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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To reform the safety net for farmers and ranchers, enhance soil, water, and habitat conservation, encourage beginning farmers and ranchers, strengthen nutrition for Americans, support agriculture research and innovation, reduce food waste, improve animal welfare, and invest in regional food systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BLUMENAUER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To reform the safety net for farmers and ranchers, enhance soil, water, and habitat conservation, encourage beginning farmers and ranchers, strengthen nutrition for Americans, support agriculture research and innovation, reduce food waste, improve animal welfare, and invest in regional food systems, 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,*

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

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Food and Farm Act”.

4 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES AND CROP INSURANCE

Subtitle A—Cutting, Capping, and Clarifying Agriculture Subsidies

Sec. 101. Repealing excessive subsidy programs for commodity crops.

Sec. 102. Comprehensive cap on total agricultural subsidies an eligible entity may receive.

Sec. 103. Adjusted gross income limitation.

Sec. 104. Elimination of separate payment limitation on peanut subsidies.

Sec. 105. Strengthening prevented planting coverage.

Sec. 106. Eliminating the yield transfer loophole.

Sec. 107. Ensuring planting on suitable land.

Sec. 108. Report on diversity in crop insurance.

Subtitle B—Expansion of Whole Farm Crop Insurance

Sec. 121. Expansion of whole farm crop insurance option for farms that grow multiple crops.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

Subtitle A—Strengthening Conservation Compliance

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Sec. 202. Covered cropland program ineligibility.

Sec. 203. Exemptions.

Sec. 204. Development and implementation of conservation plans and conservation systems.

Sec. 205. Wetland program ineligibility.

Sec. 206. Delineation of wetlands; exemptions.

Subtitle B—Enhancing Environmental Quality Incentives

Sec. 211. Purposes.

Sec. 212. Definitions.

Sec. 213. Establishment and administration.

Sec. 214. Evaluation of applications.

Sec. 215. Environmental quality incentives program plan.

Sec. 216. Duties of the secretary.

Sec. 217. Limitation on payments.

Subtitle C—Reforming the Conservation Stewardship Program

Sec. 221. Definitions.

Sec. 222. Conservation stewardship program.

- Sec. 223. Stewardship contracts.
- Sec. 224. Duties of the Secretary.

Subtitle A—Building on the Regional Conservation Partnership

- Sec. 231. Improvements to the regional conservation partnership program.

Subtitle B—Establishing Innovative Grants for Conservation and Loans for Structural Improvements

- Sec. 241. Repeal and reestablishment of EQIP conservation innovation grant program.
- Sec. 242. Conservation loan and loan guarantee program.

Subtitle C—Ensuring Greenhouse Gas Reporting for Agriculture

- Sec. 251. Greenhouse gas reporting.
- Sec. 252. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle D—Administration and Funding

- Sec. 261. Commodity credit corporation.

TITLE III—FOOD ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 301. Elimination of domestic procurement restriction for emergency and private assistance programs under the Food for Peace Act.
- Sec. 302. Elimination of cap on support for eligible organizations for certain purposes.
- Sec. 303. Elimination of minimum level of local sales requirement under the Food for Peace Act.
- Sec. 304. Food for Peace Act extensions.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

Subtitle A—Increasing Access to Healthy Foods

- Sec. 401. Expanding healthy food financing initiative.
- Sec. 402. Helping schools serve healthier meals.
- Sec. 403. Strengthening the food and agriculture service learning program.
- Sec. 404. Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program.

Subtitle B—Improving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Sec. 411. Continuing the farmers' markets supplemental nutrition assistance program support grant program.
- Sec. 412. Expanding and increasing support for the food insecurity nutrition incentives program.
- Sec. 413. Closing the meal gap.
- Sec. 414. Food as medicine.

TITLE V—FUTURE OF AMERICAN FARMERS

Subtitle A—Defining Beginning Farmer or Rancher

- Sec. 501. Beginning farmer or rancher defined.

Subtitle B—Providing Resources for Beginning, Retiring, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

- Sec. 511. Reauthorization and increased funding for outreach and assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers.
- Sec. 512. Ensuring permanent funding for beginning farmer and rancher development program.
- Sec. 513. Supporting beginning farmer participation in certain conservation programs.
- Sec. 514. Creating a priority for participation of beginning farmers and ranchers in farmers' market and local food promotion program.
- Sec. 515. Supporting beginning farmers and ranchers through farm service agency liaisons.
- Sec. 516. Facilitating succession planning through the creation of farm service agency regional planners.
- Sec. 517. Ensuring a vibrant agricultural sector through the creation of a land tenure commission.

Subtitle C—Creating Financial Incentives to Benefit Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

- Sec. 521. Removing barriers to farming through an eligible farmer tax credit.
- Sec. 522. Ensuring farm service facility loans can serve agricultural cooperatives.
- Sec. 523. Loans to cooperatives.

TITLE VI—FOOD WASTE

- Sec. 601. Sense of congress regarding reducing food waste.
- Sec. 602. Establishment of office of food waste.
- Sec. 603. Establishment of food loss and waste reduction task force.
- Sec. 604. Standardizing, aggregating, and publishing food waste data.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—Investing in Sustainable Agriculture

- Sec. 701. Sustainable agriculture research, extension, and education programs.
- Sec. 702. National training program.

Subtitle B—Supporting Research to Help Farmers Adapt to a Disrupted Climate

- Sec. 711. Competitive, special, and facilities grants.
- Sec. 712. Specialty crop research initiative.

TITLE VIII—ANIMAL WELFARE

Subtitle A—Ensuring Animal Welfare in Farming

- Sec. 801. Definitions for humanely raised livestock and poultry certification programs.
- Sec. 802. Increasing market access for humanely raised livestock and poultry certification programs.
- Sec. 803. Animal welfare tax incentives.

Subtitle B—Reforming Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors

- Sec. 811. Animal welfare.

Sec. 812. Establishing a research and extension program for humanely raised livestock and poultry certifications.

Subtitle C—Protecting Companion Animals

Sec. 821. Maintenance and public availability of regulatory records.

Sec. 822. Prohibiting the trade of dog and cat meat.

TITLE IX—REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Subtitle A—Expanding Support for Local and Regional Food Systems

Sec. 901. Sense of the Congress.

Sec. 902. Expanding the food leveraging investment for network coordination (LINC) program.

Sec. 903. Ensuring success of regional food projects under the business and industry guaranteed loan program.

Sec. 904. Increasing support for the specialty crop block grant program.

Subtitle B—Enhancing Regional Food Infrastructure

Sec. 911. Supporting regional food infrastructure assessment and collaborative planning.

Sec. 912. Livestock, dairy, and poultry supply chain infrastructure grants and loans.

Subtitle C—Expanding Accessibility of Federal Grant Programs

Sec. 921. Publishing information about funded farmers' market and local food promotion program projects.

Sec. 922. Streamlining of local and regional food program application procedures.

Subtitle D—Leveling the Playing Field for Small Farmers

Sec. 931. Ensuring fair practices in agriculture.

1 **TITLE I—COMMODITIES AND**
2 **CROP INSURANCE**

3 **Subtitle A—Cutting, Capping, and**
4 **Clarifying Agriculture Subsidies**

5 **SEC. 101. REPEALING EXCESSIVE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS FOR**
6 **COMMODITY CROPS.**

7 (a) REPEAL.—Part II of subtitle A of title I of the
8 Agriculture Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.) is re-
9 pealed.

1 (b) CONTINUED APPLICATION FOR 2023 CROP
2 YEAR.—Part II of subtitle A of title I of the Agriculture
3 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.), as in effect on the
4 day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall
5 continue to apply through the 2023 crop year with respect
6 to each covered commodity (as defined in section 1111(6)
7 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 9011(6))) on a farm.

8 **SEC. 102. COMPREHENSIVE CAP ON TOTAL AGRICULTURAL**
9 **SUBSIDIES AN ELIGIBLE ENTITY MAY RE-**
10 **CEIVE.**

11 Section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7
12 U.S.C. 1308–3a) is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) through (h)
14 as subsections (f) through (i), respectively;

15 (2) in such subsections, by striking “(b) and
16 (c)” and “(b) or (c)” each place it appears and in-
17 serting “(b), (c), and (e)” and “(b), (c), or (e)”, re-
18 spectively;

19 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
20 lowing new subsection (e):

21 “(e) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL PAYMENTS.**—Notwith-
22 standing any other provision of law, the total amount of
23 payments and benefits described in section 1001D(b)(2)
24 received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity
25 (except a joint venture or general partnership) during a

1 crop, fiscal, or program year, as appropriate, may not ex-
2 ceed \$125,000. This does not include ad-hoc disaster
3 funding.”; and

4 (4) in paragraph (2), by striking “first cousin,
5 niece, nephew,”.

6 **SEC. 103. ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATION.**

7 Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
8 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$900,000”
10 and inserting “\$400,000 unless the 75 percent of
11 the adjusted gross income is derived from the farm”;
12 and

13 (2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the
14 following new subparagraph:

15 “(F) A crop insurance premium subsidy
16 under section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insur-
17 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)).”.

18 **SEC. 104. ELIMINATION OF SEPARATE PAYMENT LIMITA-
19 TION ON PEANUT SUBSIDIES.**

20 Section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7
21 U.S.C. 1308–3a) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (b)—

23 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
24 “(OTHER THAN PEANUTS)”;

1 (B) in the text, by striking “(other than
2 for peanuts)”;

3 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
4 following new sentence: “Effective beginning with
5 the 2025 crop year, subsection (b), rather than this
6 subsection, shall apply to payments received as mar-
7 keting loan gains or loan deficiency payments under
8 subtitle B of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014
9 for peanuts.”.

10 **SEC. 105. STRENGTHENING PREVENTED PLANTING COV-**
11 **ERAGE.**

12 (a) **PLANTING OF COVER CROP.**—Section
13 508A(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
14 U.S.C. 1508a(c)(1)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting before
15 the semicolon the following: “, but, in that case, the pro-
16 ducer shall plant a cover crop on the same acreage for
17 the same crop year unless doing so would not constitute
18 a good farming practice, as determined by the Secretary”.

19 (b) **AREA CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR PAYMENT.**—
20 Section 508A(c)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
21 U.S.C. 1508a(c)(4)) is amended by striking “, in the area
22 where” and inserting “in the same county, in an adjoining
23 county, or operating within 100 miles of the affected pro-
24 ducers, whichever area is greater,”.

1 (c) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—Section 508A(c) of
2 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508a) is
3 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
4 graphs:

5 “(6) SUCCESSFUL PLANTING.—In order to
6 qualify for prevented planting coverage, the land to
7 be covered must have been planted in at least one
8 of the preceding 3 crop years.

9 “(7) IRRIGATION GUIDANCE.—The Corporation
10 shall develop guidance on the efficient conservative
11 use of irrigation water when a crop is clearly lost to
12 ensure the program does not contribute to the ineffi-
13 cient use of water resources.

14 “(8) COVERAGE LEVELS.—Prevented planting
15 coverage levels shall not exceed the coverage factors
16 as determined by the Corporation.”.

17 (d) STUDY.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
19 the United States shall conduct a study on good
20 farming practices related to cover crops.

21 (2) FINDINGS.—The Secretary shall use the
22 findings of the study required under paragraph (1)
23 to evaluate and make appropriate changes to the
24 regulations of the Department.

1 **SEC. 106. ELIMINATING THE YIELD TRANSFER LOOPHOLE.**

2 Section 508(g) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
3 U.S.C. 1508(g)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing new paragraph:

5 “(6) YIELD TRANSFER PROHIBITED.—The Cor-
6 poration shall not allow a producer’s actual produc-
7 tion records from one parcel of land to be used to
8 establish actual production history on a separate
9 parcel of land.”.

10 **SEC. 107. ENSURING PLANTING ON SUITABLE LAND.**

11 Section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
12 U.S.C. 1508(e)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing paragraph:

14 “(9) PROHIBITION OF SUBSIDIES ON UNSUIT-
15 ABLE LAND.—The Corporation shall ensure that no
16 premium benefits are provided on lands, other than
17 for pasture, forage, or rangeland policy benefits,
18 that are classified as generally unsuitable for cultiva-
19 tion by the land capability classification system, as
20 determined by the Secretary.”.

21 **SEC. 108. REPORT ON DIVERSITY IN CROP INSURANCE.**

22 Section 508(k)(8) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
23 (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)) is amended by adding at the end
24 the following new subparagraph:

25 “(G) ANNUAL DIVERSITY REPORT.—Each
26 Standard Reinsurance Agreement shall include

1 a requirement for all approved insurance pro-
2 viders to submit to the Corporation on an an-
3 nual basis, in compliance with applicable pri-
4 vacy laws, a report—

5 “(i) describing activities undertaken
6 to promote access to crop insurance for so-
7 cially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers;
8 and
9 “(ii) containing demographic informa-
10 tion regarding the producers being served,
11 including information by race and gen-
12 der.”.

13 **Subtitle B—Expansion of Whole** 14 **Farm Crop Insurance**

15 **SEC. 121. EXPANSION OF WHOLE FARM CROP INSURANCE** 16 **OPTION FOR FARMS THAT GROW MULTIPLE** 17 **CROPS.**

18 (a) **ELIMINATION OF LIABILITY LIMITATION.**—Sec-
19 tion 522(c)(19)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
20 U.S.C. 1522(c)(19)(A)) is amended by adding at the end
21 the following: “, with no liability limitation,”.

22 (b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 522(c)(19) of the
23 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(19)) is
24 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
25 graphs:

1 “(D) ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING
2 EXPENSES.—Not withstanding any other provi-
3 sion of this subtitle, the Corporation shall allow
4 approved insurance providers to utilize alternate
5 compensation structures for the administration
6 of the plan developed under subparagraph (A)
7 that—

8 “(i) compensate agents based on the
9 actual time it takes to write and admin-
10 ister a policy under the plan; or

11 “(ii) another method approved by the
12 Corporation that proportionally com-
13 pensates agents for any increased time
14 commitments required by the plan.

15 “(E) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The Cor-
16 poration shall seek to ensure that the paper-
17 work requirements of agents and producers as-
18 sociated with the plan developed under subpara-
19 graph (A) are minimized to the maximum ex-
20 tent possible, while still meeting actuarial
21 soundness standards.

22 “(F) EXPANDING OPERATIONS.—To the
23 maximum extent possible, the Corporation shall
24 ensure that all producers, including rapidly ex-
25 panding operations, are able to obtain coverage

1 under the plan developed under subparagraph
2 (A).

3 “(G) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
4 after the date of the enactment of this subpara-
5 graph, the Corporation shall submit to Con-
6 gress a report that, with respect to this para-
7 graph, includes information relating to—

8 “(i) the burden to agents and farm-
9 ers;

10 “(ii) recommendations to streamline;
11 and

12 “(iii) compliance.”.

13 **TITLE II—CONSERVATION**
14 **Subtitle A—Strengthening**
15 **Conservation Compliance**

16 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

17 Section 1201(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985
18 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (3)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
21 “highly erodible” and inserting “covered”; and

22 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the
23 highly erodible” and inserting “covered”;

24 (2) in paragraph (4)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
2 and” and inserting a semicolon;

3 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read
4 as follows:

5 “(B) are designed to, in a cost effective
6 and technically practicable manner—

7 “(i) achieve a substantial improve-
8 ment in water quality;

9 “(ii) achieve a rate of soil erosion no
10 greater than the soil loss tolerance level, as
11 determined by the Natural Resources Con-
12 servation Service;

13 “(iii) prevent ephemeral gully erosion;
14 and

15 “(iv) establish and maintain a min-
16 imum of 50 feet of perennial vegetation be-
17 tween covered cropland and intermittent or
18 perennial waterways; and”;

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

20 “(C) are based on the most recent and
21 technically accurate soil erosion prediction mod-
22 els to determine if soil erosion by wind and
23 water exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance Level on
24 covered cropland subject to subtitle B.”;

1 (3) in paragraph (6), by striking “highly erod-
2 ible” and inserting “covered”;

3 (4) by amending paragraph (7)(A)(ii) to read
4 as follows:

5 “(ii) before such action, such land was
6 wetland.”;

7 (5) in paragraph (9), by striking “Any highly
8 erodible land on which an agricultural commodity is
9 produced after December 23, 1985, and that is not
10 exempt under section 1212, shall be considered as
11 part of the field in which the land was included on
12 December 23, 1985, unless the owner and Secretary
13 agree to modification of the boundaries of the field
14 to carry out this title.”; and

15 (6) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(28) COVERED CROPLAND.—The term ‘cov-
17 ered cropland’ means cropland, as defined in section
18 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, that
19 is planted to a row crop.”.

20 **SEC. 202. COVERED CROPLAND PROGRAM INELIGIBILITY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1211 of the Food Security
22 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
25 by striking “a field on which highly erodible

1 land” and all that follows through “shall be in-
2 eligible for” and inserting “covered cropland
3 shall be ineligible for”;

4 (B) in paragraph (1)(A) by inserting “or
5 income” after “any type of price”; and

6 (C) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “ex-
7 cessive erosion of highly erodible land” and in-
8 serting “substantial erosion or degradation of
9 water quality”; and

10 (2) in the heading of subsection (b), by striking
11 “HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND” and inserting “COMPLI-
12 ANCE DETERMINATION”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subtitle B of title
14 XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811
15 et seq.) is amended in the heading by striking “**Highly**
16 **Erodible Land**” and inserting “**Covered Crop-**
17 **land**”.

18 **SEC. 203. EXEMPTIONS.**

19 Section 1212 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
20 U.S.C. 3812) is amended—

21 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
22 lows:

23 “(a) ELIGIBILITY BASED ON COMPLIANCE WITH
24 CONSERVATION PLAN.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If, as of January 1, 2024,
2 or 2 years after the Natural Resources Conservation
3 Service has completed a conservation plan for the
4 farm, whichever is later, a person is actively apply-
5 ing the approved conservation plan, such person
6 shall have until January 1, 2028, to comply with the
7 plan without being subject to program ineligibility.

8 “(2) MINIMIZATION OF DOCUMENTATION.—In
9 carrying out this subsection, the Secretary, Natural
10 Resources Conservation Service, and local soil con-
11 servation districts shall minimize the quantity of
12 documentation a person must submit to comply with
13 this paragraph.

14 “(3) EXPIRATION.—On the expiration of a con-
15 tract entered into under subchapter B of chapter 1
16 of subtitle D, the provisions of this subtitle shall
17 apply to the acreage that was the subject of such
18 contract.”;

19 (2) by striking subsections (b), (c), and (d);

20 (3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g),
21 and (h) as subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e), respec-
22 tively; and

23 (4) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by
24 amending paragraph (4)(A)(i) to read as follows:

1 “(i) a person has failed to comply
2 with section 1211, and has acted in good
3 faith and without an intent to violate sec-
4 tion 1211; or”.

5 **SEC. 204. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CON-**
6 **SERVATION PLANS AND CONSERVATION SYS-**
7 **TEMS.**

8 Section 1213 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
9 U.S.C. 3812a) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and eco-
12 nomically”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “undue”
14 and inserting “serious”;

15 (2) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating
16 subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (b),
17 (c), (d), and (e), respectively;

18 (3) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by para-
19 graph (2))—

20 (A) in paragraph (2)—

21 (i) by striking “If a person makes a
22 certification under paragraph (1), the Sec-
23 retary shall not be required to” and insert-
24 ing “The Secretary shall annually”; and

1 (ii) by inserting “on not less than 5
2 percent of the covered cropland subject to
3 this subtitle” after “being applied”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the last
5 sentence and inserting “The Secretary may re-
6 vise the person’s conservation plan if the Sec-
7 retary determines the conservation plan is not
8 meeting the standards in section 1201(a)(4).”;
9 and

10 (4) by amending subsection (d) (as redesignated
11 by paragraph (2)) to read as follows:

12 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
13 shall—

14 “(1) provide technical assistance to a person
15 throughout the development, revision, and applica-
16 tion of the conservation plan and any conservation
17 system of the person; and

18 “(2) make available annually an amount equal
19 to 0.02 percent of the funding otherwise provided for
20 programs specified in section 1211(a), not to exceed
21 \$350 million, to provide technical assistance, con-
22 duct status reviews and other tasks required to fully
23 implement the provisions of this subtitle.”.

1 **SEC. 205. WETLAND PROGRAM INELIGIBILITY.**

2 Section 1221(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3821) is amended—

4 (1) by amending paragraph (2)(B) to read as
5 follows:

6 “(B) NEW CONVERSIONS.—In the case of
7 a wetland that the Secretary determines was
8 converted after the date of enactment of the
9 Agricultural Act of 2014, the person shall be
10 ineligible to receive crop insurance premium
11 subsidies in subsequent reinsurance years un-
12 less the Secretary determines that an exemption
13 pursuant to section 1222 applies.”;

14 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph
15 (E); and

16 (3) in paragraph (4), by inserting at the end
17 the following:

18 “(D) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall
19 make available annually an amount equal to
20 0.01 percent of the funding otherwise made
21 available for programs specified in 1221(b), not
22 to exceed \$200 million, to provide technical as-
23 sistance, conduct status reviews and carry out
24 other tasks needed to fully implement the provi-
25 sions of this subtitle.

1 “(E) STATUS REVIEWS.—The Secretary
2 shall annually carry out a review of the status
3 of compliance of the person with the conserva-
4 tion plan under which the conservation system
5 is being applied on no less than 5 percent of the
6 covered cropland subject to this subtitle.”.

7 **SEC. 206. DELINEATION OF WETLANDS; EXEMPTIONS.**

8 Section 1222 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
9 U.S.C. 3822) is amended in subsection (f)(2)—

10 (1) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E); and

11 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and

12 (G) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively.

13 **Subtitle B—Enhancing**
14 **Environmental Quality Incentives**

15 **SEC. 211. PURPOSES.**

16 Section 1240 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
17 U.S.C. 3839aa) is amended by inserting at the end the
18 following:

19 “(5) improving water quality, with special em-
20 phasis on reducing nutrient pollution and protecting
21 sources of drinking water;

22 “(6) conserving ground and surface water to
23 sustain or improve in-stream flows;

24 “(7) enhancing the quality of soil fertility and
25 health;

1 “(8) controlling invasive species;

2 “(9) enhancing critical aquatic and terrestrial
3 wildlife habitat for at-risk species;

4 “(10) reducing the amount and toxicity of pes-
5 ticides and other agricultural chemicals found on
6 food and in water or the air;

7 “(11) reducing the nontherapeutic use of medi-
8 cally important antibiotics in food-producing animals
9 in order to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics
10 used in the treatment of human and animal disease;
11 and

12 “(12) helping producers adapt to a changing
13 and unpredictable climate and increase resiliency to
14 climate change impacts, including rising tempera-
15 tures and extreme weather events, while reducing
16 greenhouse gas emissions.”.

17 **SEC. 212. DEFINITIONS.**

18 (a) ORGANIC SYSTEM PLAN.—Section 1240A of the
19 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1) is
20 amended by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating
21 paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through
22 (4), respectively.

23 (b) PRACTICE.—Section 1240A of the Food Security
24 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1) is further amended in
25 paragraph (3)(B) (as redesignated by subsection (a))—

1 (1) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and insert-
2 ing a semicolon;

3 (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);
4 and

5 (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following
6 new clause:

7 “(ii) comprehensive conservation plan-
8 ning; and”.

9 **SEC. 213. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.**

10 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Section 1240B(a) of the
11 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(a)) is
12 amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2028”.

13 (b) **TERM.**—Section 1240B(b)(2) of the Food Secu-
14 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(b)(2)(B)) is
15 amended by striking “10 years” and inserting “5 years”.

16 (c) **PRIORITY.**—Section 1240B(c) of the Food Secu-
17 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(c)) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 “(c) **PRIORITY.**—If the Secretary determines that the
20 environmental values of two or more applications for pay-
21 ments are comparable, the Secretary shall assign a higher
22 priority to a program application which will achieve the
23 environment and conservation values using practices and
24 systems the assessed cost of which is lower.”.

25 (d) **PAYMENTS.**—

1 (1) LIMITATION ON SUBSTANTIAL AND PRI-
2 MARY BENEFITS.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food
3 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is
4 amended—

5 (A) in paragraph (2)—

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

8 (ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-
9 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
10 or”; and

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

13 “(D) 50 percent of the cost of a practice
14 that substantially benefits the producer, as de-
15 termined by the Secretary.”; and

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

17 “(8) PRIMARY BENEFIT TO PRODUCER.—A pro-
18 ducer shall not be eligible for payments for a prac-
19 tice on eligible land under the program that pri-
20 marily benefits the producer, as determined by the
21 Secretary.”.

22 (2) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN PRAC-
23 TICES.—Section 1240B(d)(3) of the Food Security
24 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(3)) is amended
25 by adding at the end the following:

- 1 “(H) contour farming;
- 2 “(I) cover cropping;
- 3 “(J) nutrient management;
- 4 “(K) stream corridor improvement;
- 5 “(L) contour buffer strips;
- 6 “(M) riparian herbaceous and forest buff-
- 7 ers;
- 8 “(N) filterstrips;
- 9 “(O) stream habitat improvement and
- 10 management;
- 11 “(P) grassed waterways;
- 12 “(Q) wetland restoration and enhance-
- 13 ment; or
- 14 “(R) conservation crop rotation.”.

15 (3) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN

16 PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security

17 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is further

18 amended by adding at the end the following new

19 paragraph:

20 “(9) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN

21 PRACTICES.—A producer who owns or operates a

22 large confined animal feeding operation (as defined

23 by the Secretary) shall not be eligible for payments

24 under this chapter to construct an animal waste

1 management facility or any associated waste trans-
2 port or transfer device.”.

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

6 “(f) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Of the funds made
7 available for payments for each of fiscal years 2024
8 through 2028 not less than 5 percent shall be provided
9 to producers who participate in an independent animal
10 welfare certification program, as defined in section 801
11 of the Food and Farm Act.”.

12 (f) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFI-
13 CIENCY PRACTICE.—Section 1240B(h)(1) of the Food Se-
14 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(h)(1)) is amend-
15 ed—

16 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or” at
17 the end;

18 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period
19 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

21 “(D) water-conserving practices such as
22 dryland farming;

23 “(E) improvement of the storage of water
24 through measures such as water banking and
25 groundwater recharge; or

1 “(F) enhancement of fish and wildlife
2 habitat associated with irrigation systems, in-
3 cluding pivot corners and areas with irregular
4 boundaries.”.

5 (g) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
6 LATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—

7 (1) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—Section
8 1240B(i)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
9 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(1)) is amended by striking
10 “subsection” and inserting “chapter”.

11 (2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Section
12 1240B(i)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
13 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(2)) is amended to read as fol-
14 lows:

15 “(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—As a condi-
16 tion for receiving payments under this subsection, a
17 producer shall agree to develop and implement con-
18 servation practices for certified organic production
19 that are consistent with the regulations promulgated
20 under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7
21 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and the purposes of this chap-
22 ter.”.

23 (3) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS; COORDINATION
24 WITH ORGANIC CERTIFICATION; PLANNING.—Section

1 1240B(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
2 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)) is amended—

3 (A) by striking paragraph (3) and redesignig-
4 nating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs
5 (5) and (6), respectively; and

6 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
7 following new paragraphs:

8 “(3) COORDINATION WITH ORGANIC CERTIFI-
9 CATION.—The Secretary shall establish a trans-
10 parent means by which producers may initiate or-
11 ganic certification under the Organic Foods Produc-
12 tion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) while par-
13 ticipating in a contract under this chapter.

14 “(4) PLANNING.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
16 provide planning assistance to producers
17 transitioning to certified organic production
18 consistent with the requirements of the Organic
19 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501
20 et seq.) and the purposes of this chapter.

21 “(B) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—The
22 Secretary shall, to the maximum extent prac-
23 ticable, eliminate duplication of planning activi-
24 ties for a producer participating in a contract
25 under this chapter and initiating or maintaining

1 organic certification consistent with the Organic
2 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501
3 et seq.).”.

4 (h) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
5 LATED TO ANTIBIOTIC USE.—Section 1240B of the Food
6 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2) is amended
7 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

8 “(k) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
9 LATED TO ANTIBIOTIC USE.—

10 “(1) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
11 shall provide payments under this chapter to live-
12 stock producers for three years, to assist in a transi-
13 tion to modified animal management and production
14 systems, for practices leading to the reduction in the
15 need for antibiotics, including modification of sys-
16 tems and spaces to—

17 “(A) improve sanitation;

18 “(B) improve ventilation; or

19 “(C) support the implementation of im-
20 proved animal management techniques at the
21 operation.

22 “(2) DUTY OF PRODUCER.—The Secretary shall
23 not make payments under this chapter for practices
24 related to antibiotic use unless the producer agrees
25 to provide information to the Secretary documenting

1 the resulting reduction in antibiotic use in the oper-
2 ation of the producer.”.

3 (i) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
4 LATED TO PASTURE-BASED PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.—
5 Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3839aa–2), as amended by subsection (h), is fur-
7 ther amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(1) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
10 LATED TO PASTURE-BASED PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.—

11 “(1) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
12 shall provide payments under this subsection for
13 conservation practices, on some or all of the oper-
14 ations of a producer, related—

15 “(A) to pasture-based, production systems;

16 or

17 “(B) to the transition to pasture-based
18 production systems managed under an approved
19 prescribed grazing plan in which animals are
20 regularly and systematically moved to fresh
21 pasture in such a way as to—

22 “(i) maximize the quantity and qual-
23 ity of forage growth;

24 “(ii) maximize the quality of soil fer-
25 tility and tilth;

1 “(iii) improve manure distribution and
2 nutrient cycling;

3 “(iv) increase the sequestration of car-
4 bon dioxide;

5 “(v) improve the quality and quantity
6 of cover for wildlife and pollinators;

7 “(vi) provide permanent cover to pro-
8 tect the soil from erosion; and

9 “(vii) improve water quality and infil-
10 tration.

11 “(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—As a condi-
12 tion for receiving payments under this subsection, a
13 producer shall agree to implement at least 3 prac-
14 tices and either—

15 “(A) develops and carries out a grazing
16 management plan that includes intensive man-
17 agement rotational grazing; or

18 “(B) develops and implements conservation
19 practices that are consistent with intensive rota-
20 tional grazing practices for pasture-based sys-
21 tems.

22 “(3) PAYMENT PRIORITIES.—In determining
23 the amount and rate of payments under paragraph
24 (2)(B), the Secretary may accord great significance
25 to practices that—

1 “(A) improve the quality of soil fertility
2 and tith;
3 “(B) protect water quality;
4 “(C) increase the sequestration of carbon
5 dioxide;
6 “(D) accelerate water infiltration; and
7 “(E) and expand pollinator habitat and
8 protection.”.

9 **SEC. 214. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.**

10 (a) **EVALUATION CRITERIA.**—Section 1240C(a) of
11 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3(a))
12 is amended by striking “national, State, and local con-
13 servation priorities” and inserting “priority resource con-
14 cerns identified under subsection (d)”.

15 (b) **PRIORITIZATION OF APPLICATIONS.**—Section
16 1240C(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
17 3839aa–3(b)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “achieving the
19 anticipated conservation benefits of the project” and
20 inserting “addressing priority resource concerns
21 identified under subsection (d)”;

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “designated
23 resource concern or resource concerns” and inserting
24 “priority resource concerns identified under sub-
25 section (d), including, in the case of applications

1 from nutrient-impacted watersheds, the degree to
2 which nutrient loadings would be reduced as a result
3 of the proposed project”.

4 (c) GROUPING OF APPLICATIONS.—Section 1240C(c)
5 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3(e))
6 is amended by striking “for evaluation purposes or other-
7 wise evaluate applications relative to other applications for
8 similar farming operations” and inserting “proposing to
9 address the same priority resource concerns for evaluation
10 purposes”.

11 (d) PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS.—Section
12 1240C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
13 3839aa–3) is amended by adding at the end the following
14 new subsection:

15 “(d) PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS.—For the pur-
16 poses of this section, the Secretary shall identify priority
17 resource concerns in a particular watershed or other ap-
18 propriate region or area within a State.”.

19 **SEC. 215. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-**
20 **GRAM PLAN.**

21 Section 1240E(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985
22 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–5(a)) is amended to read as follows:

23 “(a) PLAN OF OPERATIONS.—To be eligible to re-
24 ceive payments under the program, a producer shall sub-

1 mit to the Secretary for approval a plan of operations
2 that—

3 “(1) specifies the priority resource concerns to
4 be addressed;

5 “(2) specifies the type, number, and sequencing
6 of conservation systems, practices, or activities to be
7 implemented to address the priority resource con-
8 cerns;

9 “(3) includes such terms and conditions as the
10 Secretary considers necessary to carry out the pro-
11 gram, including a description of the purposes to be
12 met by the implementation of the plan and a state-
13 ment of how the plan will achieve or take significant
14 steps toward achieving the relevant resource man-
15 agement system quality criteria, as determined by
16 the Secretary;

17 “(4) in the case of a confined livestock feeding
18 operation, provides for development and implementa-
19 tion of a comprehensive nutrient management plan,
20 if applicable;

21 “(5) in the case of a producer located within a
22 nutrient-impacted watershed, identifies methods by
23 which the producer will limit nutrient loss; and

24 “(6) in the case of forest land, is consistent
25 with the provisions of a forest management plan

1 that is approved by the Secretary, which may in-
2 clude—

3 “(A) a forest stewardship plan described in
4 section 5 of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
5 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a);

6 “(B) another practice plan approved by the
7 State forester; or

8 “(C) another plan determined appropriate
9 by the Secretary.”.

10 **SEC. 216. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

11 Section 1240F(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985
12 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–6(2)) is amended by striking “infor-
13 mation” and inserting “technical assistance, informa-
14 tion,”.

15 **SEC. 217. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

16 Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
17 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is amended to read as follows:

18 **“SEC. 1240G. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

19 “(a) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL PAYMENTS.**—Subject to
20 subsection (b), a person or legal entity may not receive,
21 directly or indirectly, cost-share or incentive payments
22 under this chapter, in the aggregate, for all contracts en-
23 tered into under this chapter by the person or entity (ex-
24 cluding funding arrangements with Indian tribes under
25 this chapter), regardless of the number of contracts en-

1 tered into under this chapter by the person or entity,
2 that—

3 “(1) during any fiscal year exceed \$30,000; and

4 “(2) during any five-year period exceed
5 \$150,000.

6 “(b) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—In the case of contracts
7 under this chapter for projects of special environmental
8 significance, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary
9 may waive the limitation otherwise applicable under sub-
10 section (a)(1).

11 “(c) PREVENTION OF DUPLICATION.—The Secretary
12 shall not approve a contract or provide payments to any
13 individual for a practice that has already been paid for
14 as part of a previously approved and completed contract
15 for any particular parcel of land.”.

16 **Subtitle C—Reforming the Con-** 17 **servation Stewardship Program**

18 **SEC. 221. DEFINITIONS.**

19 Section 1240I of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
20 U.S.C. 3839aa-21) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking clause (i)
22 and inserting the following:

23 “(i) vegetative measures and land
24 management measures, including inte-
25 grated pest, nutrient, crop residue, crop

1 rotation, and managed rotational grazing
2 management measures, as determined by
3 the Secretary;”;

4 (2) in paragraph (3)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
6 “designated” before “priority”; and

7 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “new
8 and existing conservation activities” and insert-
9 ing “conservation activities needed to com-
10 prehensively address the designated priority re-
11 source concerns”;

12 (3) in paragraph (5)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (B) by striking
14 “and”;

15 (B) in subparagraph (C) by striking the
16 period at the end and adding “; and”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end a new subpara-
18 graph (D):

19 “(D) otherwise threatens—

20 “(i) public health or quality of life
21 through degradation of air or water qual-
22 ity; or

23 “(ii) natural resources, including soil,
24 fish, and wildlife.”;

1 (4) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as
2 paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively;

3 (5) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(6) DESIGNATED PRIORITY RESOURCE CON-
6 CERN.—The term ‘designated priority resource con-
7 cern’ means 1 to 5 priority resource concerns identi-
8 fied by the Secretary that must be addressed by the
9 program within a local watershed or specific natural
10 resource boundary.”; and

11 (6) by amending paragraph (8), as redesignated
12 by paragraph (4), to read as follows:

13 “(8) STEWARDSHIP THRESHOLD.—The term
14 ‘stewardship threshold’ means the conservation ac-
15 tivities, as determined by the Secretary, to com-
16 prehensively address a priority resource concern
17 using—

18 “(A) conservation measurement tools;

19 “(B) the resource management system
20 quality criteria for the particular priority re-
21 source concerns;

22 “(C) data from past and current program
23 enrollments; and

1 “(D) other similar means to measure im-
2 provement and conservation of the priority re-
3 source concern.”.

4 **SEC. 222. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

5 Section 1240J of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3839aa-22) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) by striking “fiscal years 2019 through
9 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2024 through
10 2028”;

11 (B) by striking “to address priority” and
12 inserting “to comprehensively address des-
13 ignated priority”; and

14 (C) by striking “comprehensive manner—
15 ” and all that follows through “managing exist-
16 ing conservation activities” and inserting “com-
17 prehensive manner”; and

18 (2) in subsection (b)(2), in the matter pre-
19 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “December 20,
20 2018” and inserting “December 20, 2023”.

21 **SEC. 223. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.**

22 Section 1240K of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
23 U.S.C. 3839aa-2) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “2 priority
2 resource concerns” and inserting “2 designated pri-
3 ority resource concerns”;

4 (2) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

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

8 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking the pe-
9 riod and inserting a semicolon; and

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

12 “(iv) the level of conservation treat-
13 ment on all applicable designated priority
14 resource concerns at the time of applica-
15 tion;

16 “(v) the number of designated priority
17 resource concerns that meet or exceed the
18 stewardship threshold at the end of the
19 contract period;

20 “(vi) the degree to which the proposed
21 conservation activities effectively, effi-
22 ciently, and comprehensively address the
23 designated priority resource concerns;

24 “(vii) the extent to which the contract
25 offer will meet or exceed the stewardship

1 threshold for one or more designated pri-
2 ority resource concerns at a lower cost rel-
3 ative to other similarly beneficial contract
4 offers; and

5 “(viii) the extent to which priority re-
6 source concerns will be addressed when
7 transitioning from the conservation reserve
8 program to agricultural production.”;

9 (B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and
10 inserting the following:

11 “(2) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not as-
12 sign a higher priority to any application because the
13 applicant is willing to accept a lower payment than
14 the applicant would otherwise be eligible to receive.

15 “(3) ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—The Secretary
16 may develop and use such additional criteria that
17 the Secretary determines are necessary to ensure
18 that designated priority resource concerns are effec-
19 tively and efficiently treated to meet or exceed the
20 stewardship threshold.”;

21 (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
22 lows:

23 “(c) ENTERING INTO CONTRACTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—After a determination that
25 a producer is eligible for the program under sub-

1 section (a), and a determination that the contract
2 offer ranks sufficiently high under the evaluation
3 criteria under subsection (b), the Secretary shall
4 enter into a conservation stewardship contract with
5 the producer to enroll the eligible land to be covered
6 by the contract.

7 “(2) FINANCIAL OBLIGATION.—Consistent with
8 section 1240K(c), a contract entered into under
9 paragraph (1) shall not create an obligation for fi-
10 nancial assistance until the first October 1 after the
11 contract is entered into.”;

12 (4) in subsection (d)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5
14 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)(i), by inserting
16 “that comprehensively address a designated pri-
17 ority resource concern” after “conservation ac-
18 tivities”; and

19 (5) in subsection (e)—

20 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
21 by striking “fifth year” and inserting “tenth
22 year”; and

23 (B) by amending paragraph (3)(A) to read
24 as follows:

1 “(A) has met or exceeded, or agrees to
2 meet or exceed, the stewardship threshold of all
3 designated priority resource concerns identified
4 for the region or area in which the land that is
5 subject to the contract is located; or”.

6 **SEC. 224. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1240L of the Food Secu-
8 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24) is amended—
9 (1) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and
10 inserting the following:

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To achieve the conservation
12 goals of a contract under the conservation stewardship
13 program, the Secretary shall—

14 “(1) make the program available to eligible pro-
15 ducers on a continuous enrollment basis with one or
16 more ranking periods, of which shall occur in the
17 first quarter of each fiscal year;

18 “(2) identify not more than 5 designated pri-
19 ority resource concerns in a particular watershed or
20 other appropriate region or area within a State;

21 “(3) for any region or area that includes any
22 part of a nutrient-impacted watershed (as deter-
23 mined by the Secretary), ensure that one of the pri-
24 ority resource concerns identified under paragraph

1 (2) is water pollution caused by excess nutrient
2 loads;

3 “(4) develop reliable conservation measurement
4 tools for purposes of carrying out the program; and

5 “(5) ensure that conservation measurement
6 tools are transparent and available to producers
7 by—

8 “(A) making interactive, user-friendly con-
9 servation measurement tools publically available
10 online;

11 “(B) making conservation activity natural
12 resource and environmental benefit scores avail-
13 able in an easy to understand format for study
14 both before and during application; and

15 “(C) taking other steps, as determined by
16 the Secretary.

17 “(b) ALLOCATION TO STATES.—The Secretary shall
18 allocate acres to States for enrollment, based on each
19 State’s proportion of eligible land to the total acreage of
20 eligible land in all States as follows:

21 “(1) SOURCE WATER PROTECTION.—At least
22 20 percent of the funds made available for financial
23 and technical assistance under the program shall be
24 for contracts addressing designated priority resource
25 concerns related to enhancing the quality and quan-

1 tity of source water (as that term is used in the Safe
2 Drinking Water Act).

3 “(2) PEST MANAGEMENT.—At least 20 percent
4 of the funds made available for financial and tech-
5 nical assistance under the program shall be for con-
6 tracts addressing designated priority resource con-
7 cerns related to reducing the need for pesticides in
8 agricultural production including organic farming
9 systems and intensive integrated pest management.

10 “(3) SOIL CONSERVATION.—At least 20 percent
11 of the funds made available for financial and tech-
12 nical assistance under the program shall be for con-
13 tracts addressing designated priority resource con-
14 cerns related to reducing soil erosion and improving
15 soil fertility and tith.

16 “(c) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—

17 “(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—The Sec-
18 retary shall provide annual payments under the pro-
19 gram to compensate the producer for—

20 “(A) installing and adopting additional
21 conservation activities that will meet or exceed
22 the stewardship threshold for a designated pri-
23 ority resource concern; and

24 “(B) improving, maintaining, and man-
25 aging conservation activities in place on the ag-

1 ricultural operation of the producer at the time
2 the contract offer is accepted by the Secretary.

3 “(2) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The amount of the
4 annual payment shall be determined by the Sec-
5 retary and based, to the maximum extent prac-
6 ticable, on the following factors:

7 “(A) Costs incurred by the producer asso-
8 ciated with planning, design, materials, installa-
9 tion, labor, management, maintenance, or train-
10 ing.

11 “(B) Income forgone by the producer.

12 “(C) Expected conservation benefits, based
13 to the maximum extent possible on conservation
14 measurement tools.

15 “(D) The extent to which designated pri-
16 ority resource concerns will be addressed
17 through the installation and adoption of con-
18 servation activities on the agricultural oper-
19 ation.

20 “(E) The level of stewardship in place at
21 the time of application and maintained over the
22 term of the contract.

23 “(F) The degree to which the conservation
24 activities will be integrated across the entire ag-

1 ricultural operation for all designated priority
2 resource concerns over the term of the contract.

3 “(G) Such other factors as are determined
4 appropriate by the Secretary.

5 “(3) EXCLUSIONS.—A payment to a producer
6 under this subsection shall not be provided for—

7 “(A) the design, construction, or mainte-
8 nance of animal waste storage or treatment fa-
9 cilities or associated waste transport or transfer
10 devices for animal feeding operations; or

11 “(B) conservation activities for which there
12 is no cost incurred or income forgone to the
13 producer.

14 “(4) DELIVERY OF PAYMENTS.—In making
15 payments under this subsection, the Secretary shall,
16 to the extent practicable—

17 “(A) prorate conservation performance
18 over the term of the contract so as to accommo-
19 date, to the extent practicable, producers earn-
20 ing equal annual payments in each fiscal year;
21 and

22 “(B) make such payments as soon as prac-
23 ticable after October 1 of each fiscal year for
24 activities carried out in the previous fiscal year.

1 “(5) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—If a contract re-
2 quires a comprehensive conservation plan the imple-
3 mentation of which will, by the end of the contract
4 term, meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for
5 all designated priority resource concerns, the min-
6 imum payment shall be not less than \$3,000.”;

7 (2) in subsection (d)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)(C)—

9 (i) in clause (v), by striking “and” at
10 the end;

11 (ii) in clause (vi), by striking the pe-
12 riod and inserting “; and”; and

13 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(vii) prevents pollution of surface
16 water or groundwater;”; and

17 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(D) TRANSITION TO ORGANIC CROP OR
20 LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS.—In this subsection, the
21 term ‘transition to organic crop or livestock sys-
22 tems’ means adoption of conservation activities
23 for certified organic production on land or for
24 herds not previously certified organic that meet
25 all the requirements of the program and that

1 are consistent with the regulations promulgated
2 under the Organic Foods Production Act of
3 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.)”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
8 the period and inserting a semicolon; and

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

11 “(C) improve, maintain, and manage or
12 adopt and maintain—

13 “(i) resource-conserving crop rotations
14 to achieve beneficial crop rotations as ap-
15 propriate for the eligible land of the pro-
16 ducers; or

17 “(ii) managed intensive rotational
18 grazing; or

19 “(D) transition to organic crop or livestock
20 systems.”; and

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

22 “(m) DATA.—The Secretary shall maintain detailed
23 and segmented data on contracts and payments under the
24 program to allow, at a minimum, with respect to each con-
25 tract—

1 “(1) quantification of the type and extent of
2 conservation activities for which payments were
3 made;

4 “(2) quantification of the amount of payments
5 made for—

6 “(A) the installation and adoption of addi-
7 tional conservation activities and improvements
8 to conservation activities in place on the oper-
9 ation of a producer at the time the conservation
10 stewardship offer is accepted by the Secretary;
11 and

12 “(B) the maintenance of existing conserva-
13 tion activities; and

14 “(3) identification of the watershed and county
15 in which the agricultural operation receiving pay-
16 ments is located.”.

17 **Subtitle A—Building on the**
18 **Regional Conservation Partnership**

19 **SEC. 231. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REGIONAL CONSERVA-**
20 **TION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

21 (a) PROGRAM PURPOSES.—Section 1271(b) of the
22 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871(b)) is amend-
23 ed—

24 (1) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
4 period and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (C) by adding the following subparagraphs
6 at the end:

7 “(C) enhancing and protecting the quality
8 and quantity of source water (as that term is
9 used in the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
10 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

11 “(D) reducing the use of antibiotics and
12 pesticides in crop and livestock production;

13 “(E) enhancing opportunities for natural-
14 resource-based recreation by improving water
15 quality and fish and wildlife habitat; and

16 “(F) addressing other opportunities to im-
17 prove public health and quality of life, as deter-
18 mined by the Secretary.”; and

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

20 “(6) To avoid, to the maximum extent prac-
21 ticable, the need for statutory and regulatory pro-
22 grams related to the conservation of natural re-
23 sources by assisting producers in protecting soil,
24 water, air, and related natural resources and in
25 meeting environmental quality criteria established by

1 Federal, State, tribal, and local governmental agen-
2 cies.”.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1271A of the Food Secu-
4 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871a) is amended by striking
5 paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

6 “(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—The term ‘eligible
7 activity’ means water quality restoration or enhance-
8 ment projects relating to the quality of surface water
9 and groundwater used to supply drinking water by
10 community water systems and domestic wells, in-
11 cluding projects that—

12 “(A) improve the management of crops
13 and livestock production systems to avoid or
14 control runoff and leaching of farm chemicals
15 and manure;

16 “(B) change (including through diversi-
17 fying) the agricultural practices, including crop
18 rotations; and

19 “(C) trap or capture pollutants before the
20 pollutants enter surface water or ground
21 water.”; and

22 (c) PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.—Section 1271B of the
23 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b) is amend-
24 ed—

1 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking “5” and
2 inserting “15”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by striking “5” and
4 inserting “10”; and

5 (3) in subsection (c)(1)—

6 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
7 through (F) as subparagraphs (B) through (G);

8 (B) by inserting before subparagraph (B)
9 (as so redesignated) the following new subpara-
10 graph:

11 “(A) complete natural resource and water-
12 shed assessments to effectively support plan-
13 ning and implementation of the proposed
14 project that is the subject of the agreement;”;
15 and

16 (C) in subparagraph (F) (as redesignated
17 by subparagraph (A)), by inserting “monitor re-
18 sults and” before “conduct”.

19 (d) ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.—Section 1271C of
20 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c) is
21 amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “assistance
23 to” and all that follows through “with the Sec-
24 retary.” and inserting the following: “assistance,
25 under the programs under this subtitle, to producers

1 proposing to implement conservation activities that
2 meet the objectives of the partnership agreement en-
3 tered into under section 1271B.”;

4 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “5 years”
5 and inserting “at least 10 years, but that does not
6 exceed 15 years”; and

7 (3) in subsection (d)(2)(B), by striking “15”
8 and inserting “20”.

9 (e) FUNDING.—Section 1271D(a) of the Food Secu-
10 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d(a)) is amended by
11 striking “\$300,000,000 of the funds of the Commodity
12 Credit Corporation for each of fiscal years 2019 through
13 2031” and inserting “\$300,000,000 of the funds of the
14 Commodity Credit Corporation for fiscal year 2024 and
15 \$500,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 to 2031”.

16 (f) CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1271F of the Food
18 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f) is amended
19 in subsection (a)(2)(A), by striking “sediment con-
20 trol” and all that follows through the period at the
21 end and inserting “sediment control, and enhancing
22 the quality of surface water and groundwater used
23 to supply drinking water by community water sys-
24 tems (as defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act)
25 and domestic wells;”.

1 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
2 by this section shall apply with respect to partner-
3 ship agreements entered into on or after October 1,
4 2023.

5 **Subtitle B—Establishing Innovative**
6 **Grants for Conservation**
7 **and Loans for Structural Im-**
8 **provements**

9 **SEC. 241. REPEAL AND REESTABLISHMENT OF EQIP CON-**
10 **SERVATION INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

11 (a) REPEAL.—Section 1240H of the Food Security
12 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8) is repealed.

13 (b) CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT PRO-
14 GRAM.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
15 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amend-
16 ed in subsection (a)(2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(I) provide payments to producers to im-
18 plement cost-effective and innovative tech-
19 nologies to address priority resource concerns
20 related to air quality from agricultural oper-
21 ations; and

22 “(J) provide environmental and resource
23 conservation benefits through increased partici-
24 pation by beginning farmers and ranchers and
25 socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.”.

1 **SEC. 242. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
4 velopment Act is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

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

8 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the
9 period and inserting “; and”; and

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

11 “(H) how and to what extent the conserva-
12 tion project will support the implementation of
13 a comprehensive conservation plan and improve
14 the conditions of identified priority resource
15 concerns.”;

16 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
17 following:

18 “(3) CONSERVATION LOAN PLAN.—In order to
19 be eligible to receive a loan or loan guarantee under
20 this section, an entity described in paragraph (1)
21 shall have a conservation loan plan.”;

22 (3) in subsection (d)—

23 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
24 the end;

25 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
26 riod and inserting a semicolon; and

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

2 “(4) projects that will do the most to address
3 priority resource concerns, as specified in a con-
4 servation loan plan; and

5 “(5) projects that are designed to help pro-
6 ducers comply with, or avoid the need for, local,
7 State, or Federal regulation.”; and

8 (4) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

11 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
12 retary shall ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
13 ticable, that qualified conservation loans made or
14 guaranteed under this section are distributed across
15 diverse geographic regions, while still prioritizing
16 qualified conservation projects with the greatest con-
17 servation or environmental benefit.

18 “(2) AGENCY COOPERATION.—The Secretary
19 shall ensure proper cooperation between the Natural
20 Resources Conservation Service, which shall review
21 and approve comprehensive loan plans and provide
22 technical assistance for qualified conservation
23 projects, and the Farm Service Agency, which will
24 approve and issue loans and loan guarantees under
25 this section.

1 “(3) INTEREST RATES.—The Secretary shall
2 ensure that a loan made under this section is made
3 at or below market rate.”.

4 **Subtitle C—Ensuring Greenhouse** 5 **Gas Reporting for Agriculture**

6 **SEC. 251. GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING.**

7 (a) REPORTING PROGRAM.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1,
9 2026, the Secretary, in consultation with the Admin-
10 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and
11 the Secretary of the Interior, shall establish and im-
12 plement a program to identify all major source cat-
13 egories of associated emissions and collect data on
14 associated emissions from the production of agricul-
15 tural commodities and their food products in the
16 United States, including—

17 (A) emissions of greenhouse gases from the
18 livestock industry, including from concentrated
19 animal feeding operations, as defined by the
20 Secretary; and

21 (B) emissions of greenhouse gases from
22 the production of commodity and specialty
23 crops, including the tilling of soil, and the use
24 of synthetic fertilizer.

1 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 12
2 months after the date that the Secretary implements
3 the program described in paragraph (1), and annu-
4 ally thereafter, the Secretary shall issue a report, to
5 be made available to the public and the appropriate
6 committees of Congress, on associated emissions, in-
7 cluding—

8 (A) identification of all major source cat-
9 egories of associated emissions;

10 (B) the total amount, expressed in tons of
11 carbon dioxide equivalent, of—

12 (i) carbon dioxide, methane, and other
13 greenhouse gases emitted through trans-
14 portation of agriculture products to market
15 within the United States during the pre-
16 ceding calendar year;

17 (ii) carbon dioxide, methane, and
18 other greenhouse gases emitted through
19 the rearing, raising, slaughter, and proc-
20 essing of poultry and livestock products in
21 the United States, including those carbon
22 dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse
23 gases emitted by manure management sys-
24 tems;

1 (iii) carbon dioxide, methane, and
2 other greenhouse gases emitted by the use
3 of fertilizer in the production of commodity
4 and specialty crops; and

5 (iv) carbon dioxide, methane, and
6 other greenhouse gases emitted by the till-
7 age of soil in the production of commodity
8 and specialty crops; and

9 (C) identification of all major agricultural
10 practices that can reduce the emission of car-
11 bon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse
12 gases, including—

13 (i) the use of cover crops;

14 (ii) the reduction and elimination of
15 soil tillage, the successive planting of dif-
16 ferent crops on the same land, and other
17 soil management practices;

18 (iii) the use of rotational grazing on
19 pasture for livestock;

20 (iv) the use of anaerobic digesters to
21 process organic material;

22 (v) the use of buffer crops to reduce
23 soil erosion; and

24 (vi) other practices that can yield sig-
25 nificant reductions in the emission of car-

1 bon dioxide, methane, and other green-
2 house gases by producers of agricultural
3 commodities and their food products.

4 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

5 (1) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term “greenhouse
6 gas” has the meaning given such term under section
7 211(o)(1)(G) of the Clean Air Act, as in effect on
8 the date of the enactment of the Food and Farm
9 Act.

10 (2) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
11 States” has the meaning given such term under sec-
12 tion 5911(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code, as in
13 effect on the date of the enactment of the Food and
14 Farm Act.

15 **SEC. 252. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
17 this subtitle such sums as may be necessary for each of
18 fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

19 **Subtitle D—Administration and**
20 **Funding**

21 **SEC. 261. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1241(a) of the Food Se-
23 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended to
24 read as follows:

1 “(a) ANNUAL FUNDING.—For each of fiscal years
2 2024 through 2028, the Secretary shall use the funds, fa-
3 cilities, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corpora-
4 tion to carry out the following programs under this title
5 (including the provision of technical assistance):

6 “(1) The conservation reserve program under
7 subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D, including,
8 to the maximum extent practicable—

9 “(A) \$20,000,000 for the period of fiscal
10 years 2024 through 2028 to provide payments
11 under section 1234(c); and

12 “(B) \$66,000,000 for the period of fiscal
13 years 2024 through 2028 to carry out section
14 1235(f) to facilitate the transfer of land subject
15 to contracts from retired or retiring owners and
16 operators to beginning farmers or ranchers and
17 socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

18 “(2) The agricultural conservation easement
19 program under subtitle H, using, to the maximum
20 extent practicable, \$810,000,000 for each of fiscal
21 years 2024 through 2028.

22 “(3) The conservation security program under
23 subchapter A of chapter 2 of subtitle D, using such
24 sums as are necessary to administer contracts en-
25 tered into before September 30, 2008.

1 “(4) The conservation stewardship program
2 under subchapter B of chapter 2 of subtitle D.

3 “(5) The environmental quality incentives pro-
4 gram under chapter 4 of subtitle D, using, to the
5 maximum extent practicable, \$3,200,000,000 for
6 each of fiscal years 20124 through 2028.

7 “(6) The conservation innovation grant pro-
8 gram under section 1240S, using, to the maximum
9 extent practicable, \$100,000,000 for each fiscal
10 year.

11 “(7) The conservation loan and loan guarantee
12 program under section 1246, using, to the maximum
13 extent practicable, for each fiscal year—

14 “(A) \$200,000,000 for direct loans; and

15 “(B) \$150,000,000 for loan guarantees.”.

16 (b) GUARANTEED AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Sec-
17 tion 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
18 3841) is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (i)
20 as subsections (c) through (j), respectively; and

21 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
25 graph (2), amounts made available by subsection (a)

1 shall be used by the Secretary to carry out the pro-
2 grams specified in such subsection for fiscal years
3 2024 through 2028 and shall remain available until
4 expended. Amounts made available for the programs
5 specified in such subsection during a fiscal year
6 through modifications, cancellations, terminations,
7 and other related administrative actions and not ob-
8 ligated in that fiscal year shall remain available for
9 obligation during subsequent fiscal years, but shall
10 reduce the amount of additional funds made avail-
11 able in the subsequent fiscal year by an amount
12 equal to the amount remaining unobligated.

13 “(2) CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT PRO-
14 GRAM.—Amounts made available by subsection
15 (a)(6) for a fiscal year and not obligated in that fis-
16 cal year shall be made available for the environ-
17 mental quality incentives program under chapter 4
18 of subtitle D, and shall remain available until ex-
19 pended.”.

20 (c) ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN FARMERS OR RANCH-
21 ERS FOR CONSERVATION ACCESS.—Section 1241(h) of
22 the Food Security Act of 1985 (as redesignated by sub-
23 section (b)) is amended, in paragraph (1), in the matter
24 preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2018” and in-
25 serting “2027”.

1 **TITLE III—FOOD ASSISTANCE**

2 **SEC. 301. ELIMINATION OF DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT RE-**
3 **STRICTION FOR EMERGENCY AND PRIVATE**
4 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS UNDER THE FOOD**
5 **FOR PEACE ACT.**

6 Title II of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721)
7 is amended—

8 (1) in section 201 (7 U.S.C. 1721), in the mat-
9 ter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “agricul-
10 tural commodities” and inserting “assistance, in-
11 cluding agricultural commodities,”; and

12 (2) in section 202 (7 U.S.C. 1722)—

13 (A) in the section heading, by striking
14 “**AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES**” and insert-
15 ing “**ASSISTANCE**”;

16 (B) in subsection (a), by striking “agricul-
17 tural commodities” and inserting “assistance,
18 including agricultural commodities,”;

19 (C) in subsection (b)(1)—

20 (i) by striking “agricultural commod-
21 ities” and inserting “assistance, including
22 agricultural commodities,”; and

23 (ii) by striking “the commodities” and
24 inserting “the assistance”;

1 (D) in subsection (c), by striking “Agricultural commodities” and inserting “Assistance, including agricultural commodities,”; and

2
3
4 (E) in subsection (f)—

5 (i) in the subsection heading, by striking
6 “COMMODITIES” and inserting “AS-
7 SISTANCE”;

8 (ii) in the matter preceding paragraph
9 (1), by striking “agricultural commodities”
10 and inserting “assistance, including agricultural commodities,”;
11

12 (iii) in the matter preceding paragraph
13 (1), by striking “such commodities”
14 and inserting “such assistance”; and

15 (iv) in paragraph (5), by striking
16 “commodities” and inserting “assistance”.

17 **SEC. 302. ELIMINATION OF CAP ON SUPPORT FOR ELIGI-**
18 **BLE ORGANIZATIONS FOR CERTAIN PUR-**
19 **POSES.**

20 Section 202(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7
21 U.S.C. 1722) is amended by striking “not more than 20
22 percent”.

1 **SEC. 303. ELIMINATION OF MINIMUM LEVEL OF LOCAL**
2 **SALES REQUIREMENT UNDER THE FOOD FOR**
3 **PEACE ACT.**

4 Section 203 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1723) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the pe-
7 riod at the end the following: “to generate proceeds
8 to be used as provided in this section”;

9 (2) by striking subsection (b); and

10 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
11 subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

12 **SEC. 304. FOOD FOR PEACE ACT EXTENSIONS.**

13 (a) **FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.**—Section
14 202(h)(3) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
15 1722(h)(3)) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting
16 “2028”.

17 (b) **MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.**—Section
18 204(a) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1724(a)) is
19 amended in paragraphs (1) and (2) by striking “2018”
20 both places it appears and inserting “2028”.

21 (c) **FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP TERMI-**
22 **NATION.**—Section 205(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7
23 U.S.C. 1725(f)) is amended by striking “2018” and in-
24 serting “2028”.

25 (d) **DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.**—
26 Section 207(c)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.

1 1726a(c)(1)) is amended by striking “the Agricultural Act
2 of 2014” and inserting “the Food and Farm Act”.

3 (e) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, AND EVAL-
4 UATION.—Section 207(f)(4) of the Food for Peace Act (7
5 U.S.C. 1726a(f)(4)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2018”
7 both places it appears and inserting “2028”; and

8 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “2018”
9 and inserting “2028”.

10 (f) ASSISTANCE FOR STOCKPILING AND RAPID
11 TRANSPORTATION, DELIVERY, AND DISTRIBUTION OF
12 SHELF-STABLE PREPACKAGED FOODS.—Section 208(f)
13 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1726b(f)) is amended
14 by striking “2018” and inserting “2028”.

15 (g) PREPOSITIONING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-
16 ITIES.—Section 407(c)(4)(A) of the Food for Peace Act
17 (7 U.S.C. 1736a(c)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “2018”
18 the both places it appears and inserting “2028”.

19 (h) AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE SALES OR TO PRO-
20 VIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Section 408 of the Food for
21 Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736b) is amended by striking
22 “2018” and inserting “2028”.

23 (i) MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD AS-
24 SISTANCE.—Section 412(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act

1 (7 U.S.C. 1736f(e)(1)) is amended by striking “2018” and
2 inserting “2028”.

3 (j) MICRONUTRIENT FORTIFICATION PROGRAMS.—
4 Section 415(c) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1736g–2(e)) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting
6 “2028”.

7 (k) FARMER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.—Section 501 of
8 the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1737) is amended in
9 subsections (d) and (e)(1) by striking “2018” both places
10 it appears and inserting “2028”.

11 **TITLE IV—NUTRITION**

12 **Subtitle A—Increasing Access to** 13 **Healthy Foods**

14 **SEC. 401. EXPANDING HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIA-** 15 **TIVE.**

16 (a) INCLUSION OF INVESTMENTS IN MID-TIER
17 VALUE CHAIN COORDINATION.—Section 243 of the De-
18 partment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
19 U.S.C. 6953) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by inserting “, to build and sustain
22 mid-tier value chain coordination” after “qual-
23 ity jobs”; and

1 (B) by inserting “and local and regional
2 food supply networks” after “healthy food re-
3 tailers”; and

4 (2) in subsection (c)(2)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (i) by striking “and” at the end of
7 clause (i);

8 (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as
9 clause (iii); and

10 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
11 following new clause:

12 “(ii) to link farmers, ranchers, and
13 fisheries with local and regional food sup-
14 ply networks moving agricultural products
15 of mid-tier value chains to consumers in
16 underserved areas with moderate- and low-
17 income populations; and”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

19 (i) by redesignating subclause (VI) as
20 subclause (VII); and

21 (ii) by inserting after subclause (V)
22 the following new subclause:

23 “(VI) The project creates or
24 strengthens a mid-tier value chain.”.

1 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 243(b) of the Depart-
2 ment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
3 6953(b)) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through
5 (7) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively; and

6 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
7 lowing new paragraph:

8 “(3) MID-TIER VALUE CHAIN.—The term ‘mid-
9 tier value chain’ has the meaning given the term in
10 section 231 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act
11 of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a).”.

12 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MANDATORY FUNDING.—Sub-
13 section (d) of section 243 of the Department of Agri-
14 culture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953) is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 “(d) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity
17 Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out
18 the Initiative \$25,000,000, to remain available until ex-
19 pended, for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028..”.

20 **SEC. 402. HELPING SCHOOLS SERVE HEALTHIER MEALS.**

21 Section 6(f) of the Richard B. Russell National
22 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1755(f)) is amended—

23 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking

24 “PILOT PROJECT FOR PROCUREMENT OF UNPROC-
25 ESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES” and inserting

1 “PROGRAM FOR PROCUREMENT OF UNPROCESSED
2 FRUITS AND VEGETABLES”;

3 (2) by striking “pilot project” each place it ap-
4 pears and inserting “program”;

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

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall facili-
8 tate the procurement of unprocessed fruits and vege-
9 tables in not fewer than 15 States receiving funds
10 under this Act.”; and

11 (4) by adding at the end the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(6) FUNDING.—

14 “(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is ap-
15 propriated to carry out this section, including
16 through the provision of technical assistance,
17 outreach, and other implementation assistance,
18 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
19 through 2028.

20 “(B) RESERVATION.—Of the funds appro-
21 priated under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal
22 year, \$6,000,000 shall be used to carry out
23 technical assistance to eligible vendors to be-
24 come certified to participate in the program
25 under this section.”.

1 **SEC. 403. STRENGTHENING THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**
2 **SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM.**

3 Section 413 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
4 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7633) is
5 amended—

6 (1) subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, to promote
7 agricultural education, and raise awareness about
8 the consequences of wasted food and encourage the
9 implementation of food recovery initiatives to reduce
10 the quantity of wasted food” before the semicolon;

11 (2) in subsection (c)—

12 (A) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
14 “and where food comes from; and” and in-
15 serting “where food comes from, the con-
16 sequences of food waste, and food recovery
17 initiatives;”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
19 the period at the end and inserting “;
20 and”; and

21 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing new subparagraph:

23 “(E) have the capacity to execute regional
24 or national projects that include 2 or more
25 States.”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(3) RESERVATION.—The majority of the funds
4 made available to carry out this subsection shall be
5 reserved for projects that—

6 “(A) are larger in scale as compared to
7 other proposed projects;

8 “(B) are national or regional in scope; and

9 “(C) include 2 or more States.”; and

10 (3) in subsection (e)(1), by striking the para-
11 graph and inserting in its place the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds
14 available to the Commodity Credit Corporation, the
15 Secretary shall use \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal
16 years 2024 through 2028 to carry out the Initiative.
17 Amounts made available under this subsection shall
18 remain available until expended.”.

19 **SEC. 404. GUS SCHUMACHER NUTRITION INCENTIVE PRO-**
20 **GRAM.**

21 Section 4405(b)(1)(B)(vii) of the Food, Conservation,
22 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517(b)(1)(B)(vii)) is
23 amended by adding, after “farmers’ market”, the fol-
24 lowing: “, community supported agriculture entity, cooper-
25 ative, local public benefit corporation, nonprofit organiza-

1 tion, retail food store authorized under the supplemental
2 nutrition assistance program”.

3 **Subtitle B—Improving the Supple-**
4 **mental Nutrition Assistance**
5 **Program**

6 **SEC. 411. CONTINUING THE FARMERS’ MARKETS SUPPLE-**
7 **MENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
8 **SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM.**

9 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

10 (1) to support the participation of farmers’
11 markets in the supplemental nutrition assistance
12 program by providing equipment and support grants
13 to new markets and those currently participating in
14 the program;

15 (2) to increase access to the supplemental nu-
16 trition assistance program and participation at farm-
17 ers’ markets by households that receive program
18 benefits; and

19 (3) to support the establishment, expansion,
20 and promotion of electronic benefits transfer services
21 at farmers’ markets for the acceptance of program
22 benefits.

23 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—To
24 carry out the purposes of this section, the Secretary of
25 Agriculture shall establish a program to make grants each

1 fiscal year to eligible entities to conduct tasks that are
2 necessary for the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
3 gram to operate at farmers’ markets, and to increase the
4 frequency and effectiveness of farmers’ market participa-
5 tion in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

6 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

7 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
8 ty” means—

9 (A) a Native American tribal organization
10 nonprofit organization;

11 (B) a Native American tribal government;

12 (C) a State or unit of general purpose local
13 government of a State;

14 (D) a farmers’ market association;

15 (E) a public benefit corporation;

16 (F) an economic development corporation;

17 (G) a regional farmers’ market authority;

18 or

19 (H) a nonprofit organization engaged in
20 farmers’ market management.

21 (2) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
22 PROGRAM.—The term “supplemental nutrition as-
23 sistance program” means the supplemental nutrition
24 assistance program as defined in section 3 of the
25 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

1 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means any of
2 the several States or the District of Columbia.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of the
5 fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

6 **SEC. 412. EXPANDING AND INCREASING SUPPORT FOR THE**
7 **FOOD INSECURITY NUTRITION INCENTIVES**
8 **PROGRAM.**

9 Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
10 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (f)(1), by striking
12 “\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through
13 2023” and inserting “\$20,000,000 for each of fiscal
14 years 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter”; and

15 (2) in subsection (f)(2), by amending subpara-
16 graph (G) to read as follows:

17 “(G) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and
18 each fiscal year thereafter.”.

19 **SEC. 413. CLOSING THE MEAL GAP.**

20 (a) CALCULATION OF PROGRAM BENEFITS.—The
21 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)
22 is amended—

23 (1) in section 3 (7 U.S.C. 2012)—

24 (A) by striking subsection (u);

1 (B) by redesignating subsections (n)
2 through (t) as subsections (o) through (u), re-
3 spectively; and

4 (C) by inserting after subsection (m) the
5 following:

6 “(n) ‘Low-cost food plan’ means the diet required to
7 feed a family of four persons, consisting of a man and
8 a woman nineteen through fifty, a child six through eight,
9 and a child nine through eleven years of age, determined
10 in accordance with the Secretary’s calculations. The cost
11 of such diet shall be the basis for uniform allotments for
12 all households regardless of their actual composition, ex-
13 cept that the Secretary shall—

14 “(1) make household-size adjustments (based
15 on the unrounded cost of such diet) taking into ac-
16 count economies of scale;

17 “(2) make cost adjustments in the low-cost food
18 plan for Hawaii and the urban and rural parts of
19 Alaska to reflect the cost of food in Hawaii and
20 urban and rural Alaska;

21 “(3) make cost adjustments in the separate
22 low-cost food plans for Guam, and the Virgin Is-
23 lands of the United States, to reflect the cost of food
24 in those States, but not to exceed the cost of food
25 in the 50 States and the District of Columbia; and

1 “(4) on October 1, 2024, and each October 1
2 thereafter, adjust the cost of the diet to reflect the
3 cost of the diet in the preceding June, and round the
4 result to the nearest lower dollar increment for each
5 household size.”;

6 (2) in section 8(a) (7 U.S.C. 2017(a))—

7 (A) by striking “thrifty food plan” each
8 place it appears, and inserting “low-cost food
9 plan”; and

10 (B) by striking “8 percent” and inserting
11 “10 percent”;

12 (3) in section 16(e)(1)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.
13 2025(e)(1)(A)(ii))—

14 (A) in subclause (I) by striking “for fiscal
15 year 2014, at an amount not greater than \$37”
16 and inserting “for fiscal year 2024, at an
17 amount not greater than \$50”; and

18 (B) in subclause (II)—

19 (i) by striking “June 30, 2013” and
20 inserting “June 30, 2024”; and

21 (ii) by striking “thrifty food plan”
22 and inserting “low-cost food plan”; and

23 (4) in section 19(a)(2)(A) (7 U.S.C.
24 2028(a)(2)(A))—

1 (A) in clause (i) by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (B) in clause (ii) by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

6 “(iii) for fiscal year 2024,
7 \$2,650,000,000; and

8 “(iv) subject to the availability of ap-
9 propriations under section 18(a), for fiscal
10 year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter,
11 the amount determined under clause (iii),
12 as adjusted by the percentage by which the
13 low-cost food plan has been adjusted under
14 section 3(n)(4) between June 30, 2024,
15 and June 30 of the immediately preceding
16 fiscal year.”.

17 (b) STANDARD MEDICAL EXPENSE DEDUCTION.—
18 Section 5(e)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
19 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(5)) is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (A) by striking “an excess
21 medical” and all that follows through the period at
22 the end, and inserting “a standard medical deduc-
23 tion or to a medical expense deduction of actual
24 costs for the allowable medical expenses incurred by

1 the elderly or disabled member, exclusive of special
2 diets.”; and

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

4 “(D) The standard medical expense deduc-
5 tion shall be equal to \$140 for fiscal year 2024,
6 and for each subsequent fiscal year shall be
7 equal to the applicable amount for the pre-
8 ceeding fiscal year as adjusted to reflect changes
9 for the 12-month period ending the preceding
10 June 30 in the Consumer Price Index for All
11 Urban Consumers: Medical Care published by
12 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Depart-
13 ment of Labor, except that for any such fiscal
14 year the State agency may establish a greater
15 standard medical expense deduction that satis-
16 fies cost neutrality standards established by the
17 Secretary for such fiscal year.”.

18 (e) ELIMINATION OF CAP OF EXCESS SHELTER EX-
19 PENSES.—Section 5(e)(6) of the Food and Nutrition Act
20 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(6)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking subparagraph (B); and

22 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and
23 (D) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

1 (d) WORK REQUIREMENT.—Section 6(o)(3) of the
2 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(3))
3 is amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (D) by striking “or” at the
5 end;

6 (2) in subparagraph (E) by striking the period
7 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

8 (3) by adding at end the following:

9 “(F) not offered a position in a program
10 described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of para-
11 graph (2).”.

12 (e) FUNDING OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PRO-
13 GRAMS.—Section 16(h)(1)(E)(ii)(II) of the Food and Nu-
14 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)(1)(E)(ii)(II)) is
15 amended by inserting “subparagraphs (A) through (E) of”
16 after “under”.

17 (f) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

18 (1) FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.—The
19 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
20 seq.) is amended—

21 (A) in section 10 (7 U.S.C. 2019) by strik-
22 ing “3(p)” and inserting “3(q)”;

23 (B) in section 11 (7 U.S.C. 2012)—

24 (i) in subsection (a)(2) by striking
25 “3(t)(1)” and inserting “3(u)(1)”; and

1 (ii) in subsection (d)—

2 (I) by striking “3(t)(1)” each
3 place it appears and inserting
4 “3(u)(1)”; and

5 (II) by striking “3(t)(2)” each
6 place it appears and inserting
7 “3(u)(2)”;

8 (C) in section 19(a)(2)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.
9 (a)(2)(A)(ii)) by striking “3(u)(4)” and insert-
10 ing “3(n)(4)”; and

11 (D) in section 27(a)(2) (7 U.S.C.
12 2036(a)(2))—

13 (i) in subparagraph (C) by striking
14 “3(u)(4)” and inserting “3(n)(4)”; and

15 (ii) in subparagraph (E) by striking
16 “3(u)(4)” and inserting “3(n)(4)”.

17 (2) LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE
18 ACT OF 1981.—Section 2605(f)(2)(A) of the Low-In-
19 come Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42
20 U.S.C. 8624(f)(2)(A)) is amended—

21 (A) by striking “5(e)(6)(C)(iv)(I)” and in-
22 serting “5(e)(6)(B)(iv)(1)”; and

23 (B) by striking “(7 U.S.C.
24 2014(e)(6)(C)(iv)(I))” and inserting “(7 U.S.C.
25 2014(e)(6)(B)(iv)(I))”.

1 (g) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—The Food and Nu-
2 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) is amended—

3 (1) in section 5(a) (7 U.S.C. 2014(a)) by strik-
4 ing “3(n)(4)” each place it appears and inserting
5 “3(m)(4)”;

6 (2) in section 8(f)(1)(A)(i) (7 U.S.C.
7 2017(f)(1)(A)(i)) by striking “3(n)(5)” and inserting
8 “3(m)(5)”; and

9 (3) in section 17(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(aa) (7 U.S.C.
10 2016(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(aa)) by striking “3(n)” and
11 inserting “3(m)”.

12 **SEC. 414. FOOD AS MEDICINE.**

13 Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
14 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

15 (1) by amending subsection (e)(3)(A) to read as
16 follows:

17 “(A) To carry out paragraph (1), the Sec-
18 retary shall, on a competitive basis, enter into
19 cooperative agreements with 1 or more organi-
20 zations with expertise in developing outcome-
21 based reporting, at least 1 of which has exper-
22 tise in the food insecurity nutrition incentive
23 program and at least 1 of which has expertise
24 in produce prescription projects, in each state
25 and territory.”; and

1 (2) by amending subsection (f)(2) to read as
2 follows:

3 “(2) Of the funds of the Commodity Credit
4 Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this
5 section \$560,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 and each
6 fiscal year thereafter.”.

7 **TITLE V—FUTURE OF AMERICAN**
8 **FARMERS**

9 **Subtitle A—Defining Beginning**
10 **Farmer or Rancher**

11 **SEC. 501. BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER DEFINED.**

12 In this title, the term “beginning farmer or rancher”
13 means an individual or entity who—

14 (1) has not operated a farm or ranch, or who
15 has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10
16 consecutive years; and

17 (2) will materially and substantially participate
18 in the operation of the farm or ranch.

1 **Subtitle B—Providing Resources**
2 **for Beginning, Retiring, and So-**
3 **cially Disadvantaged Farmers**
4 **and Ranchers**

5 **SEC. 511. REAUTHORIZATION AND INCREASED FUNDING**
6 **FOR OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR SO-**
7 **CIALY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND**
8 **RANCHERS AND VETERAN FARMERS AND**
9 **RANCHERS.**

10 (a) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Subparagraph (A) of
11 section 2501(a)(4) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
12 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)(4)) is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 “(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the
15 funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the
16 Secretary shall make available to carry out this
17 section—

18 “(i) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

19 and

20 “(ii) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal
21 years 2025 through 2028..”.

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
23 2501(a)(4)(E) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
24 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)(4)(E)) is
25 amended by striking “2018” and inserting “2028”.

1 **SEC. 512. ENSURING PERMANENT FUNDING FOR BEGIN-**
2 **NING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT**
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 Section 7405(h)(1)(C) of the Farm Security and
5 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f(h)(1)(C))
6 is amended—

7 (1) by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting
8 “\$50,000,000”; and

9 (2) by striking “through 2018” and inserting
10 “and each fiscal year thereafter”.

11 **SEC. 513. SUPPORTING BEGINNING FARMER PARTICIPA-**
12 **TION IN CERTAIN CONSERVATION PRO-**
13 **GRAMS.**

14 Section 1241(h)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985
15 (16 U.S.C. 3841(h)(1)) is amended—

16 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “5 per-

17 cent” and inserting “20 percent”; and

18 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “5 per-

19 cent” and inserting “15 percent”.

20 **SEC. 514. CREATING A PRIORITY FOR PARTICIPATION OF**
21 **BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN**
22 **FARMERS’ MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PRO-**
23 **MOTION PROGRAM.**

24 Subsection (e) of section 6 of the Farmer-to-Con-

25 sumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005) is

26 amended to read as follows:

1 “(e) PRIORITIES.—In providing grants under the
2 Program, priority shall be given to applications that in-
3 clude—

4 “(1) projects that will benefit underserved com-
5 munities, including communities that are located in
6 areas of concentrated poverty with limited access to
7 fresh locally or regionally grown food; and

8 “(2) with respect to beginning farmers and
9 ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranch-
10 ers, and veteran farmers, projects in which such
11 farmers and ranchers are participants.”.

12 **SEC. 515. SUPPORTING BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCH-**
13 **ERS THROUGH FARM SERVICE AGENCY LIAI-**
14 **SONS.**

15 Section 226 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
16 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6932) is amended by
17 adding at the end the following new subsection:

18 “(i) BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS LIAI-
19 SON.—

20 “(1) POSITION ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary
21 shall establish within each State office of the Con-
22 solidated Farm Service Agency the position of Be-
23 ginning Farmers and Ranchers Liaison to carry out
24 the duties described in paragraph (2).

1 “(2) DUTIES.—The Beginning Farmers and
2 Ranchers Liaison shall—

3 “(A) provide technical assistance to begin-
4 ning farmers and ranchers to direct such farm-
5 ers and ranchers toward appropriate Federal
6 resources and opportunities, including available
7 Federal grant programs; and

8 “(B) promote coordination among Federal
9 programs available to beginning farmers and
10 ranchers.”.

11 **SEC. 516. FACILITATING SUCCESSION PLANNING THROUGH**
12 **THE CREATION OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY**
13 **REGIONAL PLANNERS.**

14 Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
15 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
17 section (i); and

18 (2) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
19 lowing new subsection:

20 “(h) REGIONAL PLANNERS.—

21 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
22 tablish a regional planner for each of the 12 regions
23 identified by the National Agricultural Statistics
24 Service.

1 “(2) DUTIES.—The regional planners estab-
2 lished under paragraph (1) shall—

3 “(A) establish and maintain one accurate,
4 current, and unbiased database of resources to
5 help farmers undertaking succession planning;
6 and

7 “(B) coordinate with Federal, State, and
8 private stakeholders, including land-grant col-
9 leges and universities and extension service, to
10 understand farmer and rancher needs in each
11 state within the respective regions, and to work
12 with these stakeholders to provide farmers and
13 ranchers information regarding relevant succes-
14 sion planning resources and opportunities based
15 on those needs.”.

16 **SEC. 517. ENSURING A VIBRANT AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**
17 **THROUGH THE CREATION OF A LAND TEN-**
18 **URE COMMISSION.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
21 Agriculture shall establish a commission to be known as
22 the Land Tenure Commission (in this section referred to
23 as the “Commission”).

24 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 (1) TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission
2 shall be comprised of 10 members who shall be ap-
3 pointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years in ac-
4 cordance with paragraph (2).

5 (2) MEMBERS.—The Commission members
6 shall include one representative from each the fol-
7 lowing categories:

8 (A) The Farm Service Agency.

9 (B) The Natural Resources Conservation
10 Service.

11 (C) State programs focused on land ten-
12 ure.

13 (D) Private nonprofit organizations with
14 active land tenure programs.

15 (E) The Cooperative State Research, Edu-
16 cation, and Extension Service.

17 (F) Community colleges or other institu-
18 tions of higher education with demonstrated ex-
19 perience in land tenure issues.

20 (G) Other entities or persons providing
21 lending for, or technical assistance regarding,
22 land tenure.

23 (H) Beginning farmers and ranchers.

24 (I) Socially disadvantaged farmers and
25 ranchers.

1 (J) Veteran farmers and ranchers.

2 (K) Retiring or retired farmers and ranch-
3 ers.

4 (3) REAPPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Agri-
5 culture may reappoint members of the Commission
6 to a subsequent 3-year term.

7 (4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commis-
8 sion may not receive any compensation.

9 (5) VACANCIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture
10 shall make appointments to fill vacancies on the
11 Commission as soon as practicable after the vacancy
12 has occurred.

13 (c) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

14 (1) advise the Secretary of Agriculture on
15 issues involving access to land, farm business transi-
16 tion, and land tenure, including trends in ownership
17 and the status of farmland ownership;

18 (2) with respect to the Commission's activities,
19 coordinate and consult with entities involved with
20 farmland ownership and operation;

21 (3) appoint technical advisors, comprised of
22 representatives from the National Agricultural Sta-
23 tistics Service of the Department of Agriculture,
24 not-for-profit organizations that assist farmers and
25 ranchers transitioning in and out of agricultural

1 business, and farm succession planners with exper-
2 tise in the field; and

3 (4) focus efforts of Federal agency staff and
4 programs toward ensuring the long-term sustain-
5 ability of the agriculture sector.

6 (d) REPORTS.—The Commission shall submit an an-
7 nual report to Congress that includes—

8 (1) a summary of the activities of the Commis-
9 sion; and

10 (2) recommendations with respect to access to
11 land, farm business transition, and land tenure, in-
12 cluding recommendations for Federal policy changes.

13 **Subtitle C—Creating Financial In-**
14 **centives to Benefit Beginning**
15 **Farmers and Ranchers**

16 **SEC. 521. REMOVING BARRIERS TO FARMING THROUGH AN**
17 **ELIGIBLE FARMER TAX CREDIT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part IV of sub-
19 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
20 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new
21 section:

22 **“SEC. 30E. ELIGIBLE FARMER CREDITS.**

23 **“(a) ELIGIBLE FARMER PROPERTY SALE CREDIT.—**
24 **In the case of a taxpayer who sells qualified farming prop-**
25 **erty to an eligible farmer during the taxable year, there**

1 shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by
2 this chapter for such taxable year an amount equal to 10
3 percent of the sales price of such property.

4 “(b) ELIGIBLE FARMER PROPERTY PURCHASE
5 CREDIT.—In the case of a taxpayer who is an eligible
6 farmer and purchases qualified farming property during
7 the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against
8 the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an
9 amount equal 10 percent of the purchase price of such
10 property.

11 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—

12 “(1) ELIGIBLE FARMER.—For purposes of this
13 section—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible
15 farmer’ means—

16 “(i) any socially disadvantaged farmer
17 or rancher, as defined in section
18 2501(e)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
19 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
20 U.S.C. 2279(e)(2)),

21 “(ii) any veteran farmer or rancher
22 (as defined in section 2501(e)(7) of such
23 Act (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)(7))), or

24 “(iii) any beginning farmer or ranch-
25 er.

1 “(B) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘begin-
3 ning farmer or rancher’ means an indi-
4 vidual or entity who—

5 “(I) has not operated a farm or
6 ranch, or who has operated a farm or
7 ranch for not more than 10 consecu-
8 tive years, and

9 “(II) will materially and substan-
10 tially participate in the operation of
11 the farm or ranch.

12 “(ii) MATERIAL AND SUBSTANTIAL
13 PARTICIPATION.—For purposes of clause
14 (i), the term ‘material and substantial par-
15 ticipation’ means—

16 “(I) in the case of an individual,
17 that the individual provides substan-
18 tial day-to-day labor and management
19 of the farm or ranch, consistent with
20 the practices in the county or State
21 where the farm is located, and

22 “(II) in the case of an entity,
23 that all shareholders, holders of a cap-
24 ital or profits interest in the case of a
25 partnership, or holders of a beneficial

1 interest in the case of a trust or coop-
2 erative provide some amount of the
3 management or labor necessary for
4 day-to-day activities such that if each
5 of the members did not provide these
6 inputs, operation of the farm or ranch
7 would be seriously impaired.

8 “(iii) PREDECESSOR.—Any prede-
9 cessor of any entity shall be treated as
10 such entity for purposes of clause (i)(I).

11 “(iv) AGGREGATION RULES.—All per-
12 sons which are treated as a single em-
13 ployer under subsections (a) and (b) of
14 section 52 shall be treated as a single em-
15 ployer for purposes of this subparagraph.

16 “(2) QUALIFIED FARMING PROPERTY.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified
18 farming property’ means any property—

19 “(i) which is used in the trade or
20 business of farming or ranching in the
21 United States, and

22 “(ii) which is—

23 “(I) property of a character sub-
24 ject to an allowance for depreciation,
25 or

1 “(II) land used for the produc-
2 tion of crops, fruits, or other agricul-
3 tural products or for the sustenance
4 of livestock.

5 In the case of any tree, vine, or livestock
6 which is not subject to an allowance for de-
7 preciation solely by reason of not having
8 reached the income-producing stage or age
9 of maturity, as the case may be, such tree,
10 vine, or livestock shall be treated as prop-
11 erty of a character subject to an allowance
12 for depreciation for purposes of this sec-
13 tion.

14 “(B) LAND USE MUST BE RESTRICTED AG-
15 RICULTURAL USE.—Such term shall not include
16 any land which is not subject to a State agricul-
17 tural land preservation program, permanent ag-
18 ricultural conservation easement, is not valued
19 as agricultural land using special use valuation
20 requirements, or is not under another long-term
21 or permanent protection.

22 “(d) SPECIAL RULES.—

23 “(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—No credit
24 shall be allowed to a taxpayer under this section un-

1 less, at such time and in such form and manner as
2 the Secretary shall prescribe—

3 “(A) there is submitted to the Secretary a
4 description of the qualified farming property
5 with respect to which the credit under this sec-
6 tion is determined,

7 “(B) the eligible farmer submits to the
8 Secretary an attestation of intent to treat such
9 property as qualified farming property during
10 the 8-year period beginning on the date of the
11 sale or purchase to which this section applies,
12 and

13 “(C) the taxpayer who sells such property
14 in the case of any credit determined under sub-
15 section (a), and the eligible farmer who pur-
16 chases such property in the case of any credit
17 determined under subsection (b), submits to the
18 Secretary an agreement consenting to the appli-
19 cation of paragraph (2).

20 “(2) RECAPTURE.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If any property with
22 respect to which a credit is allowed under this
23 section ceases to be qualified farming property
24 during the 8-year period beginning on the date
25 of the sale or purchase to which this section ap-

1 plies, the tax imposed by this chapter for the
 2 taxable year during which such property so
 3 ceases shall be increased by the applicable per-
 4 centage of the amount of credit allowed under
 5 this section with respect to such property.

6 “(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For
 7 purposes of this paragraph, in the case of prop-
 8 erty which ceases to be qualified farming prop-
 9 erty during the 8-year period, the applicable
 10 percentage shall be determined under the fol-
 11 lowing table:

“For property which so ceases during:	The applicable percentage is:
The first or second year	100 percent
The third or fourth year	75 percent
The fifth or sixth year	50 percent
The seventh or eighth year	25 percent.

12 “(C) PROPERTY BEYOND ACTUAL USEFUL
 13 LIFE.—For purposes of this paragraph, prop-
 14 erty which, during such 8-year period, is no
 15 longer capable of being used in the trade or
 16 business of farming shall be treated as ceasing
 17 to be qualified farming property.

18 “(3) RELATED PARTY RULES.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A sale or purchase
 20 shall only be taken into account under this sec-
 21 tion if the property is not acquired from a per-

1 son related to the person acquiring such prop-
2 erty (or, if married, such individual's spouse).

3 “(B) RELATED PERSONS.—A person shall
4 be treated as related to another person if the
5 relationship between such persons would result
6 in the disallowance of losses under section 267
7 or 707(b).

8 “(4) APPLICATION WITH OTHER CREDITS.—

9 “(A) BUSINESS CREDIT TREATED AS PART
10 OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—So much of
11 the credit which would be allowed under this
12 section for any taxable year (determined with-
13 out regard to this paragraph) that is attrib-
14 utable to property that is land used in a trade
15 or business of the taxpayer, or that in the
16 hands of the taxpayer is of a character subject
17 to an allowance for depreciation, shall be treat-
18 ed as a credit listed in section 38(b) for such
19 taxable year (and not allowed under this sec-
20 tion).

21 “(B) PERSONAL CREDIT.—The credit al-
22 lowed under subsection (a) (after the applica-
23 tion of paragraph (1)) for any taxable year
24 shall be treated as a credit allowable under sub-
25 part A for such taxable year.

1 **SEC. 523. LOANS TO COOPERATIVES.**

2 Section 316(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1946(a)) is amended by add-
4 ing at the end the following:

5 “(3) LOANS TO COOPERATIVES.—Notwith-
6 standing subtitle A or this subtitle, the liability for
7 a farm ownership loan or farm operating loan under
8 such subtitles to a cooperative of family farm farm-
9 ers shall be required to attach to the individual
10 members of the cooperative, as determined by the
11 Secretary.”.

12 **TITLE VI—FOOD WASTE**

13 **SEC. 601. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING REDUCING**
14 **FOOD WASTE.**

15 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
16 ings:

17 (1) Up to 40 percent of food in the United
18 States is wasted, the equivalent of 1,250 calories per
19 person, per day, and more than 400 pounds of food
20 per person, per year.

21 (2) Growing, processing, transporting, and dis-
22 posing of uneaten food is a significant burden on the
23 United States economy, costing approximately
24 \$218,000,000,000 annually.

25 (3) Considerable resources in the United States
26 are invested in the production of food that is eventu-

1 ally wasted, including an estimated 18 percent of
2 fertilizer used in agricultural production, 19 percent
3 of crop land, and 21 percent of agricultural water
4 usage.

5 (4) Growing, processing, transporting, and dis-
6 posing of food that is eventually wasted contributes
7 to greenhouse gas emissions.

8 (5) Disposing of uneaten food costs the average
9 household of four in the United States an estimated
10 \$1,800 annually.

11 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—In light of the findings
12 made in subsection (a), it is the sense of Congress that
13 the Federal Government should invest in programs, meth-
14 odologies, and actions to reduce food waste across the
15 United States at the Federal, State, and local levels, in-
16 cluding by—

17 (1) providing targeted funding for food waste
18 solutions;

19 (2) improving and standardizing the measure-
20 ment and reporting of food waste data;

21 (3) standardizing food date labels;

22 (4) removing barriers to food donation;

23 (5) supporting and encouraging local and re-
24 gional efforts to reduce food waste; and

1 (6) engaging and educating the American public
2 on how to reduce food waste.

3 **SEC. 602. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF FOOD WASTE.**

4 Subtitle D of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
5 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6951 et seq.) is amended
6 by adding at the end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 244. OFFICE OF FOOD WASTE.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
9 lish within the executive operations of the Department an
10 office to be known as the ‘Office of Food Waste’.

11 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office of Food Waste
12 shall be responsible—

13 “(1) for coordinating Federal programs to
14 measure and reduce the incidence of food waste in
15 the United States by serving as the central office
16 within the Department for food waste reduction ef-
17 forts, including food waste prevention, food dona-
18 tion, recovery of surplus food for commercial pur-
19 poses, and food scrap recycling;

20 “(2) for providing information about and rais-
21 ing awareness of food waste issues across sectors of
22 the United States economy and across Federal agen-
23 cies; and

1 ified in the announcement made on September 16,
2 2015, by the Secretary and the Administrator;

3 “(2) to provide strategic direction for efforts to
4 meet the national food waste reduction goal;

5 “(3) to monitor progress toward meeting the
6 national food waste reduction goal;

7 “(4) to support effective public reporting in the
8 United States regarding progress toward meeting
9 the national food waste reduction goal and any rel-
10 evant benchmarks in meeting such goal;

11 “(5) to raise public awareness and visibility of
12 the national food waste reduction goal in the United
13 States; and

14 “(6) to recommend improvements to Federal ef-
15 forts to meet the national food waste reduction goal.

16 “(b) COMPOSITION.—The task force shall be com-
17 posed of 15 members, appointed jointly by the Secretary
18 and the Administrator. The task force shall include a rep-
19 resentative from each of the following industries and inter-
20 est groups:

21 “(1) The agriculture industry.

22 “(2) The food processing and manufacturing in-
23 dustry.

24 “(3) The food distribution industry.

25 “(4) The retail and grocery industry.

1 “(5) The restaurant industry.

2 “(6) The institutional food service industry.

3 “(7) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
4 ties focused on nutrition.

5 “(8) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
6 ties focused on consumer education.

7 “(9) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
8 ties focused on food waste entrepreneurship.

9 “(10) Nonprofit entities focused on food waste
10 prevention.

11 “(11) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
12 ties focused on food donation.

13 “(12) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
14 ties focused on food scrap recycling.

15 “(13) Educational institutions focused on food
16 systems and food waste.

17 “(14) A State or local government with a food
18 waste reduction program.

19 “(15) A scientist who specializes in the science
20 of food scrap recycling and other relevant scientific
21 processes.

22 “(c) TERMS.—A member of the task force shall serve
23 on the task force for a single term of 3 years. A member
24 may not be reappointed. Any vacancy shall be filled within

1 60 days in the same manner as the original appoint-
2 ment.”.

3 **SEC. 604. STANDARDIZING, AGGREGATING, AND PUB-**
4 **LISHING FOOD WASTE DATA.**

5 (a) METHODOLOGY FOR MEASURING FOOD
6 WASTE.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the
7 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall
8 establish, through a rule made in accordance with section
9 553 of title 5, United States Code, a standardized method-
10 ology for consistently measuring food waste in the United
11 States economy, such as—

12 (1) on-farm losses during agricultural produc-
13 tion and harvesting;

14 (2) losses during processing and distribution;

15 (3) kitchen waste and post-consumer waste
16 from the restaurant and hospitality industries;

17 (4) food waste occurring in schools and other
18 institutions; and

19 (5) food waste occurring in other industries.

20 (b) METHODOLOGY FOR AGGREGATING AND DIS-
21 SEMINATING DATA.—The methodology established under
22 subsection (a) shall include aggregating and disseminating
23 any data or information collected with respect to food
24 waste. The methodology shall incorporate tools for describ-
25 ing why food waste occurs and the type of food wasted

1 and take into account existing protocols and tools that
2 may serve as resources.

3 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—Information
4 collected with respect to food waste shall be made available
5 through a publicly accessible internet website of the De-
6 partment of Agriculture, which may be disaggregated by
7 private sector and State or local government data.

8 (d) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture
9 shall carry out this section in consultation with the Admin-
10 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

11 **TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
12 **SION, AND RELATED MAT-**
13 **TERS**

14 **Subtitle A—Investing in**
15 **Sustainable Agriculture**

16 **SEC. 701. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
17 **SION, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

18 (a) FEDERAL-STATE GRANT PROGRAM.—Section
19 1623 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade
20 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5813) is amended—

21 (1) in the section heading, by striking
22 “**MATCHING**”;

23 (2) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) by striking “matching”; and

1 (B) by inserting “and centers” after “edu-
2 cation programs”;

3 (3) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “, and shall
4 identify the sources of matching State funds for the
5 same fiscal year”; and

6 (4) by amending subsection (d) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(d) DURATION.—The Secretary shall provide grants
9 to eligible States for a period not to exceed 5 years.”.

10 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 1624 of the
11 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
12 (7 U.S.C. 5814) is amended to read as follows:

13 **“SEC. 1624. MANDATORY FUNDING.**

14 “Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation,
15 the Secretary shall make available to carry out this chap-
16 ter \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through
17 2028..”.

18 **SEC. 702. NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.**

19 Section 1629(i) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
20 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)) is amend-
21 ed to read as follows:

22 “(i) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the
23 Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make
24 available to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each
25 of fiscal years 2024 through 2028..”.

1 **Subtitle B—Supporting Research**
2 **to Help Farmers Adapt to a Dis-**
3 **rupted Climate**

4 **SEC. 711. COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES**
5 **GRANTS.**

6 Section 2 of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities
7 Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
10 the following new subparagraph:

11 “(G) PLANT AND ANIMAL BREEDING.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Classical animal
13 and plant breeding—

14 “(I) intended to deliver public
15 plant cultivars and animal breeds;

16 “(II) to achieve germplasm con-
17 servation; and

18 “(III) to improve public access
19 and use of such cultivars and breeds.

20 “(ii) PRIORITY.—With respect to the
21 breeding described in clause (i), the Sec-
22 retary shall give priority to—

23 “(I) regionally-adapted cultivars
24 and breeds; and

1 “(II) breeds that perform well in
2 organic and sustainable production
3 systems.”;

4 (B) in paragraph (7), by inserting “, in-
5 cluding nonprofit organizations, private labora-
6 tories, Federal research entities, and other re-
7 search entities not affiliated with a university”
8 after “organizations”;

9 (C) by striking paragraph (9); and

10 (D) in paragraph (11)(A)—

11 (i) by striking “\$700,000,000” and
12 inserting “\$900,000,000”; and

13 (ii) by striking “2018” and inserting
14 “2028”; and

15 (2) in subsection (k)—

16 (A) in the heading, by inserting “AND CLI-
17 MATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION”
18 after “AGRICULTURE”; and

19 (B) by inserting “and climate change miti-
20 gation and adaptation” after “systems of sus-
21 tainable agriculture”.

22 **SEC. 712. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

23 (a) **ELEMENTS OF INITIATIVE.**—Section 412(b) of
24 the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Re-
25 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)—

2 (A) by inserting “and improve the resil-
3 iency of such crops towards global climate
4 change” after “crop characteristics”; and

5 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,
6 with priority given to responses and tolerances
7 to global climate change” after “tolerances”;
8 and

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and threats
10 due to global climate change” after “pollinators”.

11 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 412(k)(1)(B) of
12 the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Re-
13 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(k)(1)(B)) is amended
14 by striking “\$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and each
15 fiscal year thereafter” and inserting “\$100,000,000 for
16 fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

17 **TITLE VIII—ANIMAL WELFARE**

18 **Subtitle A—Ensuring Animal**

19 **Welfare in Farming**

20 **SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS FOR HUMANELY RAISED LIVE-** 21 **STOCK AND POULTRY CERTIFICATION PRO-** 22 **GRAMS.**

23 In this subtitle:

24 (1) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFI-
25 CATION PROGRAM.—The term “independent animal

1 welfare certification program” means an entity ap-
2 proved by the Secretary of Agriculture that uses
3 qualified third-party on-farm auditors to routinely
4 assess a producer’s 100 percent compliance with
5 specific animal welfare standards exceeding industry
6 standards (based on industry guidelines), subject to
7 the following conditions:

8 (A) The standards’ protocols are made
9 public.

10 (B) The standards include, at a minimum,
11 provisions for space allowance, environmental
12 enrichment and ability to engage in natural be-
13 haviors, pain control and physical alternations,
14 handling, and responsible antibiotic use.

15 (C) Routine caging, crating or tethering of
16 animals is prohibited.

17 (D) Auditors have no vested or financial
18 interest in audit outcomes.

19 (E) Auditors possess a background in ani-
20 mal welfare science or have received equivalent
21 training, and are able to recognize, review, and
22 apply established farm animal welfare stand-
23 ards and protocols.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—The term “eligible
2 costs” means costs associated with application fees,
3 inspections, labeling, shipment and marketing.

4 **SEC. 802. INCREASING MARKET ACCESS FOR HUMANELY**
5 **RAISED LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY CERTIFI-**
6 **CATION PROGRAMS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, act-
8 ing through the Agricultural Marketing Service, shall es-
9 tablish a cost-share program to assist producers and han-
10 dlers of livestock and poultry products in obtaining and
11 maintaining animal welfare certifications through an inde-
12 pendent animal welfare certification program.

13 (b) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary may cover not
14 more than 75 percent of the eligible costs, but not to ex-
15 ceed \$750, incurred by a producer or handler in obtaining
16 and maintaining an animal welfare certification through
17 an independent animal welfare certification program.

18 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than
19 March 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the
20 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
21 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
22 estry of the Senate a report that describes the requests
23 by, disbursements to, and expenditures for each State
24 under the program during the current and previous fiscal

1 year, including the number of producers and handlers
2 served by the program in the previous fiscal year.

3 (d) FUNDING.—

4 (1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
5 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
6 shall make available to carry out this section
7 \$1,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through
8 2028, to remain available until expended.

9 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 There is authorized to be appropriated \$22,000,000
11 for fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to carry out this
12 section.

13 **SEC. 803. ANIMAL WELFARE TAX INCENTIVES.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of sub-
15 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
16 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new
17 section:

18 **“SEC. 45U. INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFI-
19 CATION CREDIT.**

20 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 38,
21 in the case of an eligible taxpayer, the independent animal
22 welfare certification credit determined under this section
23 for any taxable year is an amount equal to 25 percent
24 of the qualified independent animal welfare certification

1 expenditures paid or incurred by the taxpayer during the
2 taxable year, and not exceeding \$150,000.

3 “(b) QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE
4 CERTIFICATION EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of this
5 section—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified inde-
7 pendent animal welfare certification expenditures’
8 means amounts paid or incurred for the purpose of
9 complying with the animal welfare standards and
10 protocols of an independent animal welfare certifi-
11 cation, including—

12 “(A) any amounts so paid or incurred for
13 infrastructure improvements for the purpose of
14 complying with such standards and protocols
15 related to providing animals with access to the
16 outdoors, pastures, or enriching indoor environ-
17 ments, including—

18 “(i) fencing to enable pasture access,

19 “(ii) mobile or permanent housing or
20 shelter on pasture,

21 “(iii) water lines and irrigation struc-
22 tures for watering animals,

23 “(iv) infrastructure to enable free
24 movement of animals indoors,

1 “(v) enrichment materials to encour-
2 age animals to carry out natural behaviors
3 like rooting, pecking, and perching, and

4 “(vi) infrastructure to improve ven-
5 tilation and provide natural light, and

6 “(B) certification, including—

7 “(i) the cost of initial certification,
8 and

9 “(ii) the cost of certification auditing
10 during the recapture period.

11 “(2) EXPENDITURES MUST BE DIRECTLY RE-
12 LATED TO CERTIFICATION.—The term ‘qualified
13 independent animal welfare certification expendi-
14 tures’ shall only include amounts directly related to
15 complying with animal welfare standards and proto-
16 cols of an independent animal welfare certification.

17 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

18 “(1) ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER.—The term ‘eligible
19 taxpayer’ means any taxpayer which carries on a
20 trade or business of farming livestock or poultry who
21 has an adjusted gross income of less than \$900,000.

22 “(2) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFI-
23 CATION.—The term ‘independent animal welfare cer-
24 tification’ means a certification issued pursuant to a
25 value-added certification program which has been

1 approved by the Secretary of Agriculture as meeting
2 each of the following requirements:

3 “(A) Such program uses qualified, inde-
4 pendent, on-farm auditors to assess, at least
5 once in a 15 month period, a producer’s compli-
6 ance with specific farm animal welfare stand-
7 ards.

8 “(B) Such program uses a certification
9 protocol and standards that are publicly avail-
10 able.

11 “(C) The standards used in such program
12 exceed conventional industry standards, based
13 on industry guidelines published by animal
14 trade associations, prohibit routine caging, crat-
15 ing, and tethering of animals, and include, at a
16 minimum, provisions for daily free access to an
17 outdoor vegetated range area for a majority of
18 animals’ lives, indoor and outdoor space allow-
19 ance, environmental enrichment, ability to en-
20 gage in natural behaviors, pain control and
21 physical alterations, animal handling and trans-
22 port, and responsible antibiotic use.

23 “(D) The auditors used in such program
24 have no vested or financial interest in audit
25 outcomes and possess a background in animal

1 welfare science, or have received equivalent
2 training, and are able to recognize and apply
3 established farm animal welfare standards and
4 protocols.

5 “(E) Such program requires producers to
6 comply with 100 percent of standards to receive
7 certification.

8 “(d) RECAPTURE.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxpayer
10 with respect to which a credit of \$75,000 or more
11 is determined under this section for any taxable year
12 and which ceases to be in compliance with an inde-
13 pendent animal welfare certification at any time dur-
14 ing the recapture period, the taxpayer may be sub-
15 ject to recapture of some or all of the credit, at the
16 discretion of the Internal Revenue Service.

17 “(2) RECAPTURE PERIOD.—For purposes of
18 this section, the term ‘recapture period’ means the
19 5-taxable-year period beginning with the taxable
20 year two years after the taxable year for which a
21 credit of \$75,000 or more is determined under this
22 section.”.

23 (b) CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS
24 CREDIT.—Section 38(b) of such Code is amended—

1 (1) by striking “plus” at the end of paragraph
2 (32);

3 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
4 graph (33) and inserting “, plus”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following new
6 paragraph:

7 “(34) in the case of an eligible taxpayer (as de-
8 fined in section 45U(c)(1), the independent animal
9 welfare certification credit determined under section
10 45U.”.

11 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
12 for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1
13 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing new item:

“Sec. 45U. Independent animal welfare certification credit.”.

15 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
16 this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred during
17 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

18 **Subtitle B—Reforming Animal Wel-**
19 **fare in Agricultural Research**
20 **Endeavors**

21 **SEC. 811. ANIMAL WELFARE.**

22 Section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
23 2144) is amended—

24 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “Any” and
25 inserting the following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3),
2 any Federal research facility or any other”;

3 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “Any”
4 and inserting the following:

5 “(2) ANIMAL EXHIBITION.—Any”; and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraph:

8 “(3) EXCLUSIONS NOT APPLICABLE.—For pur-
9 poses of the application of standards and other re-
10 quirements described in paragraph (1) to a Federal
11 research facility or any other department, agency, or
12 instrumentality of the United States having labora-
13 tory animal facilities, the exclusions contained in
14 section 2(g)(3) shall not apply.”.

15 **SEC. 812. ESTABLISHING A RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**
16 **PROGRAM FOR HUMANELY RAISED LIVE-**
17 **STOCK AND POULTRY CERTIFICATIONS.**

18 (a) CONSUMER DEMAND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND
19 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS.—Section
20 1402(6) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
21 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101(6)) is
22 amended by inserting before the semicolon the following:
23 “, and meet growing consumer demand for animal welfare,
24 environmental sustainability, pasture-based rearing, and

1 compliance with independent animal welfare certifi-
2 cations”.

3 (b) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFI-
4 CATION PROGRAM DEFINED.—Section 1404 of the Na-
5 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
6 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103) is amended by adding
7 at the end the following new paragraph:

8 “(21) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CER-
9 TIFICATION PROGRAM.—The term ‘Independent ani-
10 mal welfare certification program’ has the meaning
11 given that term in section 801(1) of the Food and
12 Farm Act.”.

13 (c) FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINA-
14 TION.—Section 1409A of the National Agricultural Re-
15 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
16 U.S.C. 3124a) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “and
18 environmental” and inserting “environmental, ani-
19 mal welfare, and marketplace demand”;

20 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “pasture-
21 based rearing systems,” after “cooperatives,”; and

22 (3) in subsection (d), by inserting “improving
23 animal well-being, facilitating enrollment in inde-
24 pendent animal welfare certification programs,”
25 after “marketing systems,”.

1 (d) ANIMAL WELL-BEING RESEARCH.—The heading
2 of subtitle E of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
3 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (title XIV of
4 Public Law 93–113) is amended to read as follows: “**Ani-
5 mal Health, Well-Being, and Disease Re-
6 search**”.

7 (e) AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY TO ACT.—Section
8 1431(b)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Exten-
9 sion, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
10 3193(b)(2)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
12 graph (B);

13 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
14 paragraph (C), and inserting “; and”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 paragraph:

17 “(D) improve the flow of information to
18 producers regarding enrollment in, compliance
19 with, and marketing benefits of independent
20 animal welfare certification programs.”.

21 (f) SMALL FARM RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—

22 (1) SMALL FARM EXTENSION PROGRAM.—Sec-
23 tion 502 of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7
24 U.S.C. 2662) is amended—

1 (A) in subsection (d), by inserting “, im-
2 proved animal husbandry techniques including
3 enrollment in independent animal welfare cer-
4 tification programs,” after “marketing tech-
5 niques”; and

6 (B) in subsection (h)(1)—

7 (i) by striking “and” at the end of
8 subparagraph (E);

9 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
10 (F) as subparagraph (H); and

11 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
12 (E) the following new subparagraphs:

13 “(F) opportunities for enrollment in inde-
14 pendent animal welfare certification programs;

15 “(G) animal husbandry; and”.

16 (2) DEFINITION.—Section 506 of the Rural De-
17 velopment Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2666) is amend-
18 ed—

19 (A) by redesignating subsections (a), (b),
20 and (c) as subsections (b), (c), and (d) respec-
21 tively; and

22 (B) by inserting before subsection (b), as
23 so redesignated, the following:

1 “(a) ‘independent animal welfare certification pro-
2 gram’ has the meaning given that term in section 801(1)
3 of the Food and Farm Act.”.

4 **Subtitle C—Protecting Companion** 5 **Animals**

6 **SEC. 821. MAINTENANCE AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF** 7 **REGULATORY RECORDS.**

8 (a) MAINTENANCE OF INFORMATION.—Beginning
9 not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment
10 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall maintain
11 information relating to the administration of the Animal
12 Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) and the Horse Protec-
13 tion Act (15 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.), including the following:

14 (1) The entirety of each report of any inspec-
15 tion conducted, and record of any enforcement ac-
16 tion taken, under—

17 (A) the Animal Welfare Act or the Horse
18 Protection Act; and

19 (B) any regulation issued under those
20 Acts.

21 (2) With respect to the Animal Welfare Act—

22 (A) the entirety of each annual report sub-
23 mitted by a research facility under section 13 of
24 that Act (7 U.S.C. 2143); and

1 (B) the name, address, and license or reg-
2 istration number of each research facility, ex-
3 hibitor, dealer, and other person or establish-
4 ment—

5 (i) licensed by the Secretary under
6 section 3 or 12 of that Act (7 U.S.C.
7 2133, 2142); or

8 (ii) registered with the Secretary
9 under section 6 of that Act (7 U.S.C.
10 2136).

11 (3) With respect to the Horse Protection Act,
12 the name and address of—

13 (A) any person that is licensed to conduct
14 any inspection under section 4(c) of that Act
15 (15 U.S.C. 1823(c)); or

16 (B) any organization or association that is
17 licensed by the Department of Agriculture to
18 promote horses through—

19 (i) the showing, exhibiting, sale, auc-
20 tion, or registry of horses; or

21 (ii) the conduct of any activity that
22 contributes to the advancement of horses.

23 (b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The
24 information required to be maintained under subsection
25 (a) shall promptly be made available to the public in an

1 online searchable database in a machine-readable format
2 on the website of the Department of Agriculture.

3 **SEC. 822. PROHIBITING THE TRADE OF DOG AND CAT**
4 **MEAT.**

5 The Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 30. PROHIBITION OF SLAUGHTER OF DOGS AND CATS**
8 **FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.**

9 “(a) PROHIBITION.—No person may—

10 “(1) knowingly slaughter a dog or cat for
11 human consumption; or

12 “(2) knowingly ship, transport, move, deliver,
13 receive, possess, purchase, sell, or donate—

14 “(A) a dog or cat to be slaughtered for
15 human consumption; or

16 “(B) dog or cat parts for human consump-
17 tion.

18 “(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates this section
19 shall be subject to imprisonment for not more than 1 year,
20 or a fine of not more than \$2,500, or both.

21 “(c) SCOPE.—Subsection (a) shall apply only with re-
22 spect to conduct in or affecting interstate or foreign com-
23 merce or within the special maritime and territorial juris-
24 diction of the United States.

1 “(d) CONFLICT WITH STATE LAW.—This section
2 shall not be construed to limit any State or local law or
3 regulations protecting the welfare of animals or to prevent
4 a State or local governing body from adopting and enforce-
5 ing animal welfare laws and regulations that are more
6 stringent than this section.”.

7 **TITLE IX—REGIONAL FOOD**
8 **SYSTEMS**
9 **Subtitle A—Expanding Support for**
10 **Local and Regional Food Systems**

11 **SEC. 901. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

12 It is the sense of the Congress that:

13 (1) Local and regional food systems provide
14 jobs and economic opportunity for farmers and
15 ranchers, businesses, entrepreneurs, and employees
16 across the United States who cultivate, harvest,
17 store, process, market, and distribute food, particu-
18 larly in rural areas.

19 (2) Local and regional food systems provide
20 meaningful access to healthy, fresh, and affordable
21 foods that are grown and processed closer to mar-
22 kets, especially in food deserts and other under-
23 served areas.

24 (3) Local and regional food systems lower the
25 carbon footprint of America’s food system by grow-

1 ing, processing, distributing, and consuming prod-
2 ucts locally and reducing the use of fossil fuels.

3 (4) Local and regional food systems foster
4 American resiliency and independence by helping
5 communities become less dependent on external food
6 sources.

7 (5) Local and regional food systems increase
8 accountability for farmers, ranchers, and others em-
9 ployed in the field to engage in sustainable and eth-
10 ical practices.

11 (6) By supporting the growth and advancement
12 of local and regional food systems, the people of the
13 United States are investing in an environmentally
14 and economically resilient food and agriculture sys-
15 tem that provides opportunity and livelihoods for
16 farmers, ranchers, businesses, and employees
17 throughout the economy.

18 **SEC. 902. EXPANDING THE FOOD LEVERAGING INVEST-**
19 **MENT FOR NETWORK COORDINATION (LINC)**
20 **PROGRAM.**

21 (a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VALUE CHAIN COOR-
22 DINATORS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall expand
23 Rural Development Agency participation in the Food
24 Leveraging Investment for Network Coordination (LINC)
25 program, a public-private partnership to enhance regional

1 food-value chains, to deploy during each of fiscal years
2 2024 through 2028 at least 25 full-time value chain coor-
3 dinators to provide local food sector coordination services.

4 (b) LOCATION OF VALUE CHAIN COORDINATORS.—

5 The Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that at least 5
6 value chain coordinators deployed under subsection (a) are
7 located in each of the following:

8 (1) The Pacific Northwest region of the United
9 States.

10 (2) The Northeast region of the United States.

11 (3) The Western region of the United States.

12 (4) The Midwest region of the United States.

13 (5) The Southern region of the United States.

14 (c) COORDINATION SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The du-
15 ties of a value chain coordinator include the following:

16 (1) Identifying and connecting interested per-
17 sons through short-term engagement, helping to
18 build relationships across the food value chain by en-
19 gaging interested persons, maintaining communica-
20 tion channels, and fostering a trusting environment
21 among interested persons.

22 (2) Identifying and pursuing resources, such as
23 grants, loans, and services to support value-chain
24 collaborators as they develop their enterprises.

1 (3) Raising policy issues and partnering with
2 interested persons to address policies and procure-
3 ment requirements.

4 (4) Working with food chain members to build
5 capacity through education and training programs in
6 such areas as organics and other sustainable produc-
7 tion practices, food safety, marketing, and branding.

8 (5) Utilizing grants and other external re-
9 sources to test new business models to help lower
10 the financial risk of businesses engaged in the value
11 chain.

12 (d) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
13 it Corporation, the Secretary of the Agriculture shall use
14 to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal
15 years 2024 through 2028.

16 **SEC. 903. ENSURING SUCCESS OF REGIONAL FOOD**
17 **PROJECTS UNDER THE BUSINESS AND IN-**
18 **DUSTRY GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM.**

19 (a) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 310B(g)(9)(B) of the
20 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
21 1932(g)(9)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(v) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL AS-
24 SISTANCE.—Not more than 5 percent of
25 the amounts reserved under clause (iv) for

1 each fiscal year shall be used for outreach,
2 and to provide marketing and technical as-
3 sistance through Federal entities, and
4 through State and private universities and
5 nonprofit entities (including by contract),
6 to potential recipients of a loan or loan
7 guarantee under this subparagraph, to en-
8 sure the full utilization of any such loan or
9 loan guarantee.”.

10 (b) INCREASE IN FUNDING.—Section
11 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
12 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I)) is amended by striking “5” and in-
13 serting “10”.

14 **SEC. 904. INCREASING SUPPORT FOR THE SPECIALTY CROP**
15 **BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness
17 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2018” and
19 inserting “2028”; and

20 (2) in subsection (l)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
22 “and”;

23 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and
24 each fiscal year thereafter.” and inserting a
25 semicolon; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following:
2 “(F) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;
3 and
4 “(G) \$110,000,000 for fiscal year 2025
5 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

6 **Subtitle B—Enhancing Regional**
7 **Food Infrastructure**

8 **SEC. 911. SUPPORTING REGIONAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE**
9 **ASSESSMENT AND COLLABORATIVE PLAN-**
10 **NING.**

11 (a) SUPPORT FOR REGION-WIDE ASSESSMENT AND
12 COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROJECTS.—Section 6(b) of
13 the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976
14 (7 U.S.C. 3005(b)) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
16 (1);

17 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
18 graph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following new
20 paragraph:

21 “(3) full value chain assessments at the local
22 and regional levels, as well as projects by entities de-
23 scribed in subsection (c) that maximize efficient use
24 of existing food related infrastructure, identify gaps
25 in that infrastructure, and address such gaps.”.

1 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Paragraph (1) of sec-
2 tion 6(g) of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing
3 Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005(g)) is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
6 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
7 shall use to carry out this section \$80,000,000 for
8 each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028..”.

9 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Paragraph (4) of
10 section 6(g) of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing
11 Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005(g)) is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 “(4) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds
14 made available to carry out this section for a fiscal
15 year after fiscal year 2024—

16 “(A) at least 40 percent of the funds shall
17 be used for the purposes described in paragraph
18 (1) of subsection (b);

19 “(B) at least 40 percent of the funds shall
20 be used for the purposes described in paragraph
21 (2) of such subsection; and

22 “(C) not more than 20 percent of the
23 funds may be used for the purposes described
24 in paragraph (3) of such subsection.”.

1 **SEC. 912. LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY SUPPLY CHAIN**
2 **INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS AND LOANS.**

3 Subtitle D of title III of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amend-
5 ed by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 379I. LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY SUPPLY**
7 **CHAIN INFRASTRUCTURE.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
9 provide grants or make or insure loans under any of the
10 programs authorized by this Act, the Agricultural Mar-
11 keting Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.), or the Rural
12 Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), as the
13 Secretary determines to be appropriate, to assist farmers
14 and rural businesses and cooperatives to maintain or in-
15 crease the production, aggregation, processing, distribu-
16 tion, and marketing of value-added, niche, or regionally-
17 marketed meat, dairy, and poultry products.

18 “(b) PRIORITY.—In implementing subsection (a), the
19 Secretary shall give priority to grants or loans that will
20 help increase or enhance the availability and geographic
21 distribution of State- and Department of Agriculture-in-
22 spected small processing facilities.

23 “(c) SMALL PROCESSING FACILITY DEFINED.—In
24 this section, the term ‘small processing facility’ means—

25 “(1) with respect to an establishment that is
26 subject to the requirements of the Federal Meat In-

1 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), a certain small
2 establishment that is eligible to be selected under
3 section 501(b) of such Act; or

4 “(2) a selected establishment (as defined in sec-
5 tion 31(a) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act
6 (21 U.S.C. 472(a))).”.

7 **Subtitle C—Expanding Accessi-**
8 **bility of Federal Grant Pro-**
9 **grams**

10 **SEC. 921. PUBLISHING INFORMATION ABOUT FUNDED**
11 **FARMERS’ MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PRO-**
12 **MOTION PROGRAM PROJECTS.**

13 Section 6 of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Mar-
14 keting Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005) is amended by adding
15 at the end the following new subsection:

16 “(h) PROJECT DATABASE.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, not later
18 than one year after the date of the enactment of this
19 subsection, shall publish, and update on an annual
20 basis, on the Internet website of the Department of
21 Agriculture a database, in a machine-readable for-
22 mat, that contains information with respect to any
23 project with respect to which a grant was awarded
24 under this section in the previous fiscal year.

1 “(2) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—The database
2 under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to
3 each project for which a grant was awarded under
4 this section in the previous fiscal year—

5 “(A) a general overview of such project, in-
6 cluding a summary of, the timeline, goals, and
7 objectives for, and key partners and other
8 stakeholders involved in, such project;

9 “(B) the steps taken to carry out such
10 project;

11 “(C) any materials used to carry out such
12 project;

13 “(D) the delivery area of the project;

14 “(E) the total project cost and any non-
15 Federal funding sources for such project costs;

16 “(F) a general description of project bene-
17 ficiaries; and

18 “(G) the results of such project.”.

19 **SEC. 922. STREAMLINING OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD**
20 **PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCEDURES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
22 shall, not later than one year after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, identify procedures that coordinate and
24 streamline the application process for local and regional
25 food programs without compromising program or applica-

1 tion quality. The Secretary shall identify such procedures
2 with respect to each of the following:

3 (1) Streamlining application forms.

4 (2) Removing repetition from forms and the on-
5 line toolkit used to complete such applications.

6 (3) To the extent possible, accepting applica-
7 tions electronically (including through email).

8 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
11 2024 through 2028.

12 **Subtitle D—Leveling the Playing** 13 **Field for Small Farmers**

14 **SEC. 931. ENSURING FAIR PRACTICES IN AGRICULTURE.**

15 Not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall imple-
17 ment, without amendment, the final rule entitled “Unfair
18 Practices and Undue Preferences in Violation of the Pack-
19 ers and Stockyards Act” and published in the Federal
20 Register by the Department of Agriculture on December
21 20, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 92703).