination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended,
21 in subsections (a) and (b), by striking “2023” each
22 place it appears and inserting “2026”.

23 (2) DISTRIBUTION OF PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE
24 COUNTIES.—Section 103(d)(2) of the Secure Rural
25 Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of

1 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is amended by striking
2 “2023” and inserting “2026”.

3 (b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SPE-
4 CIAL PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND.—

5 (1) EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Section
6 205(a)(4) of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-
7 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.
8 7125(a)(4)) is amended by striking “December 20,
9 2023” each place it appears and inserting “Decem-
10 ber 20, 2026”.

11 (2) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 208
12 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-
13 Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7128) is
14 amended—

15 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “2025”
16 and inserting “2028”; and

17 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “2026”
18 and inserting “2029”.

19 (c) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO EXPEND COUNTY
20 FUNDS.—Section 305 of the Secure Rural Schools and
21 Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.
22 7144) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2025” and
24 inserting “2028”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “2026” and
2 inserting “2029”.

3 **SEC. 12416. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION**
4 **WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM.**

5 Section 1(b) of Public Law 117–25 (135 Stat. 297;
6 136 Stat. 2133) is amended in each of paragraphs (3) and
7 (4), by striking “2024” and inserting “2026”.

8 **SEC. 12417. QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term “agency ac-
11 tion” has the meaning given the term in section 551
12 of title 5, United States Code.

13 (2) QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualified re-
15 newable biomass” means—

16 (i) forest products manufacturing bio-
17 energy feedstocks, including from—

18 (I) forest products manufac-
19 turing residuals, including spent
20 pulping liquors, pulping by-products,
21 bark, woody manufacturing residuals,
22 paper recycling residuals, wastewater
23 and process water treatment plant re-
24 siduals, and anaerobic digester biogas;

1 (II) harvest residues, including
2 portions of harvested trees that are
3 too small or of too poor quality to be
4 utilized for wood products or paper
5 products;

6 (III) downed wood from extreme
7 weather events and natural disasters,
8 nonhazardous landscape or right-of-
9 way trimmings and municipal trim-
10 mings, and plant material removed for
11 purposes of invasive or noxious plant
12 species control;

13 (IV) biowaste, including landfill
14 gas; and

15 (V) non-chemically treated used
16 wood products, such as crates or pal-
17 lets; and

18 (ii) forest biomass derived from resi-
19 dues created as a by-product of timber
20 harvesting, including treetops, tree limbs,
21 and bark, but excluding stumps, roots, and
22 round wood suitable for industrial pur-
23 poses.

1 (B) EXCLUSION.—Such term does not in-
2 clude paper of a type that is commonly recy-
3 cled.

4 (b) IN GENERAL.—

5 (1) CONSIDERATION AS RENEWABLE ENERGY
6 SOURCE.—With respect to any agency action of the
7 Department of Agriculture related to qualified re-
8 newable biomass, the Secretary shall consider quali-
9 fied renewable biomass to be a renewable energy
10 source and assign it (and a facility, to the extent it
11 uses qualified renewable biomass as fuel) a green-
12 house gas emission rate, and a carbon intensity, of
13 not greater than zero, if the use of such qualified re-
14 newable biomass as fuel does not cause the conver-
15 sion of forests to non-forest use.

16 (2) PETITIONS.—Not later than 1 year after re-
17 ceiving a petition requesting a change to a rule, pol-
18 icy, or program of the Department of Agriculture in
19 order to comply with the requirements of paragraph
20 (1), the Secretary shall take such action as may be
21 necessary to comply with such requirements with re-
22 spect to such rule, policy, or program.

23 (c) GUIDANCE.—

24 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary shall establish guidance for purposes of car-
2 rying out subsection (b).

3 (2) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may peri-
4 odically update the guidance established under para-
5 graph (1) as the Secretary may determine necessary.

6 (3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sub-
7 section, the Secretary shall consult with—

8 (A) the Administrator of the Environ-
9 mental Protection Agency;

10 (B) the Secretary of Energy; and

11 (C) any other relevant entities, as deter-
12 mined by the Secretary.