119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOZMAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Agricultural Act of 2026''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

Subtitle A—Commodity Policy

Sec. 1101. Suspension of permanent price support authority.
Sec. 1102. Servicing of loans.
Sec. 1103. Certification of average adjusted gross income by enrolled agents.
Sec. 1104. Commodity Credit Corporation records, reports, and data.
Sec. 1105. Storage facility loans.
Sec. 1106. Strengthening domestic food production supply chains.
Sec. 1107. Dry edible beans study.

Subtitle B—Dairy

Sec. 1201. Reauthorizations.
Sec. 1202. Mandatory reporting of dairy product processing costs.
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Subtitle C—Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

Sec. 1301. Noninsured crop disaster assistance program.
Sec. 1302. Supplemental agricultural disaster assistance.
Sec. 1303. Tree assistance program.
Sec. 1304. Specialty crop emergency assistance framework.
Sec. 1305. Assistance in the form of block grants.

Subtitle D—Administration

Sec. 1401. Regulations.
Sec. 1402. Technical correction.
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TITLE II—CONSERVATION

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Sec. 2101. Conservation reserve.
Sec. 2102. Conservation reserve enhancement program.
Sec. 2103. Farmable wetland program.
Sec. 2104. Duties of the Secretary.
Sec. 2105. Payments.

Subtitle B—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

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Sec. 2202. Establishment and administration.
Sec. 2203. Limitation on payments.
Sec. 2204. Conservation innovation grants and payments.

Subtitle C—Conservation Stewardship Program

Sec. 2301. Conservation stewardship program.
Sec. 2302. Duties of the Secretary.

Subtitle D—Funding and Administration

Sec. 2401. Funding.
Sec. 2402. Conservation standards and requirements.
Sec. 2403. Establishment and review of conservation practice standards.
Sec. 2404. Delivery of technical assistance.
Sec. 2405. Administrative requirements for conservation programs.

Sec. 2406. Temporary administration of conservation programs.

Subtitle E—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Sec. 2501. Definitions.
Sec. 2502. Agricultural land easements.
Sec. 2503. Wetland reserve easements.
Sec. 2504. Administration.
Sec. 2505. Adjusted gross income limitation.

Subtitle F—Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Sec. 2601. Establishment and purposes.
Sec. 2602. Definitions.
Sec. 2603. Regional conservation partnerships.
Sec. 2604. Assistance to producers.
Sec. 2605. Funding.
Sec. 2606. Critical conservation areas.

Subtitle G—Forest Conservation Easement Program

Sec. 2701. Forest Conservation Easement Program.
Sec. 2702. Healthy forests reserve program.

Subtitle H—Other Conservation Programs

Sec. 2801. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.
Sec. 2802. Emergency conservation programs.
Sec. 2803. Feral swine eradication and control program.
Sec. 2804. Conservation of private grazing land.
Sec. 2805. State conservation assistance.

TITLE III—TRADE

Subtitle A—Food for Peace Act

Sec. 3101. United States policy.
Sec. 3102. Food aid quality assurance.
Sec. 3103. Repeal of minimum levels of assistance.
Sec. 3104. Food Aid Consultative Group.
Sec. 3105. Program oversight, monitoring, and evaluation.
Sec. 3106. International food relief partnership.
Sec. 3107. Use of Commodity Credit Corporation.
Sec. 3108. Technical corrections and administrative provisions.
Sec. 3109. Expiration date.
Sec. 3110. Minimum level of nonemergency food assistance.
Sec. 3111. Micronutrient fortification programs.
Sec. 3112. John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program.

Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act of 1978

Sec. 3201. Preserving foreign markets for goods using common names.
Sec. 3202. Technical assistance to improve infrastructure in foreign markets for United States agricultural commodities.
Sec. 3203. Report on competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops.
Sec. 3204. Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.

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Subtitle C—Other Agricultural Trade Laws

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Sec. 3305. International agriculture cultural immersion and exchange program.
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Sec. 3307. Global Crop Diversity Trust.
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Sec. 4111. Staffing flexibility.
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Sec. 4302. Purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution to schools and service institutions.
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Sec. 5205. Persons eligible for loans.
Sec. 5206. Refinancing of bridge loans.
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Sec. 5209. Cooperative lending pilot projects.
Sec. 5210. Refinancing of guaranteed loans into direct loans.
Sec. 5211. Pilot projects for preapproval of direct farm ownership loans.
Sec. 5212. Definition of qualified beginning farmer or rancher.
Sec. 5213. Use of additional funds for direct operating microloans under certain conditions.
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Sec. 6209. Emergency preparedness, response, and recovery technical assistance program.
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Sec. 6223. Intermediary relending program.
Sec. 6224. Lender fees in guaranteed loan programs; rural water refinancing improvements.
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Sec. 6229. Grants for NOAA weather radio transmitters.
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Sec. 6312. Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program.
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Sec. 6314. Interagency task force on outdoor recreation coordination.
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Sec. 7105. Grants and fellowships for food and agriculture sciences education.
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Sec. 7109. Continuing animal health and disease research programs.
Sec. 7110. Extension at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.
Sec. 7111. Agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.
Sec. 7112. Scholarships for students at 1890 Institutions.
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Sec. 7120. University research.
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Sec. 7208. High-priority research and extension initiatives.
Sec. 7209. Organic agriculture research and extension initiative.
Sec. 7210. Farm business management.
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Sec. 7302. Integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants program.
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Sec. 7304. Grants for youth organizations.
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Sec. 7307. Forestry products advanced utilization research.
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Subtitle D—Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

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Sec. 7402. Assistance to build local capacity in agricultural biosecurity planning, preparation, and response.
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Sec. 7504. Report on the extension service needs of Tribal lands and populations.
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Sec. 7506. Amendments to the Hatch Act.
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Sec. 7509. Extension Design and Demonstration Initiative.
Sec. 7510. Biomass research and development.
Sec. 7511. Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978.
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Sec. 8216. Greater sage-grouse and mule deer habitat.
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Sec. 8232. State and private forest landscape-scale restoration program.
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Subtitle E—White Oak Resilience

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Sec. 8503. White oak regeneration and upland oak habitat.
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Sec. 8601. National Forest Foundation Act.
Sec. 8602. Rural revitalization technologies.
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TITLE IX—ENERGY

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Sec. 9002. Biobased markets program.
Sec. 9003. Biorefinery, renewable chemical, biobased product manufacturing, and sustainable aviation fuel assistance.
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Sec. 9005. Bioenergy program for advanced biofuels.
Sec. 9006. Biodiesel fuel education program.
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Sec. 9008. Feedstock flexibility program for bioenergy producers.
Sec. 9009. Biomass crop assistance program.
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Sec. 10102. Specialty crops market news allocation.
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Sec. 10106. National organic certification cost-share program.
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Sec. 10109. Specialty crop block grants.
Sec. 10110. Organic inputs verification.
Sec. 10111. Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.
Sec. 10112. National organic program oversight protocols and inspection requirements.
Sec. 10113. Study on barriers to participation in Department of Agriculture programs faced by certified organic farms and farms interested in transitioning to organic production.

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Sec. 10201. Biostimulants.
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Sec. 10206. Agriculture quarantine and inspection program reserve fee.
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Sec. 11009. Quality loss adjustment coverage.
Sec. 11010. Limitation on farm program participation.
Sec. 11011. Pilot program to review effectiveness of coverage penalty.
Sec. 11012. Program compliance and integrity.
Sec. 11013. Whole farm improvements.
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Sec. 11015. Risk management study for lamb.
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Sec. 12101. Animal importation inspections.
Sec. 12102. Animal disease prevention and management.
Sec. 12103. Engagement with export markets.
Sec. 12104. Report on support for livestock and poultry producers during a foreign animal disease outbreak.
Sec. 12105. Additional training facilities.
Sec. 12106. Allowed interest of livestock auction owners in meatpacking businesses.
Sec. 12107. Hazard analysis and critical control point guidance and resources for small and very small poultry and meat establishments.
Sec. 12108. National Poultry Improvement Plan.
Sec. 12109. U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan.
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Sec. 12202. Reporting requirements.
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Sec. 12402. Additional flexibilities.
Sec. 12403. Investment authority.
Sec. 12404. Administrative and supervisory costs.

Sec. 12405. General authorities.
Sec. 12406. Reporting requirements.
Sec. 12407. Improving advisory committee nominations efficiency and continuity.
Sec. 12408. Reauthorization of other expiring provisions.

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Sec. 12501. Year-Round E15 and RFS Reform.

Subtitle F—Other Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 12601. Protecting animals with shelter.
Sec. 12602. Importation of live dogs.
Sec. 12603. Dairy business innovation initiatives.
Sec. 12604. Country of origin labeling for cooked king crab and tanner crab and cooked and canned salmon.
Sec. 12605. Establishment of Office of Seafood.
Sec. 12606. Study and report on expanding seafood processing capacity.
Sec. 12607. Innovative feed enhancement.
Sec. 12608. Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program review and report.
Sec. 12609. Qualified renewable biomass.
Sec. 12610. Promoting precision agriculture.
Sec. 12611. Farming opportunities training and outreach.
Sec. 12612. Improvements to United States Drought Monitor.
Sec. 12613. Whole milk under the school breakfast program.
Sec. 12614. Commission on Rural Maternal Health.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Agriculture.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

Subtitle A—Commodity Policy

SEC. 1101. SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT AUTHORITY.

Section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9092) is amended by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 1102. SERVICING OF LOANS.

(a) MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS.—Section 1204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9034) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—The servicing of a marketing assistance loan under section 1201 by an officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture shall be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, services for emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property.''.

(b) LOANS UNDER SUGAR PROGRAM.—Section 156(d) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—The servicing of a loan under this section by an officer or employee of the Department shall be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, services for emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property.''.

SEC. 1103. CERTIFICATION OF AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME BY ENROLLED AGENTS.

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

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A), by striking ''accountant or attorney'' and inserting ''accountant, an enrolled agent properly licensed to practice as required under rules promulgated under section 330(a) of title 31, United States Code, or an attorney''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by inserting '', an enrolled agent properly licensed to practice as required under rules promulgated under section 330(a) of title 31, United States Code,'' after ''certified public accountant''.

SEC. 1104. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION RECORDS, REPORTS, AND DATA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714k) is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through ''The Corporation'' in the first sentence and inserting the following:

''SEC. 13. RECORDS, REPORTS, AND DATA.

''(a) RECORDS.—The Corporation'';

(2) in subsection (a) (as so designated), in the first sentence, by striking ''account and shall'' and inserting the following: ''account.

''(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Corporation shall'';

(3) in subsection (b) (as so designated)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''forwarded by the Secretary of Agriculture to the President for transmission to the'' and inserting ''transmitted by the Secretary of Agriculture to''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''In addition to the annual report,'' and inserting the following:

''(c) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—In addition to the annual reports filed under subsection (b),'';

(4) in subsection (c) (as so designated), by striking ''$10,000'' and inserting ''$25,000''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) COMMODITY ESTIMATE BOOKS.—

''(1) DATA.—In addition to the reports under subsections (b) and (c), the Corporation shall biannually submit to Congress a report comprising a Commodity Estimate Book that contains the data included in, and in a format substantially similar to, the Commodity Estimate Books formerly published by the budget division of the Farm Service Agency, which shall contain both actual and estimated years of budgetary data by program and account for the

Corporation, including the latest policy assumptions and supporting economic data.

''(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each Commodity Estimate Book submitted under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available in a searchable electronic format on a website maintained by the Department of Agriculture.

''(e) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Each report required to be submitted to Congress under this section shall be submitted to—

''(1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

''(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

''(3) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

''(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

''(f) CATEGORIZATION OF CERTAIN DATA.—To the extent a report prepared and submitted to Congress under this section includes a description of expenditures made by the Secretary pursuant to section 5, each of those expenditures shall be clearly categorized by the corresponding subsection of section 5 providing the authority for the expenditure.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to the reports required under section 13 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714k) beginning with the first calendar year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1105. STORAGE FACILITY LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1614(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8789(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''funds for producers'' and inserting the following: ''funds for—

''(1) producers'';

(2) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) producers to construct or upgrade storage facilities for propane and fertilizer that is primarily used for agricultural production (as defined in section 4279.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph)).''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall amend part 1436 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to re-

flect the amendments made by subsection (a), including to ensure that, with respect to fertilizer, loans may be made under the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program for, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Dry bins and dry flat storage.

(2) Fertilizer blenders.

(3) Liquid tanks.

(4) Anhydrous ammonia pressure vessels.

(5) Foundations, electrical systems, conveyors, plumbing, piping, and pumps necessary for the receipt, storage, and removal of fertilizer products.

SEC. 1106. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION SUPPLY CHAINS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79; 128 Stat. 688) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1302. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION SUPPLY CHAINS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any Federal policy that would impact the administration of the programs described in the provisions of law described in this subtitle or any rule, policy, or guidance issued pursuant to such programs, the preservation and strengthening of the domestic production described in subsection (b) shall be a priority objective of the President.

''(b) DOMESTIC PRODUCTION DESCRIBED.—The domestic production described in this subsection is the production of an agricultural commodity—

''(1) described in a program described in subsection (a); and

''(2) from which a food ingredient that serves an important function throughout the domestic food production supply chain is derived.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79; 128 Stat. 649) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1301 the following:

''1302. Strengthening domestic food production supply chains.''.

SEC. 1107. DRY EDIBLE BEANS STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall contract with 1 or more qualified entities to conduct a study to determine whether the inclusion of dry edible beans as a covered commodity (as defined in section 1111 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011)) and a loan commodity (as defined in section 1201(a) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9031(a))) under the programs authorized under subtitles A and B of title I of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.) would provide producers of dry edible beans with an effective safety net.

(b) ANALYSIS REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall ensure that the 1 or more entities conducting the study required under this section include evaluations and recommendations concerning the appropriate establishment of—

(1) loan rates;

(2) reference prices;

(3) base acres;

(4) payment acres and yields; and

(5) other relevant program details to effectuate full inclusion of dry edible beans as a covered commodity and a loan commodity.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing the findings of the study required under this section.

(d) MITIGATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as necessary to establish a mitigation program under which the Secretary shall reduce stocks-to-use ratios of dry edible beans to achieve and maintain average historical levels.

Subtitle B—Dairy

SEC. 1201. REAUTHORIZATIONS.

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

(b) DAIRY INDEMNITY PAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 3 of Public Law 90–484 (7 U.S.C. 4553) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(c) DAIRY PROMOTION AND RESEARCH BOARD.—Section 113(e)(2) of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4504(e)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 1202. MANDATORY REPORTING OF DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.

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

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) for each manufacturer required to report under subparagraph (A) for any product, require that manufacturer to report production cost and product yield information, as determined by the Secretary, for all products processed in the same facility or facilities.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting ''products and'' after ''those'';

(2) in subsection (c)(3)(B), by inserting '', subject to subsection (b)(1),'' after ''of information'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''ELECTRONIC REPORTING''; and inserting ''REPORTING'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''ELECTRONIC REPORTING'' and inserting ''REPORTING''; and

(ii) by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1)'';

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1)''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall publish a report containing the information obtained under subsection (b)(1)(C), subject to the conditions described in subsection (b)(2).''.

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) REGULATION.—Any actions taken by the Secretary under this section shall not be subject to review under Executive Order 12866 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to regulatory planning and review) or any successor order.''.

SEC. 1203. DAIRY REPORTS.

Section 301(4) of the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4514(4)) is amended by striking ''Not later'' and all that follows through ''an annual report'' and inserting ''With respect to each calendar year beginning after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, a report (which shall be submitted not later than 18 months after the last day of each calendar year)''.

Subtitle C—Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

SEC. 1301. NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 196(c)(2) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) COMMUNITY DITCHES.—

''(i) DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY DITCH.—In this subparagraph, the term 'community ditch' means a private, unincorporated or cooperative irrigation ditch system, including an acequia or an unincorporated mutual ditch company.

''(ii) CAUSES OF LOSS.—On making a determination described in subsection (a)(3) for producers that rely on a community ditch, the Secretary shall provide assistance under this section to those producers from all losses suffered as a result of the causes described in subsection (a)(3).''.

SEC. 1302. SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1501(a)(4)(G) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(a)(4)(G)) is amended by striking ''livestock,'' and inserting ''livestock (including unweaned livestock),''.

(b) LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PAYMENTS.—Section 1501(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting ''(including Mexican Gray Wolves), panthers,'' after ''wolves''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) WEIGHT CATEGORIES.—For the purposes of establishing weight categories to carry out paragraph (1) with respect to non-adult livestock described in subsection (a)(4)(A), the Secretary shall establish weight categories of—

''(A) less than 400 pounds; and

''(B) such other weights that are more than 400 pounds as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(7) REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR CERTAIN LOSSES.—With respect to eligible attacks by animals or avian predators, the Secretary shall treat documentation showing probability or confirmation of

such an attack as sufficient to qualify for payments under this subsection.''.

(c) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEY BEES, AND FARM-RAISED FISH.—Section 1501(d)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''reduce losses'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''reduce—

''(A) losses caused by feed or water shortages (including transportation costs that are necessary to reduce losses), disease, adverse weather, drought, or other factors, as determined by the Secretary, including inspections of cattle tick fever; and

''(B) winter stockpile grazing losses.''.

SEC. 1303. TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or biennial'' after ''annual''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''or pest'' after ''insect''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) TIMING REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower shall agree, as a condition on receipt of assistance under this subsection, to carry out any replacement and rehabilitation activities for which the assistance is provided not later than—

''(A) 2 years after the application for the assistance is approved; or

''(B) if the period described in subparagraph (A) is not adequate for tree survival, such period as is necessary to ensure tree survival.

''(7) ALTERNATIVES USED IN REPLANTING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower that receives assistance under this subsection with respect to tree loss may use the assistance to replant using—

''(i) an alternative variety from the variety used prior to the loss;

''(ii) an alternative stand density from the stand density used prior to the loss; and

''(iii) an alternative location from the location used prior to the loss.

"(B) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ALTERNATIVES.—Assistance provided for replanting under subparagraph (A) may not exceed—

"(i) for a use described in subparagraph (A)(i), the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower replanted using the variety lost;

"(ii) for a use described in subparagraph (A)(ii), the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower replanted using the stand density lost; and

"(iii) for a use described in subparagraph (A)(iii), the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower replanted in the location in which the loss occurred.

"(8) NOTICE OF APPLICATION STATUS.—Not later than 120 days after receiving an application

for assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

"(A) approve or deny such application; and

"(B) notify the applicant of the approval or denial.

"(9) INITIAL PAYMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower may opt to receive an initial assistance payment with respect to losses described in paragraph (2) before incurring the costs described in paragraph (3) relating to such losses.

"(B) AMOUNT.—An initial assistance payment under subparagraph (A) shall be in an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the estimated costs described in paragraph (3) that the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower is likely to incur with respect to losses described in paragraph (2), as determined by the Secretary.

"(C) SUBSEQUENT PAYMENT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower that opts to receive an initial payment under subparagraph (A) with respect to

losses described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after providing such initial payment, provide a subsequent payment to the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower in an amount equal to—

"(I) the payment amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would have received with respect to such losses under paragraph (3) or pursuant to paragraph (5); minus

"(II) the initial payment amount provided to such eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower under subparagraph (B) with respect to such losses.

"(ii) OVERPAYMENT.—If an initial payment under subparagraph (B) with respect to losses described in paragraph (2) is greater than the amount an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would have received under paragraph (3) or pursuant to paragraph (5) for such losses, such eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower shall repay the Secretary the excess amount.

''(D) SUNSET.—The authority to make payments under this paragraph shall terminate on September 30, 2035.''.

SEC. 1304. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 is amended by inserting after section 196 (7 U.S.C. 7333) the following:

''SEC. 197. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of additional funds made available after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a framework to provide direct assistance to producers of specialty crops the production of which is impacted by an adverse event (including an economic crisis or market disruption), as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with this section.

''(b) PAYMENT CALCULATION.—In determining a payment calculation for purposes of direct assistance to a producer of specialty crops under subsection (a), the Secretary shall calculate payments based on—

''(1) the producer's sales of specialty crops for a calendar year that precedes the year in which the adverse event described in such subsection occurred or the average of such sales over a set of consecutive

calendar years that precedes the year in which such adverse event occurred, as determined by the Secretary; multiplied by

''(2) a payment factor the Secretary determines, subject to the availability of funds, to address losses of such specialty crops from such adverse event.

''(c) SPECIAL RULES.—Subject to subsection (d), in providing direct assistance pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall consider—

''(1) the higher value of specialty crops relative to other crops;

''(2) the greater input costs required to grow specialty crops relative to other crops; and

''(3) diverse types of legal entities and business structures used by specialty crop producers.

''(d) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the total amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity (except a qualified pass-through entity) (as such terms are defined in section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a))) for any crop year

under this section may not exceed the amount specified in subsection (b) of section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308), as adjusted pursuant to subsection (i) of such section.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a person or legal entity with an average gross income (as calculated under subparagraph (B) of section 1001D(b)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)(4))) for which greater than or equal to 75 percent of the average derives from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities (as defined in subparagraph (A) of that section)—

''(i) subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not apply; and

''(ii) the total maximum amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by such person or legal entity for any crop year under this section shall be set by the Secretary, except such amount may not be less than $900,000.

''(2) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS; ELIGIBILITY; DENIALS.—Sections 1001A(a), 1001B, and 1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C.

1308–1(a); 1308–2; 1308–3) shall apply to a producer of a specialty crop under this section in the same manner as such sections apply to a person or legal entity with respect to a covered commodity, except to the extent such sections relate to the application of subsections (b) through (d) of section 1001A of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1308–1).

''(e) DEFINITION OF SPECIALTY CROP.—In this section, the term 'specialty crop' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465).''.

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

(1) in paragraph (2)(E), by inserting ''or section 197 of that Act'' before the period at the end; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A)(i)(II), by inserting ''or section 197 of that Act'' before the semicolon.

SEC. 1305. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1502. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of additional funds made available after the date of the enactment of this section for covered losses, the Secretary may make assistance for such losses available in the form of block grants to States.

"(b) COVERED LOSSES.—In this section, the term 'covered losses' means losses—

"(1) of revenue, quality, or production of crops, trees, bushes, vines, poultry, or livestock as a consequence of a natural disaster (as determined by the Secretary); and

"(2) for which assistance is not available pursuant to any other Federal law.".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79; 128 Stat. 650) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1501 the following:

"1502. Assistance in the form of block grants.".

Subtitle D—Administration

SEC. 1401. REGULATIONS.

Section 1601(c)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9091(c)(2)) is amended by striking "and section 10109 of that Act" and inserting "section 10109 of that Act, and title I of the Agricultural Act of 2026 and the amendments made by that title".

SEC. 1402. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 1001E(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–4(c)) is amended by striking ''Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency''.

SEC. 1403. IMPLEMENTATION.

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

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''pursuant 2 U.S.C. 901(a)'' and inserting ''pursuant to section 251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a))''; and

(ii) by striking ''subtitle B'' the first place it appears and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''a covered provision of law.'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''of subtitles B or C''; and

(ii) by striking ''under subtitles B or C'' and inserting ''under the repayment provisions''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW.—The term 'covered provision of law' means—

"(i) subtitle B or C or the amendments made by subtitle B or C;

"(ii) the amendments made by subtitle B or C of title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4509), except with respect to the assistance provided under sections 1207(c) and 1208; and

"(iii) section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).

"(B) REPAYMENT PROVISIONS.—The term 'repayment provisions' means the repayment requirements under—

"(i) subtitle B or C; or

"(ii) section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).";

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "Agri-

culture Improvement Act of 2018'' and inserting ''Agricultural Act of 2026'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018'' and inserting ''Agricultural Act of 2026''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (ii) through (viii) as clauses (x) through (xvi), respectively; and

(II) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) Title I of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328; 136 Stat. 5201).

''(iii) Title I of division B of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 117–43; 135 Stat. 356).

''(iv) Chapter 1 of subtitle B of title VII of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2105).

"(v) Title I of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136; 134 Stat. 505).

"(vi) Section 791 of division B of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94; 133 Stat. 2658).

"(vii) Title I of the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–20; 133 Stat. 871).

"(viii) Title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490).

"(ix) Title I of the Further Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–123; 132 Stat. 65)."; and

(3) in subsection (f), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

Subtitle A—Conservation Reserve Program

SEC. 2101. CONSERVATION RESERVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1231(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(a)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Section 1231(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018'' and inserting ''the Agricultural Act of 2026'';

(2) in paragraph (5)(E), by adding ''or'' at the end;

(3) in paragraph (6)(B)(ii), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a period; and

(4) by striking paragraph (7).

(c) ENROLLMENT.—Section 1231(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''during—'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all that follows through the period at the end of subparagraph (E) and inserting ''during fiscal years 2027 through 2031 not more than 27,000,000 acres.'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) in carrying out clause (i), to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall maintain not fewer than 2,000,000 acres in the conservation reserve at any one time during fiscal years 2027 through 2031; and

''(iii) the Secretary shall not maintain in the conservation reserve more than 12,000,000 acres of land described in subsection (b)(3).''; and

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

(i) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(IV) land that will be enrolled under the State acres for wildlife enhancement practice established by the Secretary; and''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''2023; and'' and inserting ''2031.'';

(ii) by striking clause (ii); and

(iii) by striking ''paragraph (1)—'' in the matter preceding clause (i) and all that follows through ''the Secretary'' in clause (i) and inserting ''paragraph (1), the Secretary''.

(d) ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION.—Section 1231(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) LAND WITH GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE.—On the expiration of a contract entered into under this subchapter that covers land that includes grazing infrastructure established with cost sharing assistance under section 1234(b)(1)(B)—

''(A) the Secretary shall consider that land to be planted for purposes of subsection (b)(1)(B); and

''(B) that land shall be eligible for reenrollment in the conservation reserve, subject to the requirements of this subchapter.''.

SEC. 2102. CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.

Section 1231A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''(other than an agreement described in subsection (e))'' after ''this subchapter'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(vi), by inserting ''or other appropriate practices, such as dryland agricultural uses and grazing,'' after ''conservation practices''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) UPDATES TO EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—

''(I) OPTION TO UPDATE.—The Secretary shall provide an option to signatories to an agreement under this subsection to update the agreement, without renegotiating other provisions of the agreement, to include new incentives made available under this subchapter beginning on January

1, 2018, such as riparian forest buffer management payments.

''(II) MATCHING FUNDS.—Requirements for matching funds described in paragraph (2)(B) shall not apply to the updates to an agreement described in subclause (I).

''(ii) DROUGHT AND WATER CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS.—In the case of an agreement covered by subparagraph (B) of subsection (c)(5) entered into before the date of enactment of that subparagraph under which the payment rate is lower than the payment rate that would be calculated for the agreement under that subparagraph, the Secretary shall modify the agreement by calculating the payment rate in accordance with that subparagraph.'';

(3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(5) DROUGHT AND WATER CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS.—

''(A) RETIREMENT OF WATER RIGHTS.—In the case of an agreement described in subsection (e) that includes a permanent retire-

ment of water rights, the payment rates for annual payments shall be equal to the irrigated acre payment rates determined by the Secretary.

''(B) DRYLAND AGRICULTURAL USES.—In the case of an agreement described in subsection (e) that permits dryland agricultural uses pursuant to paragraph (2) of that subsection, the payment rates for annual payments shall be equal to the difference between—

''(i) the irrigated acre payment rates determined by the Secretary; and

''(ii) the dryland acre payment rates determined by the Secretary.''; and

(4) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting ''subject to subsection (c)(5),'' before ''calculate''.

SEC. 2103. FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM.

Section 1231B(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831b(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''the 2008 through 2023 fiscal years'' and inserting ''each of fiscal years 2008 through 2031''.

SEC. 2104. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.

Section 1233(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3833(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by inserting ''subject to subclauses (I) and (III) of clause (i), and subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (ii), of subparagraph (B),'' before ''are subject to''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) by redesignating subclauses (I) through (VI) as subclauses (II) through (VII), respectively;

(ii) by inserting before subclause (II) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(I) emergency haying in response to a localized or regional drought, flooding, wildfire, or other emergency, on certain practices, outside the primary nesting season or during the final 2 weeks of the primary nesting season, on not more than 50 percent of contract acres, as identified in the site-specific plan, when—

''(aa) the county is designated as D2 (severe drought) or greater according to the United States Drought Monitor;

''(bb) there is at least a 40 percent loss in forage production in the county; or

''(cc) the Secretary, in coordination with the State technical committee, determines that the program can assist in the response to a natural disaster event without permanent damage to the established cover;''; and

(iii) in subclause (II) (as so redesignated), in the matter preceding item (aa), by striking ''emergency haying, emergency grazing, or other emergency use'' and inserting ''emergency grazing or other emergency use''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iv); and

(B) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) DAMAGE TO COVER FOR WILDLIFE POPULATIONS.—Haying or grazing described in paragraph (1) shall not be permitted on land subject to a contract

under the conservation reserve program, or under a particular practice, if haying or grazing during the final 2 weeks of the primary nesting season under that practice, as applicable, would cause long-term damage to vegetative cover for wildlife populations supported by the applicable practice on that land.

''(iii) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—The exceptions described in clauses (i) and (ii) shall not be subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).''.

SEC. 2105. PAYMENTS.

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

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''establishing water'' and inserting the following: ''establishing—

''(A) water'';

(B) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) grazing infrastructure and water infrastructure under each contract, for all practices, if grazing is included in the conservation plan and addresses a resource concern.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) MANAGEMENT PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall make cost sharing payments to an owner or operator under this subchapter for any management activity described in section 1232(a)(5), except for those management activities relating to haying or grazing.''.

(b) ANNUAL RENTAL PAYMENTS.—Section 1234(d)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(d)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking ''the Secretary shall consider—'' and inserting the following: ''the Secretary—

''(A) shall determine for a tract of land a rental rate based on the 3 predominant soils of cropland on that tract, and apply that rental

rate to any land within that tract that is enrolled in the conservation reserve under this subchapter;

''(B) subject to subparagraph (A), shall consider—'';

(3) in subparagraph (B)(iii) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) notwithstanding clauses (i) through (iii) of subparagraph (B), shall not apply an adjustment based on the rate of inflation to any payment, overall rental payment, or other payment that an owner or operator receives under this subchapter.''.

(c) PAYMENT LIMITATION FOR RENTAL PAYMENTS.—Section 1234(g)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(g)(1)) is amended by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$125,000''.

Subtitle B—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

SEC. 2201. DEFINITIONS.

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

(1) in paragraph (6)(B)(v), by inserting ''(including planning for the adoption of precision agriculture practices and precision agriculture technology)'' after ''planning'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (10) as paragraphs (9) through (12), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term 'precision agriculture' means managing, tracking, or reducing crop or livestock production inputs, including seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time, at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity and biological targeting to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality.

''(8) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'precision agriculture technology' means any technology (including targeted inputs and the equipment that is necessary for the deployment of such technology) that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or livestock production, including—

''(A) Global Positioning System-based or geospatial mapping;

''(B) satellite or aerial imagery;

''(C) yield monitors;

''(D) soil mapping;

''(E) sensors for gathering data on crop, soil, or livestock conditions;

''(F) Internet of Things and telematics technologies;

''(G) data management software and advanced analytics;

''(H) network connectivity products and solutions;

''(I) Global Positioning System guidance or auto-steer systems;

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

''(K) any other technology, as determined by the Secretary, that leads to a reduction in, or improves efficiency of, crop and livestock production inputs, which may include seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time.''.

SEC. 2202. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by striking ''shall'' and inserting ''may'';

(2) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking ''A producer shall'' and inserting the following:

''(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—A producer shall''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiving payments for practices on eligible land under the program may also receive a loan or loan guarantee under section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) to cover costs for the same practices on the same land.

''(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCERS.—The Secretary shall inform a producer participating in the program in writing of the availability of a loan or loan guarantee under section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) as it relates to the costs of implementing practices under the program.'';

(3) in paragraph (7), in the paragraph heading, by inserting ''STATE-DETERMINED'' before ''HIGH-PRIORITY''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) WAIVER OF IRRIGATION HISTORY REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) REQUESTS.—The Secretary shall provide an opportunity for a State technical committee established under section 1261(a) to submit to the Secretary a request to waive a requirement established by the Secretary that, to be eligible for a payment under the program, there shall be a history of irrigation on the applicable land.

''(B) COVERED LAND.—A request submitted under subparagraph (A) may cover—

''(i) all of the land in a State; or

''(ii) 1 or more regions in the State, as described in the request.

''(C) REQUIREMENT OF NO ADVERSE IMPACT.—The Secretary may approve a request submitted under subparagraph (A) if the State technical committee demonstrates that the waiver would not create an adverse impact to

aquifer depletion or surface streams experiencing decreased flow.

''(D) EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENT.—In the case of a contract entered into under the program that includes a payment pursuant to a waiver under this paragraph, the contract shall require the implementation of irrigation equipment and an irrigation water management conservation plan that is as efficient on water resources as practicable.

''(9) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide payments under the program for costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land that is—

''(i) enrolled in the conservation reserve program under section 1231(d)(2)(A); and

''(ii) of ecological significance, as described in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

"(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not be eligible for payments under subparagraph (A) for a practice if the producer receives payments or other benefits for the same practice on the same land under this title.

"(C) EMERGENCY GRAZING AND HAYING ACCESS PRESERVED.—No priority resource concern, practice, or incentive relating to restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors on eligible land described in subparagraph (A) shall prevent or alter emergency grazing and haying access for that land under the conservation reserve program.".

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1240B(f)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(f)(1)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(c) WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—Section 1240B(g) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) practices enrolled under Working Lands for Wildlife initiatives; and''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking ''For the purpose'' and inserting the following:

''(A) SEASONAL WETLAND HABITAT FOR WATERFOWL AND MIGRATORY BIRDS.—For the purpose''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) FORESTED HABITAT FOR UPLAND BIRDS.—For the purposes of providing forested habitat for upland birds, a practice that is eligible for payment under paragraph (1) and targeted for funding under subsection (f) may include a practice to establish native vegetation beneficial to upland wildlife, including soft-mast tree and shrub species and other vegetation

found in early successional habitats, on eligible forest land.''.

(d) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY PRACTICE.—Section 1240B(h)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(h)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

''(C) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—With respect to contracts entered into under this paragraph during the period of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, payments to an entity, directly or indirectly, may not exceed, in aggregate, $2,000,000.''.

(e) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS FOR PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section 1240B(i)(3)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(3)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)(II), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) during the period of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, $140,000.''.

(f) REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall not require as a term or condition of any contract or implementation of a practice for payment under the program—

''(1) soil testing, unless the practice standard for the practice requires soil testing; or

''(2) a whole-farm assessment, whole farm plan, or other conservation assessment or conservation plan beyond what is required to implement the practice.''.

SEC. 2203. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.

Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is amended—

(1) by striking ''2018, or'' and inserting ''2018,''; and

(2) by inserting ''or the period of fiscal years 2027 through 2031,'' after ''2023,''.

SEC. 2204. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAYMENTS.

(a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION APPROACHES.—Section 1240H(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''pay the cost of'' and inserting ''award'';

(2) by inserting ''the development and evaluation of new and'' before ''innovative approaches''; and

(3) by inserting '', including for the purpose of incorporating innovation and new technologies into existing conservation practice standards or establishing new conservation practice standards'' before the period at the end.

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

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by striking ''practices'' and inserting ''practices, including both management and structural practices,''; and

(B) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) evaluation data for new and emerging technology and recommendations for State and regional applications; and''; and

(4) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated), by striking ''practices.'' and inserting ''practices for consideration through the process established under section 1242(h)(3).''.

Subtitle C—Conservation Stewardship Program

SEC. 2301. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

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

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and except as provided in paragraph (3),'' after ''paragraph (2),''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide payments under the program for costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land that is—

"(i) enrolled in the conservation reserve program under section 1231(d)(2)(A); and

"(ii) of ecological significance, as described in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

"(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not be eligible for payments under subparagraph (A) for a conservation activity if the producer receives payments or other benefits for the same conservation activity on the same land under this title.

"(C) EMERGENCY GRAZING AND HAYING ACCESS PRESERVED.—No priority resource concern, practice, or incentive relating to restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors on the eligible land described in subparagraph (A) shall prevent or alter emergency grazing and haying access for that land under the conservation reserve program.".

SEC. 2302. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.

Section 1240L(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

Subtitle D—Funding and Administration

SEC. 2401. FUNDING.

Section 1241(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) $100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to provide cost sharing payments under section 1234(b)(1)(B) for acreage not enrolled under section 1231(d)(2).'';

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking clauses (i) through (vi) and inserting the following:

''(i) $2,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(ii) $2,600,000 for fiscal year 2028;

''(iii) $2,700,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

''(iv) $2,900,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

''(v) $3,255,000,000 for fiscal year 2031; and''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking clauses (i) through (vi) and inserting the following:

''(i) $1,275,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(ii) $1,300,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

''(iii) $1,325,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

''(iv) $1,325,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

''(v) $1,325,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) The Forest Conservation Easement Program under subtitle I, using, to the maximum extent practicable—

''(A) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(B) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

''(C) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

"(D) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

"(E) $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.".

SEC. 2402. CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS.

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

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) a schedule for the revision of existing, and establishment of new, conservation practice standards under section 1242(h).".

SEC. 2403. ESTABLISHMENT AND REVIEW OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS.

Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting "ESTABLISHMENT AND" before "REVIEW";

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agri-

culture Improvement Act of 2018'' and inserting ''not less frequently than once every 5 years'';

(ii) by inserting ''on a rolling basis,'' after ''standard,''; and

(iii) by striking ''that Act'' and inserting ''the Agricultural Act of 2026'';

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''ensures equivalent natural resource benefits.'' and inserting ''integrates new and innovative technologies that provide equivalent or improved natural resources benefits compared to the current conservation practice standard;''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) provide an opportunity for public input on each conservation practice standard under review;

''(F) publicly post a summary of comments received under subparagraph (E) and decisions made or not made due to those comments; and

''(G) publish each revised conservation practice standard.'';

(3) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Secretary shall—

''(i) develop, for the programs under this title, a streamlined, publicly accessible, administrative process for establishing, including proposing, reviewing, and adopting, interim conservation practice standards and conservation practice standards; and

''(ii) publish a detailed description of the process developed under clause (i), including—

''(I) specific thresholds appropriate for expedited review; and

''(II) an associated timeline for the implementation of the review.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Under the process established under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

''(i) consider conservation innovations and scientific and technological advance-

ments, including from projects developed under section 1240H;

''(ii) allow State and local flexibility in the creation of—

''(I) interim conservation practice standards and supplements to existing conservation practice standards to address the considerations described in clause (i); and

''(II) partnership-led proposals for new and innovative techniques to facilitate implementing agreements and grants under this title;

''(iii) solicit regular input from State technical committees established under section 1261(a) for recommendations that identify innovations or advancements described in clause (i); and

''(iv) allow for public submission of conservation practices for consideration as interim conservation practice standards.

''(C) INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize the review of conservation practice standards and interim conservation practice standards under the

process established under subparagraph (A) for the purpose of integrating innovative technologies, including—

"(i) precision agriculture technologies;

"(ii) biological sources of fertilizer, nutrient use efficiency technologies, and other tools, as determined by the Secretary, that reduce nutrient loss;

"(iii) animal feed additives;

"(iv) perennial production systems, including agroforestry and perennial forages and grain crops; and

"(v) any other innovative technology, as determined by the Secretary.

"(D) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—Under the process established under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall make publicly available information describing—

"(i) what constitutes—

"(I) a conservation practice standard; and

"(II) an interim conservation practice standard;

"(ii) the process by which the public can submit to the Secretary conservation

practices for consideration as interim conservation practice standards, including a template and written instructions for how to submit a conservation practice for consideration;

''(iii) the data, metrics, third-party or scientific information, and other relevant information that the Secretary needs to consider in the establishment of interim conservation practice standards;

''(iv) the process by which an interim conservation practice standard becomes a conservation practice standard;

''(v) the means by which the public can engage State technical committees established under section 1261(a) to consider interim conservation practice standards already in effect in other States; and

''(vi) such other information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.''; and

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018'' and inserting ''Agricultural Act of 2026''; and

(ii) by striking ''Congress a report on—'' and inserting ''Congress and make publicly available on a website of the Department of Agriculture a report describing—'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''a detailed description of'' before ''the administrative'';

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''or revised''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) such other information as the Secretary determines to be appropriate with respect to improving the process for reviewing and establishing conservation practice standards.''.

SEC. 2404. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(1) APPROVED NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—The term 'approved non-Federal certifying entity' means a non-Federal entity approved by the Secretary under subsection (e)(5)(C)(ii) to perform certifications of third-party providers under this section.'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''science-based, site-specific practices designed'' and inserting ''timely, science-based, and site-specific practice design and implementation assistance'';

(3) in subsection (d), by inserting ''(including private sector entities)'' after ''non-Federal entities'';

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008'' and inserting ''Agricultural Act of 2026'';

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''ensure'' and all that follows through ''engineering,'' and inserting ''ensure that third-party providers with expertise in the technical aspects

of conservation planning, watershed planning, environmental engineering, conservation practice design, implementation, and evaluation, or other technical skills, as determined by the Secretary,''; and

(C) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and inserting the following:

''(4) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall certify a third-party provider through—

''(A) a certification process administered by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

''(B) a non-Federal entity (other than a State agency) approved by the Secretary to perform the certification; or

''(C) a State agency with statutory authority to certify, administer, or license professionals in one or more fields of natural resources, agriculture, or engineering approved by the Secretary to perform the certification.

''(5) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY PROCESS.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Secretary shall es-

tablish a process for the certification of third-party providers through approved non-Federal certifying entities, with the goal of increasing third-party provider capacity, including the certification of qualified agricultural retailers, cooperatives, professional societies, service providers, and organizations described in section 1265A(4)(B)(i).

''(B) ELIGIBILITY OF NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—In determining the eligibility of an entity described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (4) (referred to in this paragraph as a 'non-Federal entity') to perform certifications, the Secretary shall consider—

''(i) the ability of the non-Federal entity to assess qualifications of a third-party provider and certify third-party providers at scale;

''(ii) the experience of the non-Federal entity in working with third-party providers and eligible participants;

''(iii) the expertise of the non-Federal entity in the technical and science-based aspects of conservation delivery described in paragraph (3)(A);

''(iv) the history of the non-Federal entity in working with agricultural producers; and

''(v) such other qualifications as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(C) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 business days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application submitted by a non-Federal entity to perform certifications of third-party providers under this section, the Secretary shall—

''(i) determine if the non-Federal entity meets the eligibility requirements established under subparagraph (B); and

''(ii) if the Secretary makes a positive determination under clause (i), approve the non-Federal entity to perform certifications of third-party providers under this section.

''(D) TIMELY DECISIONS.—Not later than 10 business days after the date on which the Secretary receives a notification submitted by a third-party provider that the third-party provider has been certified by an approved non-Federal certifying entity to provide technical as-

sistance for specified practices and conservation activities, the Secretary shall—

''(i) review the certification; and

''(ii) if the certification is satisfactory to the Secretary, include the name of the third-party provider on the registry of certified third-party providers maintained by the Secretary.

''(E) DUTIES OF APPROVED NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITIES.—An approved non-Federal certifying entity shall—

''(i) assess the ability of a third-party provider to appropriately provide technical assistance to eligible participants for specified practices and conservation activities; and

''(ii) provide to third-party providers certified by the approved non-Federal certifying entity—

''(I) training to ensure that the third-party providers are qualified to provide the technical assistance described in clause (i); and

''(II) continuing education, as appropriate, to ensure that the third-

party providers are educated in the most recent technical- and science-based aspects of conservation delivery.

''(6) STREAMLINED CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Secretary shall provide a streamlined certification process for a third-party provider that has an appropriate specialty certification, including a certified crop advisor certified by the American Society of Agronomy, a professional engineer, or a holder of a technical certification approved by the Secretary.''; and

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, and additionally thereafter at the discretion of the Secretary, the Secretary shall—

''(A) review certification requirements for third-party providers;

''(B) make any adjustments considered necessary by the Secretary to improve participation and the quality and effectiveness of conservation practices implemented and adopted

with support from technical service providers; and

''(C) conduct outreach to and receive input from third-party providers, both that currently participate in the program under this section and those that no longer participate in the program, and entities, organizations, and associations providing or supporting consultative services to agriculture, livestock, and forest producers to assess barriers and opportunities for the use of third-party provider assistance for improved conservation program delivery.'';

(B) in paragraph (4)(A)(i), by inserting ''maintenance,'' after ''outreach,''; and

(C) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish fair and reasonable amounts of payments for technical services provided by third-party providers at rates equivalent to, but that do not exceed, technical assistance provided by the Secretary.

''(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining fair and reasonable payment amounts under

subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider specialized equipment, frequency of site visits, training, travel and transportation, and such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(C) EXCLUSION.—A payment provided under another Federal program directly to an eligible participant for technical assistance provided by a third-party provider certified under this section shall be—

''(i) excluded from cost-sharing requirements under the program under which the payment was provided; and

''(ii) equal to not more than 100 percent of the fair and reasonable payment amount for the applicable technical assistance determined under subparagraph (B).

''(6) TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of establishment of the processes under paragraphs (5)(A) and (6) of subsection (e), and routinely thereafter, the Secretary shall provide accessible public information on—

''(A) funds obligated to third-party providers through—

''(i) contracts entered into under this subtitle; and

''(ii) agreements with public and private sector entities to secure third-party technical assistance;

''(B) certification results, including—

''(i) the number of third-party providers certified by the Secretary;

''(ii) the number of approved non-Federal certifying entities;

''(iii) the number of third-party providers certified through approved non-Federal certifying entities; and

''(iv) the number of third-party providers certified based on State agency or professional association credentialing; and

''(C) to the maximum extent practicable, the estimated number of staff hours or full-time equivalents saved through work accomplished by third-party providers.''.

SEC. 2405. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

Section 1244(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not enroll more than 25 percent of the cropland in any county in the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D and wetland reserve easements under section 1265C.'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph (1)(A)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end and inserting ''or'';

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking ''paragraph (1)(A)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)''; and

(4) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking ''classes IV'' and inserting ''classes III''.

SEC. 2406. TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) INTERIM ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary shall use the applicable regulations in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, to the extent that the terms and conditions of those regulations are consistent with the amendments

made by this title, to carry out the programs under laws as amended by this title, including—

(1) the conservation reserve program under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.) (as amended by subtitle A);

(2) the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.) (as amended by subtitle B);

(3) the conservation stewardship program under subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21 et seq.) (as amended by subtitle C); and

(4) the agricultural conservation easement program established under subtitle H of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.) (as amended by subtitle E).

(b) REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding section 1271E(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e(e)), and subject to subsection (d), for fiscal year 2027, the Secretary may use an availability of program funding announcement consistent with the amendments made by subtitle F to carry out the regional conservation partnership program under

subtitle I of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871 et seq.) without issuing a regulation.

(c) FUNDING.—The Secretary may only use funds authorized to be made available by this title or the amendments made by this title for the specific programs described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a) and subsection (b), in accordance with any restrictions on the use of those funds, for the purposes described in subsections (a) and (b).

(d) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out subsections (a) and (b) shall terminate 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) PERMANENT ADMINISTRATION.—Effective beginning on the termination date described in subsection (d), the Secretary shall carry out this title and the amendments made by this title in accordance with such final regulations as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out this title and the amendments made by this title.

Subtitle E—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

SEC. 2501. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1265A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by striking ''an eligible entity'' the first place it appears and inserting ''one or more eligible entities''; and

(II) by striking ''an eligible entity owns or is'' and inserting ''one or more of those eligible entities own or are'';

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''the eligible entity certifies to the Secretary that the'' and inserting ''each eligible entity certifies to the Secretary that an'';

(II) in subclause (I)—

(aa) by striking the subclause designation and all that follows through ''hold'' in item (bb) and inserting the following:

''(I) hold'';

(bb) by striking ''transfer ownership of the land'' and in-

serting ''ownership of the land will be transferred''; and

(cc) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(III) in subclause (II), by inserting ''that owns the land subject to the agricultural land easement held by another eligible entity'' after ''eligible entity''; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) at no time hold both an agricultural land easement and ownership of the land subject to that agricultural land easement; and''; and

(iii) in clause (iii), by striking ''by the eligible entity'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''by one or more eligible entities if such an eligible entity fails to transfer ownership under clause (ii).''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''(A)(ii)(I)(bb)'' and inserting ''(A)(ii)(I)''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A)(i)(I), by inserting '', including a transaction in which the land is owned by

an eligible entity but ownership of the land will be transferred to a farmer or rancher that is not an eligible entity prior to or on acquisition of the agricultural land easement'' after ''eligible entity''.

SEC. 2502. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.

Section 1265B(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''50 percent'' and inserting ''60 percent, except as provided in subparagraph (B)(ii)(I),'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''the eligible entity shall provide a share that is at least equivalent to that provided by the Secretary'' and inserting ''the eligible entity shall provide a non-Federal share that is equivalent to the remainder of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement not provided by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).''; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking ''Secretary, the Secretary'' and inserting the following: ''Secretary—

''(I) the Secretary'';

(II) in subclause (I) (as so designated)—

(aa) by striking ''75 percent'' and inserting ''80 percent''; and

(bb) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(II) the eligible entity shall provide a non-Federal share that is equivalent to the remainder of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement not provided by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) LOWER COST-SHARE OPTION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4)(C)(iii), an eligible entity may elect to enter into an agreement under

paragraph (4) in which the terms and conditions of the agricultural land easement funded under the agreement do not include a right of enforcement for the Secretary if the eligible entity agrees to a Federal share that does not exceed 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), an eligible entity shall be authorized to use its own terms and conditions for agricultural land easements so long as the Secretary determines such terms and conditions—

''(I) are consistent with the purposes of the program; and

''(II) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of such easements.

''(iii) ENTITY ENFORCEMENT.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), the Secretary shall require the terms and conditions for the agricultural land easement

to include a right of enforcement for the eligible entity.

''(iv) CASH CONTRIBUTION.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), the eligible entity shall provide cash resources in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

''(A) CERTIFICATION PURPOSE.—The purpose of the certification of eligible entities under this paragraph is—

''(i) to minimize administrative burdens on the Secretary; and

''(ii) to recognize the ability of experienced eligible entities to carry out the purposes of the program with minimal oversight by the Secretary.

''(B) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall establish a process under which the Secretary—

"(i) directly certifies eligible entities that meet established criteria described in subparagraph (C) or (D);

"(ii) enters into long-term agreements with certified eligible entities;

"(iii) accepts proposals for cost-share assistance for the purchase of agricultural land easements throughout the duration of such agreements;

"(iv) allows a certified eligible entity to use its own terms and conditions, notwithstanding paragraph (4)(C), as long as the terms and conditions are consistent with the purposes of the program;

"(v) may allow a certified eligible entity to include the minimum deed terms established by the Secretary under paragraph (4)(C); and

"(vi) may allow a certified eligible entity to assist a non-certified eligible entity in the purchase and stewardship of an agricultural land easement.

"(C) CERTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be certified through the process established under subparagraph (B), an

eligible entity shall demonstrate to the Secretary that the eligible entity—

"(i) will maintain, at a minimum, for the duration of the agreement and the duration of each agricultural land easement acquired under the agreement—

"(I) a plan for administering agricultural land easements that is consistent with the purpose of the program;

"(II) the capacity and resources to monitor and enforce agricultural land easements consistent with the purposes of the program; and

"(III) policies and procedures to ensure—

"(aa) the long-term integrity of agricultural land easements on eligible land consistent with the purposes of the program;

"(bb) timely completion of acquisitions of such agricultural land easements;

"(cc) timely and complete evaluation and reporting to the

Secretary on the use of funds provided under the program; and

''(dd) compliance with program requirements, including timely notification to the Secretary required under the program, such as notifications of de minimis adjustments in accordance with section 1265D(c)(6)(B); and

''(ii) has—

''(I) acquired not fewer than 10 agricultural land easements under the program or any predecessor program; and

''(II) successfully met the responsibilities of the eligible entity under the applicable agreements with the Secretary, as determined by the Secretary, relating to agricultural land easements that the eligible entity has acquired under the program or any predecessor program.

''(D) EXPEDITED CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC ENTITIES AND ACCREDITED LAND

TRUSTS.—The Secretary may certify an eligible entity using an expedited certification process under subparagraph (B) if the eligible entity demonstrates that it—

''(i) is—

''(I) accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, or by an equivalent accrediting body, as determined by the Secretary; or

''(II) a public agency with statutory authority for farm and ranchland protection;

''(ii) has acquired not fewer than 5 agricultural land easements under the program or any predecessor program;

''(iii) has successfully met the responsibilities of the eligible entity under the applicable agreements with the Secretary, as determined by the Secretary, relating to agricultural land easements that the eligible entity has acquired under the program or any predecessor program; and

''(iv) meets the requirements of subparagraph (C)(i).

"(E) APPLICABILITY TO REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—The certification of an eligible entity under this paragraph, and the authorities under this paragraph resulting from that certification, shall apply to the establishment by the eligible entity of easements under the regional conservation partnership program under subtitle I.

"(F) REVIEW; REVOCATION.—

"(i) REVIEW.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a review of eligible entities certified under subparagraph (B) every 3 years to ensure that such entities are meeting the criteria established under subparagraphs (C) and (D).

"(II) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—Each review under subclause (I) shall include a review of any de minimis adjustments made by each certified eligible entity under section 1265D(c)(6)(B), including a review of whether timely notification of each de minimis adjustment was made to the

Secretary in accordance with clause (iii)(I) of that section.

''(ii) REVOCATION.—If the Secretary finds that a certified eligible entity no longer meets the criteria established under subparagraph (C) or (D), as applicable, the Secretary may—

''(I) allow the certified eligible entity a specified period of time, at a minimum 180 days, in which to take such actions as may be necessary to meet the criteria; and

''(II) revoke the certification of the eligible entity, if, after the specified period of time, the certified eligible entity does not meet such criteria.''.

SEC. 2503. WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS.

Section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(C), by striking ''; or'' and inserting ''; and'';

(2) by striking ''subsection (f)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (g)'';

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting ''technical and'' before ''financial'';

(4) by redesignating subsections (e) through (g) as subsections (f) through (h), respectively; and

(5) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts made available to carry out the program, the Secretary shall, with respect to eligible land enrolled under this section—

''(A) regularly assess and monitor the enrolled land;

''(B) provide technical and financial assistance for the repair, necessary maintenance, and enhancement activities described in the wetland reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land under subsection (g)(1); and

''(C) create and execute a 5-year stewardship plan for assessment, capacity, and performance, ensuring the monitoring, repair, maintenance, and enhancement activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) are completed to ensure wetland reserve easements fulfill the purposes of—

''(i) the program; and

''(ii) the wetland reserve easement plans described in subparagraph (B).

''(2) PAYMENTS.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall make payments in amounts that are not more than 100 percent of the eligible costs, as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2028, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing—

''(A) an inventory of the existing stewardship needs of all wetland reserve easements;

''(B) a plan to address the stewardship needs described in that inventory;

''(C) the amounts the Secretary will allocate to address those stewardship needs; and

''(D) the planned use of compatible uses under subsection (b)(5)(C), contracts or agreements under subsection (e)(2), or wetland reserve easement plans under subsection (g)(1) to ensure that each of those stewardship needs is addressed.

''(e) ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall assist owners in complying with the terms and conditions of a wetland reserve easement.

''(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts or agreements with a Federal, State, or local government agency, nongovernmental organization, Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, or private entity to carry out necessary restoration, enhancement, maintenance, repair, assessment, or monitoring of a wetland reserve easement if the Secretary determines that the contract or agreement will advance the purposes of the program.''.

SEC. 2504. ADMINISTRATION.

Section 1265D(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865d(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may approve and make a de minimis adjustment, as determined by the Secretary and subject to conditions determined by the Secretary, to any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation,

under the program if the Secretary determines that the adjustment—

"(i) increases conservation values or has a neutral or limited negative effect on conservation values;

"(ii) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program; and

"(iii) is not a subordination, modification, exchange, or termination, as determined by the Secretary.

"(B) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS BY CERTIFIED ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may authorize an eligible entity certified under section 1265B(b)(5) that has demonstrated the ability to make easement management decisions consistent with the purposes of the program to approve and make de minimis adjustments described in clause (ii) to any interest in eligible land held by the certified eligible entity if the certified eligible entity determines that the adjustment—

''(I) increases conservation values or has a neutral or limited negative effect on conservation values;

''(II) is consistent with the program purposes for which the interest was originally acquired and furthers the practical administration of the program;

''(III) is not made to resolve a violation or a potential violation; and

''(IV) is not made with respect to an easement that is co-held by the United States.

''(ii) TYPES OF DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—The de minimis adjustments referred to in clause (i) are limited to—

''(I) title corrections;

''(II) corrections of typographical errors;

''(III) changes in legal descriptions as a result of minor survey or mapping errors;

''(IV) changes to the boundary of one or more building envelopes that do not result in an increase in the

total number of building envelopes or that will result in an increase in the total area of the original building envelope boundary; and

''(V) relocation of easement access.

''(iii) NOTIFICATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which a certified eligible entity records a de minimis adjustment under clause (i), the certified eligible entity shall provide to the Secretary a notice of the de minimis adjustment and a copy of the recorded instrument.

''(II) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If an eligible entity fails to comply with subclause (I), the Secretary may—

''(aa) immediately revoke the certification of the eligible entity under section 1265B(b)(5); and

''(bb) pursue any other remedies available to the Secretary.

''(iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph requires the Secretary to determine whether each eligible entity seeking certification under section 1265B(b)(5) meets the requirements to make de minimis adjustments under this subparagraph.''.

SEC. 2505. ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATION.

(a) EXEMPTION.—Section 1265D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME EXEMPTION.—The adjusted gross income limitation described in section 1001D(b)(1) shall not apply to any payment or other assistance under this subtitle.''.

(b) CALCULATION.—Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) EXCEPTION FOR COMPENSATION UNDER ACEP.—For purposes of this subsection, the adjusted gross income of a person or legal entity that is a landowner of eligible land (as defined in section 1265A) shall not include any income received as compensation for the acquisition of an agricultural

land easement or a wetland reserve easement on that eligible land under subtitle H of title XII.''.

Subtitle F—Regional Conservation Partnership Program

SEC. 2601. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.

Section 1271(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) To address natural resource concerns on eligible land on a regional or watershed scale, including—

''(A) the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of soil;

''(B) the conservation and protection of water, including sources of drinking water and groundwater;

''(C) the prevention and mitigation of the effects of flooding and drought, and the improvement or expansion of flood resiliency; and

''(D) the conservation of wildlife, agricultural land, and related natural resources.''.

SEC. 2602. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1271A(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871a(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(K) An agricultural retailer (including an agrichemical business and a farm retail outlet or supplier).''.

SEC. 2603. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.

Section 1271B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b) is amended—

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

''(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a partnership agreement with an eligible partner to implement a project that will assist producers with installing and maintaining an eligible activity on eligible land.

''(2) STREAMLINING REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall ensure that a partnership agreement under paragraph (1)—

''(A) is entered into not later than 180 days after the date on which an application is selected under subsection (e); and

''(B) contains only the information described under subsections (c) and (d) necessary to fund and carry out the project to be implemented under the partnership agreement.'';

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

''(D) OTHER PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a contribution of an eligible partner under this paragraph may be used to satisfy matching or cost participation requirements under another Federal program (other than another Department of Agriculture program) or non-Federal program.'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4);

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) make covered program authorities, such as entity certification under section 1265B(b)(5), available in the implementation of a partnership agreement; and''; and

(D) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(4) in subsection (e)(4)(D), by inserting ''Tribal,'' after ''State,''.

SEC. 2604. ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.

(a) PAYMENTS TO CERTAIN PRODUCERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1271C(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c(c)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—On an election by a producer, the Secretary may provide an advance payment for costs related to purchasing materials or contracting associated with implementing an eligible activity.

''(B) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds provided under subparagraph (A) are not expended within 90 days, the Secretary may—

''(i) determine that the producer is in violation of the program contract; and

''(ii) require the funds to be returned within a reasonable period, as determined by the Secretary.

''(4) ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE PARTNERS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—On an election by an eligible partner, the Secretary may provide an advance payment to the eligible partner related to project implementation, as provided in the partnership agreement, including an alternative funding arrangement under subsection (d)(1).

"(B) TIMEFRAME.—If the funds provided under subparagraph (A) are not expended within the period specified in the partnership agreement, but not more than 120 days, the Secretary shall not provide any additional advance payment under that paragraph until the eligible partner demonstrates the ability to expend the funds within the applicable period.

"(C) RETURN OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may determine that an eligible partner is in violation of the partnership agreement and require the funds to be returned within a reasonable period, as determined by the Secretary, if the eligible partner—

"(i) fails to expend the funds within the applicable period; or

"(ii) otherwise fails to manage any funds in accordance with the terms of the partnership agreement.".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1241(i)(2)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(i)(2)(B)) is amended by striking ''1271C(c)(3)'' and inserting ''1271C(c)(5)''.

(b) FUNDING THROUGH ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS.—Section 1271C(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c(d)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''OR GRANT AGREEMENTS'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or grant'';

(3) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''or grant agreements''; and

(4) in paragraph (3)(A)(iii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subclause (II), by striking ''or'' at the end and inserting ''and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) agricultural equipment and processing that can help scale conservation benefits; and''.

SEC. 2605. FUNDING.

Section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f);

(2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—Of the funds made available under subsection (a), no single project shall receive a Federal share of funds greater than $15,000,000.

''(e) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide to an eligible partner a payment for indirect costs to cover administrative expenses of the eligible partner under a partnership agreement.

''(2) RATE.—The rate of a payment for indirect costs under paragraph (1) shall be—

''(A) an indirect cost rate negotiated by the Secretary and the eligible partner, which shall not exceed 15 percent; or

''(B) if the eligible partner does not have a negotiated indirect cost rate described in subparagraph (A), 10 percent.''; and

(3) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) NO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall not require an eligible partner to enter into an agreement separate from the partnership agreement to provide technical assistance to producers.

''(B) AUTHORIZATION.—An eligible partner may provide technical assistance to producers as needed to support project planning and implementation for conservation benefits.

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall limit costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to costs specific and necessary to carry out the objectives of the program.

''(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall not use amounts provided under a partnership agreement for technical assistance provided by the Secretary without providing explicit notification to the eligible partner.

''(C) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY ELIGIBLE PARTNERS.—The Federal share of the cost of technical assistance provided by an eligible partner shall be not more than 30 percent of the total cost of the project.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''pursuant to a partnership agreement'' and inserting ''and producers participating in the program''.

SEC. 2606. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.

Section 1271F of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

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

''(2) NATIVE BIG GAME SPECIES.—The term 'native big game species' means a native species of a large mammal, including a wild deer, an elk, a pronghorn, a wild sheep, and a moose.''; and

(C) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or substantially affecting'' after ''located in''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting '', including restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors, with a focus on native big game species'' after ''local level''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''In administering funds under section 1271D(d)(2), the Secretary'' and inserting ''The Secretary''.

Subtitle G—Forest Conservation Easement Program

SEC. 2701. FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subtitle I (16 U.S.C. 3871 et seq.) as subtitle J; and

(2) by inserting after subtitle H (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.) the following:

''Subtitle I—Forest Conservation Easement Program

''SEC. 1267. DEFINITIONS.

''In this subtitle:

''(1) ACREAGE OWNED BY AN INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'acreage owned by an Indian Tribe' means—

''(A) land that is held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe or individual Indian;

''(B) land the title to which is held by an Indian Tribe or individual Indian, subject to a

Federal restriction against alienation or encumbrance;

''(C) land that is subject to rights of use, occupancy, and benefit of 1 or more Indian Tribes;

''(D) land that is held in fee title by an Indian Tribe;

''(E) land that is owned by a Native corporation established under—

''(i) section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the 'Indian Reorganization Act') (25 U.S.C. 5124); or

''(ii) section 8 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1607); and

''(F) any combination of 1 or more types of land described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

''(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) an agency of State or local government or an Indian Tribe (including a land resource council established under State law); and

''(B) an organization that is—

"(i) organized for, and at all times since the formation of the organization has been operated principally for, 1 or more of the conservation purposes specified in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

"(ii) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of that Code that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; or

"(iii) described in—

"(I) paragraph (1) or (2) of section 509(a) of that Code; or

"(II) section 509(a)(3) of that Code, and is controlled by an organization described in section 509(a)(2) of that Code.

"(3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term 'eligible land' means private land or acreage owned by an Indian Tribe—

"(A) that is—

"(i) forest land; or

"(ii) being restored to forest land;

"(B) in the case of a forest land easement—

"(i) the enrollment of which would protect working forests and related conservation values by conserving land; or

"(ii) the protection of which will further a State or local policy in accordance with the purposes of the Program; and

"(C) in the case of a forest reserve easement, the enrollment of which will maintain, restore, enhance, or otherwise measurably—

"(i) increase the likelihood of recovery of a species that is listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); or

"(ii) improve the well-being of a species that—

"(I) is not listed as endangered or threatened under that section; but

"(II)(aa) is a candidate for that listing or listing as a State-listed species or a species of special concern; or

''(bb) is designated by a State wildlife action plan as a species of greatest conservation need.

''(4) FOREST LAND EASEMENT.—The term 'forest land easement' means an easement or other interest in eligible land that—

''(A) is conveyed to an eligible entity for the purpose of protecting the natural resources and forest nature of the eligible land; and

''(B) permits the landowner the right to continue working forest production and related uses, in accordance with an applicable forest management plan.

''(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term 'forest management plan' means—

''(A) a forest stewardship plan described in section 5(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a(f));

''(B) a forest plan approved by the applicable State forester or State forestry agency;

''(C) a forest plan developed under a third-party certification system determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

''(D) any other plan determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(6) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT.—The term 'forest reserve easement' means an easement or other interest in eligible land that—

''(A) is conveyed by the landowner to the Secretary for the purpose of protecting the natural resources and forest nature of the eligible land; and

''(B) permits the landowner the right to continue working forest production and related uses, in accordance with the applicable forest reserve easement plan developed under section 1267C(e)(1).

''(7) PROGRAM.—The term 'Program' means the Forest Conservation Easement Program established under section 1267A(a).

''(8) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FOREST LANDOWNER.—The term 'socially disadvantaged forest landowner' means a forest landowner who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))).

''SEC. 1267A. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program, to be known as the 'Forest Conservation Easement Program', for the conservation and restoration

of eligible land and natural resources through the acquisition of forest land easements or forest reserve easements.

''(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program are—

''(1) to protect the viability and sustainability of working forests and related conservation values of eligible land and limit the negative effects of non-forest uses;

''(2) to protect and enhance forest ecosystem and landscape functions and values;

''(3) to promote the restoration, protection, and improvement of habitats of species that are threatened, endangered, or otherwise at-risk; and

''(4) to carry out the purposes and functions of the healthy forests reserve program established under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this section).

''SEC. 1267B. FOREST LAND EASEMENTS.

''(a) AUTHORIZATION.—As part of the Program, the Secretary shall facilitate and provide funding in accordance with this section for—

''(1) the purchase by eligible entities of forest land easements on eligible land;

''(2) the development of forest management plans; and

''(3) technical assistance to implement this section.

''(b) APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive assistance under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(2) CRITERIA.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish evaluation and ranking criteria with respect to applications submitted under this subsection to maximize the benefit of Federal investments under the Program.

''(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the criteria under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall emphasize support for—

''(i) protecting working forests and related conservation values of eligible land;

''(ii) reducing fragmentation of forest land; and

''(iii) maximizing the areas protected from conversion to nonforest uses.

''(3) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applications under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to an application for the purchase of a forest land easement—

''(A) that maintains the viability of a working forest, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(B) on eligible land for which a forest management plan has been developed at the time of application.

''(4) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If eligible land proposed to be subject to a forest land easement under the Program does not have in effect a forest management plan on the date on which an application relating to the eligible land is submitted under this subsection, the landowner, in partnership with the applicable eligible entity, shall develop a forest management plan for that eligible land as a condition of acquisition of the forest land easement.

''(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary may reimburse a landowner for the cost of development of a forest management plan under subparagraph (A).

''(5) TREATMENT.—The Secretary may evaluate and rank applications submitted under this subsection by eligible entities for the purchase of forest land easements from landowners who are socially disadvantaged forest landowners separately from applications submitted for the purchase of forest land easements from other landowners.

''(c) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall protect working forests, and related conservation values of eligible land, through cost-share assistance to eligible entities for purchasing forest land easements.

''(2) AGREEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receipt of cost-share assistance under the Program, an eligible entity shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary to stipulate the terms and conditions under which the eligible entity is permitted to use the cost-share assistance.

''(B) DURATION.—An agreement under subparagraph (A) shall be for a term of not less than 3, but not more than 5, years, unless the Secretary determines that a longer term is justified.

"(C) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be authorized to use such terms and conditions as the eligible entity determines to be appropriate for a forest land easement purchased using assistance under this section, subject to the condition that the Secretary shall determine that those terms and conditions—

"(i) are consistent with—

"(I) the purposes of the Program; and

"(II) the forestry activities to be conducted on the eligible land;

"(ii) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of the forest land easement;

"(iii) include a requirement to implement a forest management plan on eligible land subject to the forest land easement, subject to the condition that the forest management plan shall not be incorporated in, or attached to, the deed for the forest land easement;

"(iv) include a limit on the impervious surfaces to be allowed that is consistent

with the forestry activities to be conducted; and

''(v) include a right of enforcement for the Secretary that—

''(I) may be used only if the terms and conditions of the forest land easement are not enforced by the eligible entity; and

''(II) does not extend to a right of inspection unless—

''(aa)(AA) the holder of the forest land easement fails to provide monitoring reports in a timely manner; or

''(BB) the Secretary has a reasonable and articulable belief that the terms and conditions of the forest land easement have been violated; and

''(bb) prior to the inspection, the Secretary notifies the eligible entity and the landowner of the inspection and provides a reasonable opportunity for the eligible

entity and the landowner to participate in the inspection.

''(D) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity may include any additional terms and conditions for a forest land easement purchased using assistance under this section that—

''(i) are intended to keep the eligible land subject to the forest land easement in active forest management, as determined by the Secretary;

''(ii) allow subsurface mineral development on the eligible land subject to the forest land easement, in accordance with applicable State law, if the Secretary determines that—

''(I) the subsurface mineral development—

''(aa) has a limited and localized impact;

''(bb) does not harm the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land;

"(cc) does not materially alter or affect the existing topography;

"(dd) complies with a subsurface mineral development plan that—

"(AA) includes a plan for the remediation of impacts to the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land; and

"(BB) is approved by the Secretary prior to the initiation of mineral development activity;

"(ee) is not accomplished by any surface mining method;

"(ff) is within the impervious surface limits of the forest land easement under subparagraph (C)(iv); and

"(gg) uses practices and technologies that minimize the duration and intensity of impacts to the forest use and conserva-

tion values of the eligible land; and

''(II) each area impacted by the subsurface mineral development is reclaimed and restored by the holder of the mineral rights at cessation of operation; and

''(iii) include other relevant activities relating to the forest land easement, as determined by the Secretary.

''(E) SUBSTITUTION OF QUALIFIED PROJECTS.—An agreement under subparagraph (A) shall allow, on mutual agreement of the parties, substitution of qualified projects that are identified at the time of the proposed substitution.

''(F) EFFECT OF VIOLATION.—If a violation of a term or condition of an agreement under subparagraph (A) occurs, the Secretary may—

''(i) terminate the agreement; and

''(ii) require the eligible entity to refund all, or any part of, the payments received by the eligible entity under the Program, with interest on the payments as de-

termined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

''(3) SCOPE.—

''(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an agreement under paragraph (2) shall provide for a Federal share of 50 percent of the fair market value of the forest land easement, as determined by the Secretary.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—An agreement under paragraph (2) may provide for a Federal share of not more than 75 percent of the fair market value of a forest land easement in the case of eligible land that is—

''(I) a forest of special environmental significance, as determined by the Secretary; or

''(II) owned by a socially disadvantaged forest landowner.

''(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement under paragraph (2), the eligible entity shall provide a non-Federal share that

is equivalent to the remainder of the fair market value of the forest land easement not provided by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) PERMISSIBLE FORMS.—The non-Federal share provided by an eligible entity under this subparagraph may comprise—

''(I) cash resources;

''(II) a charitable donation or qualified conservation contribution (as defined in section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) from the private forest landowner from whom the forest land easement will be purchased;

''(III) costs associated with securing a deed to the forest land easement, including the costs of appraisal, survey, inspection, and title; and

''(IV) other costs, as determined by the Secretary.

''(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall determine the fair market value of a forest land easement using—

''(i) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;

''(ii) an areawide market analysis or survey; or

''(iii) another industry-approved method.

''(d) METHODS OF ENROLLMENT.—On acquisition of a forest land easement by an eligible entity using assistance provided under this section, the Secretary shall enroll the eligible land subject to the forest land easement in the Program through the use of—

''(1) a permanent easement; or

''(2) an easement for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State law.

''(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, on request, to assist in compliance with the terms and conditions of a forest land easement under this section.

''SEC. 1267C. FOREST RESERVE EASEMENTS.

''(a) AUTHORIZATION.—As part of the Program, the Secretary shall provide to landowners of eligible land assistance to restore, protect, and enhance the eligible land through—

''(1) acquisition by the Secretary of forest reserve easements on eligible land;

''(2) assistance in developing forest reserve easement plans under subsection (e); and

''(3) technical assistance to implement this section.

''(b) OFFERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to grant to the Secretary a forest reserve easement under this section, a landowner of eligible land shall submit to the Secretary an offer at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish evaluation and ranking criteria with respect to offers submitted under this subsection.

''(3) PRIORITY.—In evaluating offers under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to an offer for a forest reserve easement that provides the greatest conservation benefit—

''(A) primarily, to a species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); and

''(B) secondarily, to any species that—

''(i) is not listed as endangered or threatened under that section; but

"(ii)(I) is a candidate for that listing or listing as a State-listed species or species of special concern; or

"(II) is designated by a State wildlife action plan as a species of greatest conservation need.

"(4) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary may give additional consideration to eligible land the enrollment under this section of which will—

"(A) improve biological diversity;

"(B) restore a native forest ecosystem;

"(C) conserve forest land that provides a habitat for any species described in paragraph (3);

"(D) reduce fragmentation of forest land; or

"(E) increase carbon sequestration.

"(5) TREATMENT.—The Secretary may evaluate and rank offers submitted under this subsection by landowners who are socially disadvantaged forest landowners separately from offers submitted by other landowners.

"(c) METHODS OF ENROLLMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enroll eligible land under this section—

"(A) through the use of—

"(i) permanent easements;

"(ii) 30-year easements; or

"(iii) easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State law; and

"(B) in the case of acreage owned by an Indian Tribe, through the use of—

"(i) 30-year contracts, the compensation for which shall be equivalent to the compensation for 30-year easements; or

"(ii) permanent easements.

"(2) LIMITATION.—Not more than 10 percent of amounts made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used for 30-year easements under this subsection.

"(d) EASEMENTS.—

"(1) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A forest reserve easement shall include terms and conditions that—

"(i) are consistent with the purposes of the Program and the forestry activities to be conducted on the eligible land;

"(ii) are consistent with—

''(I) the management objectives of the landowner of the eligible land; and

''(II) the implementation of the relevant forest reserve easement plan developed under subsection (e)(1);

''(iii) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of forest reserve easements;

''(iv) provide for the efficient and effective establishment or enhancement of forest ecosystem functions and values; and

''(v) include such additional provisions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate—

''(I) to carry out the Program; or

''(II) to facilitate the practical administration of the Program.

''(B) REQUESTED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A landowner of eligible land may request that a term or condition be included in a forest reserve easement, and the Secretary may include the term or condition, if the Secretary determines that the term or condition—

''(i) is consistent with—

"(I) the management objectives of the landowner; and

"(II) the implementation of the relevant forest reserve easement plan; and

"(ii) does not conflict with any term or condition included under subparagraph (A).

"(2) COMPENSATION.—

"(A) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—In the case of eligible land enrolled in a permanent easement under this section, the Secretary shall pay to the landowner of the eligible land an amount equal to the difference between, as determined by the Secretary—

"(i) the fair market value of the eligible land before enrollment in the permanent easement; and

"(ii) the fair market value of the eligible land as encumbered by the permanent easement.

"(B) OTHER.—The Secretary shall pay to the landowner of eligible land enrolled under this section in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or an easement for the maximum du-

ration allowed under applicable State law not less than 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of the compensation that would be paid under subparagraph (A) if the land were enrolled in a permanent easement under this section.

''(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall determine the fair market value of eligible land using—

''(i) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; or

''(ii) another industry-approved method.

''(e) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Eligible land enrolled in a forest reserve easement under this section shall be subject to a forest reserve easement plan, to be developed jointly by the landowner and the Secretary, that describes such activities to be carried out on the eligible land as are necessary to restore, maintain, and enhance habitat for species described in subsection (b)(3).

''(2) PRACTICES AND MEASURES.—A forest reserve easement plan under paragraph (1) may in-

clude, with respect to the eligible land subject to the plan—

"(A) vegetative management and silviculture practices;

"(B) structural practices and measures;

"(C) practices to increase carbon sequestration;

"(D) practices to improve biological diversity; and

"(E) other practices and measures, as determined by the Secretary.

"(3) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to landowners of eligible land enrolled in a forest reserve easement under this section financial assistance to carry out the activities, practices, and measures described in the forest reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land under paragraph (1).

"(B) PAYMENTS.—With respect to financial assistance under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall pay—

"(i) in the case of a forest reserve easement plan for eligible land enrolled in a permanent easement, an amount equal to

not more than 100 percent of the eligible costs described in subparagraph (C), as determined by the Secretary; and

''(ii) in the case of a forest reserve easement plan for eligible land enrolled in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or an easement for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State law, an amount equal to not less than 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of the eligible costs described in subparagraph (C), as determined by the Secretary.

''(C) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—The costs eligible for payments under this paragraph are the costs of activities, practices, and measures described in the applicable forest reserve easement plan that are associated with restoration or enhancement of the habitat conditions specified for the applicable species described in the forest reserve easement plan.

''(D) TIMING.—

''(i) DETERMINATION.—As soon as practicable after the commencement on eligible land enrolled in a forest reserve easement of an activity, practice, or measure

described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall determine whether the activity, practice, or measure is established in accordance with appropriate standards and specifications.

''(ii) PAYMENT.—A payment under this paragraph shall be made for an activity, practice, or measure only, and as soon as practicable, after the Secretary makes a positive determination under clause (i) with respect to that activity, practice, or measure.

''(E) LIMITATIONS.—A payment provided by the Secretary under this paragraph may not exceed $500,000 per easement or 30-year contract.

''(f) PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES.—

''(1) PROTECTIONS.—In the case of a landowner who enrolls eligible land in a forest reserve easement, and whose conservation activities under the forest reserve easement plan developed for that eligible land result in a net conservation benefit for a species described in subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall make available to the landowner safe harbor or similar assurances and protection under—

"(A) section 7(b)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4)); or

"(B) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)).

"(2) MEASURES.—If protection under paragraph (1) requires the taking of measures that are in addition to the measures covered by the forest reserve easement plan developed for the applicable eligible land, the cost of the additional measures, and the cost of any related permit, shall be considered to be costs eligible for payments under subsection (e)(2).

"(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to landowners of eligible land technical assistance to assist the landowners in—

"(A) developing a forest reserve easement plan under subsection (e); and

"(B) complying with the terms and conditions of a forest reserve easement, including the implementation of a forest reserve easement plan.

"(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts or agreements with a Federal, State, or local government

agency, nongovernmental organization, Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, or private entity to provide technical assistance described in paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that the contract or agreement will advance the purposes of the Program.

''(h) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

''(1) DELEGATION.—

''(A) FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.—The Secretary may delegate any of the management, monitoring, or enforcement responsibilities of the Secretary under this section to another Federal agency or a State agency that has the appropriate authority, expertise, and resources necessary to carry out the delegated responsibilities.

''(B) CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary may delegate any of the management responsibilities of the Secretary under this section to a nonprofit conservation organization, if the Secretary determines that the organization has the appropriate expertise and resources necessary to carry out the delegated responsibilities.

''(2) INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may consult with—

''(A) private forest landowners;

''(B) other Federal agencies;

''(C) State forestry agencies;

''(D) State fish and wildlife agencies;

''(E) State environmental quality agencies;

''(F) other State conservation agencies; and

''(G) nonprofit conservation organizations.

''SEC. 1267D. ADMINISTRATION.

''(a) INELIGIBLE LAND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not use amounts made available to carry out the Program for purposes of acquiring any easement on—

''(A) land owned by a Federal agency, other than land that is acreage owned by an Indian Tribe;

''(B) land owned in fee title by a State, including an agency or a subdivision of a State, or a unit of local government;

''(C) land subject to an easement or deed restriction that, as determined by the Secretary,

provides similar protection as would be provided by enrollment in the Program; or

''(D) land the enrollment in the Program of which would undermine the purposes of the Program due to onsite or offsite conditions, such as risk of hazardous substances, permitted or existing rights-of-way, infrastructure development, or adjacent land uses.

''(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not limit the eligibility of land, except in the case of land owned by a foreign entity or foreign individual from a country that is a foreign adversary described in section 791.4(a) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), for purposes of the Program based on—

''(A) acreage size;

''(B) the type of private forest landowner or the size of their ownership; or

''(C) the presence of severed mineral rights.

''(b) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION, AND TERMINATION.—

''(1) SUBORDINATION.—The Secretary may subordinate any interest in eligible land, or a portion of such an interest, administered by the Secretary

(including for the purposes of utilities and energy transmission services) directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the Program if the Secretary determines that the subordination—

''(A) increases conservation values or has a limited negative effect on conservation values;

''(B) minimally affects the acreage subject to the interest in eligible land; and

''(C) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the Program.

''(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE.—

''(A) MODIFICATION.—

''(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve a modification of any interest in land, or a portion of such an interest, administered by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the Program if the Secretary determines that the modification—

''(I) will support the viability and sustainability of working forests and the conservation values of the applicable easement;

''(II) will result in equal or increased conservation values;

"(III) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

"(IV) is consistent with the purposes of the Program; and

"(V) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the Program, including correcting errors and exercising reserved rights.

"(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an interest in land, or a portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not, except in the case of a modification that includes a change to an easement to add acreage, increase any payment to an eligible entity.

"(B) EXCHANGE.—

"(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve an exchange of any interest in land, or a portion of such an interest, administered by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the Program if the Secretary determines that—

"(I) no reasonable alternative to the exchange exists;

"(II) the effect of the exchange on the interest in land is avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable; and

"(III) the exchange—

"(aa) results in equal or increased conservation values;

"(bb) results in equal or increased economic value to the United States;

"(cc) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

"(dd) is consistent with the purposes of the Program; and

"(ee) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the Program.

"(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an interest in land, or a portion of such an interest, pursuant to this subparagraph, the Secretary may not increase any payment to an eligible entity.

"(3) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may approve a termination of any interest in eligible land, or a portion of such an interest, administered by the

Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the Program if the Secretary determines that—

"(A) termination is in the interest of the Federal Government;

"(B) the United States will be fully compensated for—

"(i) the value of the interest in the land, as determined by the Secretary;

"(ii) any costs relating to the termination; and

"(iii) any damages determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

"(C) the termination will—

"(i) address a compelling public need for which there is no practicable alternative even with avoidance and minimization; and

"(ii) further the practical administration of the Program.

"(4) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall obtain consent from the landowner and eligible entity, if applicable, for any subordination, exchange, modification, or termination of an interest in eligible land, or portion of such an interest, under this subsection.

''(5) NOTICE.—Not less than 90 days before taking any termination action described in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall provide written notice of that action to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

''(c) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—In accordance with section 2702(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2026, land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program established under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) on the day before the date of enactment of this section shall be considered to be enrolled in the Program.

''(d) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS EXCEPTIONS.—The attribution of payments limitation described in section 1001(e) and the adjusted gross income limitation described in section 1001D(b)(1) shall not apply to any payment or other assistance under the Program.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

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

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''subtitles A through I:'' and inserting ''subtitles A through J:''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (14) and inserting the following:

''(14) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).''.

(2) Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by striking ''Indian tribes'' each place it appears and inserting ''Indian Tribes''; and

(B) by striking ''Indian tribe'' each place it appears and inserting ''Indian Tribe''.

(3) Section 1231A(a)(3)(C) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a(a)(3)(C)) is amended by striking ''(as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304))''.

(4) Section 1241(e)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''subtitle I'' and inserting ''subtitle J''.

(5) Section 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)(A)(ii), by striking ''(as defined by the Secretary)''; and

(B) in subsection (d), by striking ''I.'' and inserting ''J.''.

SEC. 2702. HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.

(a) REPEAL.—Title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EASEMENTS.—The repeal made by subsection (a) shall not affect—

(A) the validity or terms of any contract, agreement, or easement entered into by the Secretary under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) before the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) any payment or technical assistance required to be made in connection with a contract, agreement, or easement described in subparagraph (A).

(2) FUNDING.—

(A) USE OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDS.—Notwithstanding the repeal made by subsection (a), any funds made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out the healthy forests reserve program established under title V

of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) for any of fiscal years 2019 through 2026 shall be made available to carry out contracts, agreements, or easements referred to in paragraph (1)(A).

(B) OTHER.—The Secretary may use funds made available to carry out the Forest Conservation Easement Program established under subtitle I of the Food Security Act of 1985 (as amended by section 2701) to continue to carry out contracts, agreements, or easements referred to in paragraph (1)(A) using the provisions of law (including regulations) in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act that are applicable to those contracts, agreements, and easements.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–148; 117 Stat. 1887) is amended by striking the items relating to title V.

(2) Section 1271A(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871a(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

''(D) The Forest Conservation Easement Program established under subtitle I.''.

Subtitle H—Other Conservation Programs

SEC. 2801. WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVENTION ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; DECLARATION OF POLICY.—The first section of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001) is amended to read as follows:

''SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; DECLARATION OF POLICY.

''(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the 'Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act'.

''(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that erosion, floodwater, drought, and sediment damages in the watersheds of the rivers and streams of the United States cause loss of life, declines in agricultural production, harm to fish, birds, wildlife, and recreation opportunities, and damage to property, thereby constituting a menace to the national welfare.

''(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Federal Government should cooperate with local organizations for the purposes of—

''(1) preventing the damages described in subsection (b);

''(2) furthering the conservation, management, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and the conservation and utilization of land; and

''(3) thereby preserving, protecting, and improving land and water resources and the quality of the environment.''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1002) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

''In this Act:

''(1) CONSERVATION OF WATER.—The term 'conservation of water' means a reduction in total annual consumptive water use, as compared to total annual consumptive water use before a work of improvement is carried out under this Act.

''(2) LOCAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'local organization' means—

''(A)(i) any State, political subdivision of a State, soil or water conservation district, flood

prevention or control district, or combination thereof; or

''(ii) any other governmental agency having authority under State law to carry out, maintain, and operate a work of improvement;

''(B) any irrigation district or reservoir company, water users' association, canal company, ditch association, acequia, or similar entity, as determined by the Secretary, with—

''(i) the capacity to engage in the planning or implementation of land treatment and related conservation measures; or

''(ii) the authority to construct and maintain structural measures; or

''(C) any Indian Tribe or Tribal organization (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) having authority under Federal, State, or Indian Tribal law to carry out, maintain, and operate a work of improvement.

''(3) MANAGEMENT OF WATER.—The term 'management of water' means any project or activity carried out to increase the efficiency of water use,

transfer, diversion, or conveyance, as compared to the efficiency of water use, transfer, diversion, or conveyance before a work of improvement is carried out under this Act.

''(4) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

''(5) WORK OF IMPROVEMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'work of improvement' means any undertaking carried out in a watershed or subwatershed area not exceeding 250,000 acres (including on Federal land necessary to accomplish the purposes of the undertaking) for—

''(i) flood prevention (including structural and land treatment measures);

''(ii) the conservation, management, development, utilization, and disposal of water; or

''(iii) the conservation and proper utilization of land.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'work of improvement' does not include any single structure that provides—

''(i) more than 12,500 acre-feet of floodwater detention capacity; and

''(ii) more than 25,000 acre-feet of total capacity.

''(C) REQUIREMENT FOR AGRICULTURE BENEFITS.—Each undertaking described in subparagraph (A) shall contain benefits directly related to agriculture, including communities in rural areas (as defined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))), that account for at least 20 percent of the total benefits of the undertaking.

''(D) CONSOLIDATED PLANNING.—1 or more subwatersheds, when the subwatersheds are components of a larger watershed, may be planned together at the discretion of the local organization sponsoring the applicable undertaking.''.

(c) ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 3 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1003) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (f);

(2) in subsection (a)(6), in the first sentence, by striking ''occupiers, individually'' and inserting

the following: ''occupiers in accordance with subsection (b).

''(b) AGREEMENTS WITH LANDOWNERS, OPERATORS, AND OCCUPIERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into agreements under subsection (a)(6) with landowners, operators, and occupiers, individually'';

(3) in subsection (b) (as so designated)—

(A) by striking ''supplemented. Applications'' and inserting the following: ''supplemented.

''(2) APPLICATIONS.—Applications'';

(B) in paragraph (2) (as so designated)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking ''such conservation plans'' and inserting ''conservation plans described in paragraph (1)''; and

(ii) by striking ''such district. In return'' and all that follows through ''interest. The portion'' and inserting the following: ''that district.

''(3) COST SHARING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may agree to share the costs of carrying out a work of improvement, or specific practices and meas-

ures described in such an agreement, if the Secretary determines that cost sharing is appropriate and in the public interest.

''(B) PORTION OF COSTS.—The portion''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B) (as so designated)—

(I) by striking ''programs. The Secretary'' and inserting the following: ''programs.

''(4) TERMINATION; MODIFICATIONS.—The Secretary'';

(C) in paragraph (4) (as so designated)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking ''hereunder, as he'' and inserting ''under this subsection, as the Secretary''; and

(ii) by striking ''herein. Notwithstanding'' and inserting the following: ''under this subsection.

''(5) PRESERVATION OR SURRENDER OF HISTORY.—Notwithstanding''; and

(D) in paragraph (5) (as so designated)—

(i) by striking ''he'' and inserting ''the Secretary'';

(ii) by striking ''paragraph'' and inserting ''subsection'';

(iii) by striking ''hereunder for (1) preservation'' and inserting the following: ''under this paragraph for—

''(A) preservation''; and

(iv) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by striking ''crop; or (2) surrender'' and inserting the following: ''crop; or

''(B) surrender''; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so designated) the following:

''(c) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITIES.—

''(1) FINAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall provide a State Conservationist final authority to approve watershed plans for works of improvement within the State.

''(2) APPROVAL OF OUTSOURCING PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary and a State Conservationist shall allow a local organization sponsoring a work of improvement to use funds made available under this Act to pay a third party approved by the State Conservationist to conduct preliminary inves-

tigations and pre-planning activities relating to the work of improvement.

''(3) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may provide additional authority to a State Conservationist not otherwise provided in this Act that the Secretary determines would support a streamlined process for the planning, design, and construction phases of a project.

''(d) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), not later than 45 days after the date on which a local organization submits to the Secretary a complete application to address a resource concern, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the application.

''(2) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary may extend the deadline described in paragraph (1) by 45 days, if necessary.

''(e) APPROVED WATERSHED PLAN REQUIRED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may not provide funds under this Act for the costs of designing or constructing a work of improvement without an approved watershed plan.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if—

''(A) the Secretary determines that the circumstances are so exigent that not providing funds is against the public interest; or

''(B) the Secretary has waived the requirement for a watershed plan under subsection (f).''.

(d) COST SHARE ASSISTANCE.—Section 3A of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1003a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting '', as determined by the Secretary,'' after ''assistance''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) TREATMENT OF OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS FOR WORKS OF IMPROVEMENT.—Any funds provided for a work of improvement through any Federal department or agency other than the Department of Agriculture shall be considered to be part of the non-Federal share of the cost of the work of improvement provided by the sponsor of the work of improvement.''.

(e) CONDITIONS FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 4(2) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1004(2)) is amended by inserting ''management,'' after ''conservation,''.

(f) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act is amended by inserting after section 4 (16 U.S.C. 1004) the following:

"SEC. 4A. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—No amounts shall be provided under this Act for any plan for a work of improvement involving an estimated Federal contribution to construction costs in excess of $50,000,000, or that includes any structure that provides more than 2,500 acre-feet of total capacity, unless the plan has been approved by resolutions adopted by the appropriate committees of Congress described in subsection (b).

"(b) COMMITTEES DESCRIBED.—The appropriate committees of Congress referred to in subsection (a) are—

"(1) in the case of a plan involving no single structure providing more than 4,000 acre-feet of total capacity, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

"(2) in the case of any plan involving any single structure providing more than 4,000 acre-feet of total capacity, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.".

(g) CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.—The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 4A (as added by subsection (f)) the following:

"SEC. 4B. CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.

''Subject to the requirements of this Act, the Secretary shall—

''(1) review and update as necessary the engineering standards and requirements to be used for works of improvement under this Act; and

''(2) in collaboration with each State Conservationist, each State technical committee established under section 1261(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3861(a)), and local organizations undertaking works of improvement under this Act, review and update as necessary the acceptable variances from national engineering standards that are appropriate for the geomorphology and purpose for which works of improvement are established within each State.''.

(h) CERTAIN AUTHORITIES.—Section 7 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (68 Stat. 668, chapter 656; 74 Stat. 131; 76 Stat. 610) is amended, in the last proviso, by inserting ''management,'' after ''conservation,''.

(i) DATA.—Section 13 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1010) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''collect and maintain'' and inserting ''collect, maintain, and publish on the website of the Department of Agriculture''; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''control and conservation'' and inserting ''control, conservation, and drought resilience''.

(j) FUNDING.—Section 14(h)(2)(E) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(h)(2)(E)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(k) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 11 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 note; 68 Stat. 668; 70 Stat. 1090) is repealed.

SEC. 2802. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.—Section 401(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following

''(3) NEW OR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—Repair or replacement of fencing under this section may include updating of fencing to new or emerging

technology if such updating does not increase the cost of the repair of replacement.''.

(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.—Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 is amended by inserting after section 402B (16 U.S.C. 2202b) the following:

''SEC. 402C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

''(a) ELIGIBILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAND USERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An agricultural producer eligible to receive payments under sections 401 and 402 includes a person that—

''(A) holds a permit or lease from the Federal Government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on Federal land; or

''(B) holds a permit or leases land from a State or unit of local government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on that land.

''(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection authorizes the Secretary to make a payment under section 401 or 402 to the Federal Government, a State, or a unit of local government.

''(b) PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY IMPROVEMENTS.—Emergency measures eligible for payments under sections 401 and 402 include—

''(1) new permanent or temporary measures, including permanent water wells and permanent or temporary surface or aboveground pipelines and watering facilities; and

''(2) replacement or restoration of existing emergency measures with permanent or temporary measures, including permanent water wells and permanent or temporary surface or aboveground pipelines and watering facilities.

''(c) STREAMLINING APPLICATION PROCESS.—

''(1) WAIVER OF PUBLIC COMMENT.—During an eligible natural disaster or drought, as determined by the Secretary in accordance with sections 401(a) and 402, the 30-day public comment period required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be waived with respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under section 401 or 402 on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (referred to in this subsection as the 'Secretary of the Interior').

''(2) ACCEPTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—With respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under section 401 or 402 on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior may accept—

''(A) during an eligible natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary, an archeological review conducted by the Department of Agriculture or a qualified contractor that has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior, for purposes of such an archeological review required to be conducted;

''(B) an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) conducted by the Department of Agriculture or a qualified contractor that has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior, for purposes of such an environmental review required to be conducted; and

''(C) a review under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) conducted by the Department of Agriculture or a qualified contractor that has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior, for purposes of such a review required to be conducted.''.

(c) EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.—Section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) ELIGIBLE PURPOSES OF FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS.—A floodplain easement acquired by the Secretary under this section may be used—

''(A) to restore, protect, maintain, and enhance the hydrologic and other functions and values of floodplains, including wetlands and associated land, riparian areas, and stream channels;

''(B) to conserve natural values, including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, and groundwater recharge; and

''(C) to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion.

''(3) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—The Secretary may restore the hydrologic and other functions and

values of wetlands on floodplain easements acquired by the Secretary under this section.

''(4) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—In carrying out this section, this Secretary may undertake measures that increase the level of protection above that which would be necessary to address the immediate impairment of the watershed if the Secretary determines that such restoration is in the best interest of—

''(A) the long-term health of the watershed; and

''(B) the protection of the watershed from repetitive impairments.

''(5) EASEMENT MANAGEMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall acquire the rights and interests necessary to restore, protect, manage, maintain, enhance, and monitor each floodplain easement acquired under this section.

''(B) ALLOWABLE USES.—The Secretary may authorize, in writing and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe in the sole discretion of the Secretary, the use of the area covered by a floodplain easement under this section by the landowner for compatible uses, if the Secretary determines

that the use is consistent with the long-term protection and enhancement of the floodplain, riparian areas, wetlands, and associated land and other natural values of the easement area.''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through the ''The Secretary'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(b) MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION OF FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''.

(d) EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.—Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

"(A) with respect to nonindustrial private forest land or industrial private forest land—

"(i) an owner of the nonindustrial private forest land or industrial private forest land; or

"(ii) a person that receives concurrence from the landowner to carry out emergency measures in lieu of the owner;

"(B) with respect to Federal forest land, a person that holds a permit or lease from the Federal Government to conduct livestock grazing on the Federal forest land; and

"(C) with respect to forest land owned by a State or a unit of local government, a person that holds a permit or leases land from the State or unit of local government to conduct livestock grazing on that forest land.

"(2) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term 'eligible land' means—

"(A) nonindustrial private forest land;

"(B) Federal forest land on which livestock grazing is authorized through a permit or lease; and

''(C) forest land owned by a State or unit of local government on which livestock grazing is authorized through a permit or lease.''; and

(C) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''nonindustrial private forest land'' and inserting ''eligible land''; and

(II) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(iii) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking ''The term'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'emergency measures' includes—

''(i) if the natural disaster is a drought that has diminished the existing natural water supply for grazing livestock, new permanent or temporary measures described in subparagraph (A), including permanent water wells and permanent or temporary surface or aboveground pipelines and watering facilities; and

''(ii) if the natural disaster affected or destroyed the existing structures, replacement or restoration of existing emergency measures with permanent or temporary measures described in subparagraph (A), including permanent water wells and permanent or temporary surface or aboveground pipelines and watering facilities.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''an owner of nonindustrial private forest land who'' and inserting ''an eligible entity that''; and

(B) by striking ''restore the land'' and inserting ''restore eligible land'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''owner must'' and inserting ''eligible entity shall''; and

(B) by striking ''nonindustrial private forest land'' and inserting ''eligible land'';

(4) in subsection (d), by striking ''an owner of nonindustrial private forest land'' and inserting ''an eligible entity'';

(5) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and

(6) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) STREAMLINING APPLICATION PROCESS.—

''(1) WAIVER OF PUBLIC COMMENT.—During an eligible natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary, the 30-day public comment period required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be waived with respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under this section on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (referred to in this subsection as the 'Secretary of the Interior').

''(2) ACCEPTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—With respect to an application to carry out

emergency measures under this section on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior may accept—

"(A) during a drought emergency, as determined by the Secretary, an archeological review conducted by the Department of Agriculture or a qualified contractor that has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior, for purposes of such an archeological review required to be conducted;

"(B) an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) conducted by the Department of Agriculture or a qualified contractor that has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior, for purposes of such an environmental review required to be conducted; and

"(C) a review under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) conducted by the Department of Agriculture or a qualified contractor that has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior, for purposes of such a review required to be conducted.

"(g) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to make a payment under this section to the

Federal Government, a State, or a unit of local government.''.

SEC. 2803. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after section 1240M (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) the following:

''SEC. 1240N. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a feral swine eradication and control program (referred to in this section as the 'program') to respond to the threat feral swine pose to agriculture, native ecosystems, and human and animal health.

''(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

''(1) study and assess the nature and extent of damage caused by feral swine to the areas described in subsection (e);

''(2) develop methods to eradicate or control feral swine in those areas;

''(3) develop methods to restore damage caused by feral swine; and

''(4) provide financial assistance to agricultural producers in those areas.

''(c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to agricultural producers under the program to implement methods—

''(1) to eradicate or control feral swine in the areas described in subsection (e); and

''(2) to restore damage caused by feral swine.

''(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate for purposes of this section through State technical committees established under section 1261(a).

''(e) AREAS.—The Secretary shall carry out the program in areas of States in which feral swine have been identified as a threat to agriculture, native ecosystems, or human or animal health, as determined by the Secretary.

''(f) COST SHARING.—

''(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of activities under the program may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such activities.

''(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal share of the costs of activities under the pro-

gram may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of materials or services.

''(g) FUNDING.—

''(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds made available under section 1241(a)(3)(A), the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $150,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

''(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made available under paragraph (1)—

''(A) 40 percent shall be allocated to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry out the program, including the provision of financial assistance to producers for on-farm trapping and technology related to capturing and confining feral swine; and

''(B) 60 percent shall be allocated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to carry out the program, including the use of established, and testing of innovative, population reduction methods.

''(3) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of funds made available under this section may be used for administrative expenses of the program.''.

(b) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2408 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note; Public Law 115–334) is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4491) is amended by striking the item relating to section 2408.

(c) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, the feral swine eradication and control pilot program under section 2408 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note; Public Law 115–334) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) shall cease to be effective.

(d) TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) EFFECT ON EXISTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The cessation of effectiveness under subsection (c) shall not affect the validity or terms of any financial assistance made by the Secretary under section 2408 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note; Public Law 115–334) before the date of enactment of this Act, or any payments, modifications, or technical assistance required to be made in connection with the financial assistance.

(2) EXTENSION PERMITTED.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), the Secretary may extend for 1 year financial assistance described in paragraph (1) if that financial assistance expires on or before December 31, 2026, under the terms and payment rate of the existing financial assistance and in accordance with section 2408 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note; Public Law 115–334) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act).

(3) RENEWAL NOT PERMITTED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), and subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may not renew financial assistance described in that paragraph.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may renew financial assistance described in paragraph (1)—

(i) if that financial assistance expires on or after December 31, 2026;

(ii) under the terms of the feral swine eradication and control program under section 1240N of the Food Security Act of 1985 (as added by subsection (a)); and

(iii) subject to the limitation on funding under subsection (g) of that section.

(e) CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to subsection (d)(3), the Secretary shall administer financial assistance described in subsection (d)(1) until the expiration of the financial assistance in accordance with the regulations to carry out the feral swine eradication and control pilot program under section 2408 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note; Public Law 115–334) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) that are in effect on the day before that date of enactment.

(f) FUNDING OF EXISTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c), any funds made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation under section 2408(g) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note; Public Law 115–334) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) for fiscal years 2019 through 2026 shall be available to carry out—

(1) financial assistance described in subsection (d)(1) for fiscal year 2027;

(2) financial assistance extended under subsection (d)(2); and

(3) financial assistance under 1240N of the Food Security Act of 1985 (as added by subsection (a)).

SEC. 2804. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.

Section 1240M(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb(e)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 2805. STATE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.

Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after section 1240O (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2) the following:

''SEC. 1240P. STATE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—The term 'agricultural land' means—

''(A) cropland;

''(B) grassland;

''(C) rangeland;

''(D) pasture land;

''(E) nonindustrial private forest land; and

''(F) other land in agricultural areas (including wetlands, marshes, and agricultural land used or capable of being used for the production of livestock), as determined by the Secretary.

"(2) CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The term 'conservation assistance program' means a program implemented by an Indian Tribe or State to improve soil health or wildlife habitat or address other local resource concerns on agricultural land that—

"(A) is broadly consistent with the conservation principles of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, as determined by the Secretary, including the use of perennial grasses; and

"(B) may include—

"(i) technical assistance;

"(ii) financial assistance;

"(iii) on-farm research and demonstration;

"(iv) education, outreach, and training;

"(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

"(vi) such other components as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(3) ELIGIBLE INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'eligible Indian Tribe' means an Indian Tribe that is—

"(A) implementing a new or existing conservation assistance program for the area over which the Indian Tribe has jurisdiction; and

"(B) meeting or exceeding performance measures established by the Indian Tribe for the program.

"(4) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term 'eligible State' means a State that is—

"(A) implementing a new or existing conservation assistance program for the State; and

"(B) meeting or exceeding performance measures established by the State for the program.

"(b) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—For fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall make grants to eligible States and eligible Indian Tribes for the purpose of improving soil health or wildlife habitat or addressing other local resource concerns on agricultural land through the implementation of State and Tribal conservation assistance programs.

"(c) APPLICATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such a manner, and containing such infor-

mation as the Secretary shall require, which shall include—

"(A) a description of performance measures to be used to evaluate the State or Tribal conservation assistance program and the expected results of any activities carried out using grant funds received under this section; and

"(B) an assurance that grant funds received under this section will supplement, and not supplant, the expenditure of State or Tribal funds.

"(2) TRIBAL OPTION.—An Indian Tribe shall have the option, at the sole discretion of the Indian Tribe, to be incorporated into the application submitted by an eligible State under paragraph (1).

"(d) GRANTS.—

"(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant to an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe under this section for a fiscal year shall not exceed the lesser of—

"(A) $5,000,000; and

"(B) as applicable—

"(i) 50 percent of the cost of implementing the State conservation assistance program in the fiscal year; or

"(ii) 75 percent of the cost of implementing the Tribal conservation assistance program in the fiscal year.

"(2) TERM.—A grant under this section shall be for a term of not longer than 5 years at the discretion of the eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe, and may be renewed in accordance with paragraph (3).

"(3) RENEWAL.—If the Secretary determines that a grant under this section has met or exceeded the objectives of the State or Tribal conservation assistance program, the Secretary may renew the grant through an expedited noncompetitive process.

"(e) AUDITS AND REVIEWS.—An eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary—

"(1) for each year for which the State or Indian Tribe receives such a grant, the results of an audit of the expenditures of the grant funds; and

"(2) at such intervals as the Secretary shall establish, a review and evaluation of the State or Tribal conservation assistance program.

"(f) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary, after reasonable notice to an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section, finds that

the State or Indian Tribe has failed to comply with 1 or more terms of the grant, the Secretary may disqualify, for 1 or more years, the State or Indian Tribe from receipt of future grants under this section.

''(g) ADMINISTRATION.—

''(1) DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary shall not use more than 3 percent of the funds made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year for administrative expenses.

''(2) STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—An eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section shall not use more than 7 percent of the grant funds for a fiscal year for administrative expenses.

''(h) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to make grants under this section $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

TITLE III—TRADE

Subtitle A—Food for Peace Act

SEC. 3101. UNITED STATES POLICY.

Section 2(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691(1)) is amended by striking ''hunger and malnutrition'' and inserting ''hunger, malnutrition, child wasting,''.

SEC. 3102. FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.

Section 202 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''of law'' and inserting ''of this Act'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking ''agricultural commodities for nonemergency assistance'' and inserting ''nonemergency assistance, including in the form of agricultural commodities,''; and

(B) by striking ''the commodities'' and inserting ''that assistance'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''subsection (b) an'' and inserting ''subsection (b), an'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) a nongovernmental organization, as determined by the Administrator.'';

(4) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following:

''(5) LIMITATION ON DIVERSION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made available to the Administrator for each fiscal year under this title, not more than 50 percent may be made available for expenses other than—

''(A) the procurement of United States-grown agricultural commodities; and

''(B) ocean transportation of those commodities.'';

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''OF COMMODITIES''; and

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''agricultural commodities made available under this title are'' and inserting ''assistance made available under this title is''; and

(ii) by striking ''such commodities are'' and inserting ''that assistance is''; and

(6) in subsection (h)(3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3103. REPEAL OF MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1724) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 302(c)(1) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1(c)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D).

SEC. 3104. FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

Section 205(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1725(f)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3105. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.

Section 207(f)(4) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1726a(f)(4)) is amended by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3106. INTERNATIONAL FOOD RELIEF PARTNERSHIP.

Section 208 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1726b) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

''(f) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available to carry out this section, of the funds made available to the Administrator for each fiscal year under this title, not less than $15,000,000 shall be made available in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section, to remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 3107. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.

Section 406 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) INCLUDED EXPENSES.—With respect to commodities made available under titles II and III, the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and incidental costs of those commodities.''.

SEC. 3108. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) FOOD FOR PEACE ACT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(A) Section 404(e)(2)(C) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1734(e)(2)(C)) is amended by striking ''need for a 1 year'' and inserting ''need for a 1-year''.

(B) Section 414(b) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736g–1(b)) is amended by striking ''section 481(i)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961)'' and inserting ''section 481(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291(e)))''.

(C) Section 501(b)(2)(A)(viii) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1737(b)(2)(A)(viii)) is amended by adding a semicolon at the end.

(2) CORRECTING IMPROPER AMENDMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 216 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127; 110 Stat. 957) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''(c)'' and inserting ''(b)'';

(ii) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''(d)'' and inserting ''(c)'';

(iii) in paragraph (4), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''(g)(2)'' and inserting ''(f)(2)''; and

(iv) in paragraph (5), by striking ''(h)'' and inserting ''(g)''.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall take effect as if enacted in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127; 110 Stat. 888).

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by indenting subparagraph (B) appropriately; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (H) and inserting the following:

''(H) A statement of the amount of funds provided to each eligible organization that received assistance under this Act and the manner in which those funds were used, including whether such use was for commodity transportation or administrative costs.'';

(ii) in subparagraph (I)—

(I) by striking ''section 202(e), 406(b)(6), and 407(c)(1)(B)'' and inserting ''subsection (c)(1)(B) or section 202(e)''; and

(II) by striking ''such section'' and inserting ''such provision'';

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) through (I) as subparagraphs (F) through (J), respectively; and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) An assessment of activities specifically targeting women and girls and the impact of those activities in addressing the unique needs of women and girls.''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 3109. EXPIRATION DATE.

Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736b) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3110. MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE.

Section 412(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 3111. MICRONUTRIENT FORTIFICATION PROGRAMS.

Section 415(c) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736g–2(c)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3112. JOHN OGONOWSKI AND DOUG BEREUTER FARMER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.

Section 501 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1737) is amended by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act of 1978

SEC. 3201. PRESERVING FOREIGN MARKETS FOR GOODS USING COMMON NAMES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''As used in this Act—'' and inserting ''In this Act:'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (4), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) COMMON NAME.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'common name' means a name that, as determined by the Secretary—

''(i) is ordinarily or customarily used for an agricultural commodity or food product;

''(ii) is typically placed on the packaging and product label of the agricultural commodity or food product;

"(iii) with respect to wine—

"(I) is—

"(aa) ordinarily or customarily used for a wine grape varietal name; or

"(bb) a traditional term or expression that is typically placed on the packaging and label of the wine; and

"(II) does not mean any appellation of origin for wine listed in subpart C of part 9 of title 27, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

"(iv) the use of which is consistent with standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

"(B) EXAMPLES.—The following names shall be considered common names under subparagraph (A):

"(i) With respect to food products: american, asiago, basmati, black forest ham, blue, blue vein, bologna, bologne, bratwurst, brie, burrata, camembert, capicola, capocollo, cheddar, chevre,

chorizo, colby, cottage cheese, coulommiers, cream cheese, danbo, edam, emmental, feta, fontina, gorgonzola, gouda, grana, gruyere, havarti, kielbasa, limburger and limburgo, mascarpone, monterey and monterey jack, mortadella, munster and muenster, neufchatel, parmesan, pancetta, pecorino, pepper jack, prosciutto, provolone, ricotta, romano, saint-paulin, salame, salami, samso, swiss, tilsiter, and tomme.

''(ii) With respect to wine:

''(I) The list of grape varietal terms in section 4.91 of title 27, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

''(II) The grape varietal designations administratively approved by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

''(III) The following nonvarietal descriptors: chateau, classic, clos, cream, crusted and crusting, noble, ruby, sur lie, tawny, vintage, and vintage character.

"(iii) With respect to beer: bitter, pale ale, india pale ale, mild, porter, stout, barleywine, dubbel, quadruple, witbier, saison, biere de garde, oud red, altbier, weisse, gose, hefeweizen, dunkel, helles, rauchbier, pilsener, maerzen, schwarzbier, doppelbock, bock, kellerbier, munchener and munich style, oktoberfest, dortmunder, kolsch and koelsch, cream, grodziskie, lager.

"(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may take into account—

"(i) competent sources, such as dictionaries, newspapers, professional journals and literature, and information posted on websites that are determined by the Secretary to be reliable in reporting market information;

"(ii) the use of the common name in a domestic, regional, or international product standard, including a standard promulgated by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, for the agricultural commodity or food product; and

"(iii) the ordinary and customary use of the common name in the production or marketing of the agricultural commodity or food product in the United States or in other countries.

"(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enumeration of certain names under subparagraph (B) shall not limit or restrict the ability of the Secretary to determine, consistent with subparagraph (A), that any other name is a common name under subparagraph (A)."; and

(4) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (iv)(II), by inserting a closing parenthesis before the semicolon at the end;

(B) in clause (v), by striking "or" at the end;

(C) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(vii) prohibits or disallows the use of the common name of an agricultural commodity or food product of the United States.".

(b) NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND USE OF COMMON NAMES.—Title III of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5652 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 303. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND THE USE OF COMMON NAMES.

''The Secretary shall advise and support the efforts of the United States Trade Representative to secure the right of United States agricultural producers, processors, and exporters to use common names for agricultural commodities or food products in foreign markets through the negotiation by the United States Trade Representative of bilateral, plurilateral, or multilateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or exchanges of letters that assure the current and future use of each common name identified by the Secretary in connection with United States agricultural commodities or food products.''.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—None of the amendments made by this section—

(1) limit the ability of the United States Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements; or

(2) require the United States Trade Representative to condition any trade agreement on the inclusion of language relating to the use of common names.

SEC. 3202. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program established under this subsection, the Secretary shall enter into contracts or other agreements with eligible trade organizations to provide needs assessments, training, and other technical assistance to enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in new and developing foreign markets, including infrastructure relating to cold chain capacity, port improvements, and other developments, to ensure that United States agricultural commodities are not damaged or lost due to deficiencies of that infrastructure.

''(B) FUNDS.—

''(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

"(II) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subject to subclause (III), amounts authorized to be appropriated under this subparagraph may be used only for the purposes described in subparagraph (A).

"(III) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under this subparagraph that are not obligated by the end of the applicable fiscal year shall be made available to carry out the program established under this subsection in the subsequent fiscal year.

"(ii) LIMITATION FROM OTHER FUNDS.—Beginning in fiscal year 2027, in addition to the amounts made available under clause (i), of the amounts made available to carry out the program established under this subsection, not more than

$1,500,000 may be made available in a fiscal year for the purposes described in subparagraph (A).''.

SEC. 3203. REPORT ON COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED STATES EXPORTS OF SPECIALTY CROPS.

Section 203(e) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

''(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each year, the Secretary, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops.

''(B) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) identify and analyze acts, policies, or practices of foreign countries that constitute significant barriers to, or distortions of, United States exports of specialty crops, including the imposition of—

''(I) tariffs (including retaliatory tariffs) and quotas (including tariff-rate quotas); and

"(II) nontariff barriers, including technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, import licensing procedures, and subsidies;

"(ii) in conjunction with the United States International Trade Commission, make an estimate—

"(I) of the impacts on the competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops of any act, policy, or practice identified under clause (i); and

"(II) if feasible, of the value of additional specialty crops that would, during the year preceding submission of the report, have been exported from the United States to each foreign country an act, policy, or practice of which is identified under clause (i) if each that act, policy, or practice of that country did not exist;

"(iii) assess the extent to which each act, policy, or practice identified under clause (i) is subject to international agree-

ments to which the United States is a party;

"(iv) include information, provided by the United States Trade Representative, with respect to any action taken by the executive branch during the year preceding submission of the report to eliminate any act, policy, or practice identified under clause (i), including—

"(I) any action under section 301; and

"(II) action under a trade agreement, including at the World Trade Organization (such as engagement through committees, negotiations, consultations, and dispute settlement actions); and

"(v) a description of—

"(I) any funds provided under subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not obligated in the fiscal year preceding submission of the report; and

"(II) the reason those funds were not obligated.

"(C) COMMENT PERIOD.—In preparing the report required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary, in coordination with the United States Trade Representative, shall seek and consider comments from the public and the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Fruits and Vegetables.

"(D) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall be made available to the public in machine-readable format.

"(E) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after a report is made publicly available under subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall provide a briefing on any classified information not included in the public report to—

"(i) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

"(ii) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

"(iii) the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

"(iv) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.".

SEC. 3204. AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION AND FACILITATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''For each'' and inserting the following:

''(A) FISCAL YEARS 2019 THROUGH 2026.—For each'';

(B) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2026''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) FISCAL YEAR 2027.—For fiscal year 2027, of the funds of, or an equal value of commodities owned by, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $515,000,000, to remain available until expended.

''(C) FISCAL YEAR 2028 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER.—For fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter, of the funds of, or an equal value of commodities owned by, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section

$533,000,000, to remain available until expended.''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(B) in clause (i), by striking ''not less than'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''not less than—

''(I) $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2026;

''(II) $421,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

''(III) $437,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.''; and

(C) in clause (ii), by striking ''not less than'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''not less than—

''(I) $34,500,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(II) $73,500,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

''(III) $75,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.''.

(b) REPEALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following provisions of law are repealed:

(A) Section 718 of title VII of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105–277; 112 Stat. 2681-27).

(B) Section 10602 of Public Law 119–21 (7 U.S.C. 5623a).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of Public Law 119-21 (139 Stat. 73) is amended by striking the item relating to section 10602.

SEC. 3205. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLE WORKING GROUP.

Subtitle B of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5671 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 418. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WORKING GROUP.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other Federal agencies or entities as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, shall jointly

establish an interagency working group (referred to in this section as the 'working group') composed of representatives from each such agency to monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, trade data and related information on seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables.

''(b) CONSULTATION.—The working group shall consult with the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee on Fruits and Vegetables, relevant seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and other relevant trade associations to identify threats that imports pose to domestic producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables.

''(c) TRADE ACTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The working group shall coordinate, as appropriate, regarding potential additional trade actions and investigations with respect to any seasonal or perishable fruits and vegetables, as determined to be advisable by the working group.

''(d) RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY.—The working group shall recommend programs or assistance that the Secretary may provide to producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables to promote domestic competitiveness or address market impacts.''.

Subtitle C—Other Agricultural Trade Laws

SEC. 3301. FOOD FOR PROGRESS ACT OF 1985.

The Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''of eligible'' and inserting ''of''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) PROHIBITION ON SINGLE COMMODITY OR SINGLE COUNTRY.—

''(A) COMMODITY.—In making sales of eligible commodities under this section, the Secretary shall purchase more than 1 eligible commodity type in each fiscal year.

''(B) COUNTRY.—In entering into agreements under this section, the Secretary shall designate more than 1 country recipient in each fiscal year.'';

(2) in subsection (g), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(3) in subsection (k), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(4) in subsection (l)(1)—

(A) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) by striking ''(or, in the case of fiscal year 1999, $12,000,000)''; and

(5) in subsection (p)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''2032''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 3302. BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST ACT.

Section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking ''of that'' and inserting ''of the Food for Peace'';

(3) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by adding ''and'' after the semicolon at the end; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a period; and

(4) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2026'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3303. MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM.

Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by inserting ''or lower-middle'' before ''income'';

(2) in subsection (h)(2), by striking ''Committee on International Relations'' and inserting ''Committee on Foreign Affairs''; and

(3) in subsection (l)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''not more than 10 percent'' and inserting ''not less than 8 percent, but not more than 15 percent,''.

SEC. 3304. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 3307 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 3295) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) PROGRAM CONTINUITY.—To assist eligible countries in the long-term development of enduring, school-based agricultural education and youth extension programs, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

''(1) implement the fellowship program in each participating host country for not fewer than 3 consecutive years; and

''(2) ensure that contracts awarded to outside organizations are multiyear contracts.''.

SEC. 3305. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IMMERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

Subtitle C of title III of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4617) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 3313. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IMMERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE.—The term 'eligible candidate' means an individual that—

''(A) is between the ages of 19 and 30 years;

''(B) has demonstrated experience in agricultural sciences, food systems, and food and nutrition education;

''(C) is prepared to live in 1 or more host countries for at least 2 months or up to 6 months; and

''(D) is a resident of the United States.

''(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term 'eligible country' means a country that has agricultural trade relations with the United States, as recognized by the Foreign Agriculture Service.

''(3) PROGRAM.—The term 'Program' means the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program established under subsection (b).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an international cultural immersion and exchange program, to be known as the 'International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program', under which the Secretary shall—

''(1) provide eligible candidates with international cultural exchange and immersion experiences focused on agricultural sciences, food systems, and food and nutrition education through placement with host families in eligible countries; and

''(2) place in the United States with host families individuals that meet the requirement of subsection (a)(1)(A) and are residents of eligible countries to experience United States agriculture, trade relations, and culture.

''(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program are—

''(1) to develop globally minded citizens of the United States; and

''(2) to strengthen and enhance trade between eligible countries and the United States in agricultural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

''(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To administer the Program, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization that has experience in implementing international cultural exchange programs focused on agricultural sciences, food and nutrition education, and cultural understanding through placement with host families.

''(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to a nonprofit organization with which the Secretary has a memorandum of understanding dated not earlier than January 1, 2019.

''(3) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of entering into a cooperative agreement under this subsection, a nonprofit organization shall provide equal matching funds from non-Federal sources.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.''.

SEC. 3306. INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 1736dd(f)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 3307. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.

Section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2220a note; Public Law 110–246) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For the period of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the aggregate contributions of funds of the Federal Government provided to the Trust under this section shall not exceed 33 percent of the total amount of funds contributed to the Trust from all sources and for all purposes."; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting "under this section" after "Trust"; and

(ii) by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "2014 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 3308. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCUREMENT PROJECTS.

Section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726c(e)(1)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

Subtitle D—Reports

SEC. 3401. REPORT ON THE DOMESTIC COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED STATES-GROWN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the United States Trade Representative and the United States International Trade Commission, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report analyzing the competitiveness of agricultural commodities produced in the United States in the domestic market.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify agricultural commodities produced in the United States that experience injury from competition with increased imports of foreign-produced agricultural commodities, including an analysis of domestic market share trends;

(2) identify and analyze acts, policies, or practices of foreign countries that unfairly enhance the competitiveness of imported agricultural commodities against domestically produced agricultural commodities, including—

(A) the subsidization of exports from the producing country; and

(B) the lack or circumvention of labor and environmental laws or protections in the producing country;

(3) if feasible, make an estimate of—

(A) the injury to domestic producers and United States industry, including the extent to which United States production—

(i) is displaced;

(ii) declines in profitability; or

(iii) experiences impacts to its long-term viability; and

(B) the value of commodities identified under paragraph (1) that would, during the year preceding submission of the report, have been sold in the United States if each act, policy, or practice of foreign countries identified under paragraph (2) did not exist;

(4) assess the extent to which each act, policy, or practice identified under paragraph (2) is subject to 1 or more international agreements to which the United States is a party;

(5) include information, provided by the United States Trade Representative, with respect to any action taken by the executive branch during the year preceding submission of the report to enhance the

domestic competitiveness of agricultural commodities identified in paragraph (1) and counter any act, policy, or practice identified under paragraph (2), including—

(A) any action under section 201 or 301 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5621, 5652); and

(B) action under a trade agreement, including at the World Trade Organization (such as engagement through committees, negotiations, consultations, and dispute settlement actions); and

(6) include recommendations for administrative, regulatory, or legislative actions to promote the competitiveness of United States-produced agricultural commodities in the domestic market against imports of foreign-produced agricultural commodities.

(c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be made available to the public in machine-readable format.

(d) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after a report is made publicly available under subsection (c), the Secretary shall provide a briefing on any classified information not included in the public report to—

(1) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 3402. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SHRIMP TRADE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report that examines policy options available to the Secretary to boost the competitiveness of domestic shrimp in global and domestic markets.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) include an analysis of—

(A) the authority of the Secretary with regard to shrimp and other seafood products;

(B) access to financial support programs by domestic shrimp and other seafood producers; and

(C) ways to facilitate interagency coordination under existing authorities around common goals for shrimp and other seafood commodities with respect to tariffs, market access policies, and other nontariff barriers; and

(2) identify trade or other legal barriers to United States shrimp and seafood production that are maintained by trading partners and may significantly impede United States production or exports.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

Subtitle A—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SEC. 4101. STATE COST SHARE DELAY.

Section 4(a)(2)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(a)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''clause (iii), beginning in fiscal year 2028'' and inserting ''clauses (iii) and (iv), beginning in fiscal year 2029 and for each fiscal year thereafter'';

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the clause designation and heading and all that follows through ''For

fiscal year 2029'' in subclause (II) and inserting the following:

''(ii) CALCULATION OF STATE SHARE.—For fiscal year 2029'';

(3) in clause (iii)—

(A) by striking subclause (II);

(B) by striking the clause designation and heading and all that follows through ''fiscal year 2025'' in subclause (I) and inserting the following:

''(iii) DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION.—If, for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026''; and

(C) by striking ''2029'' and inserting ''2030''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) STATE SHARE.—If, for fiscal year 2031 and each fiscal year thereafter, the payment error rate of a State as determined under clause (ii) is equal to or greater than 10 percent, the Federal share of the cost of the allotment described in paragraph (1) for that State in that fiscal year shall be 80 percent, and the State share shall be 20 percent.''.

SEC. 4102. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

(a) TRADITIONAL AND LOCALLY- AND REGIONALLY-GROWN FOOD FUND.—Section 4(b)(6)(E) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)(6)(E)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) INCREASING TRIBAL INPUT ON NUTRITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''tribal organization'' each place it appears and inserting ''Tribal organization'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (9); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) TRIBAL INCLUSION IN CONTRACTING PROCESS.—Prior to conducting evaluation of contracts under the food distribution program on Indian reservations under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(A) consult with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations and ensure their feedback is integrated into the evaluation; and

''(B) consider feedback from Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations throughout the evaluation process.

''(8) SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTIONS.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term 'supply chain disruption' means a shortage of foods that impedes the distribution of commodities, as determined by the Secretary.

''(ii) INCLUSION.—The term 'supply chain disruption' includes a supplemental food shortage due to a multifood warehouse issue that affects contracting, production, manufacture, sourcing, procurement, transportation, or storage of food and impedes the function of the food distribution program on Indian reservations under this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

''(B) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.—If the Secretary determines that there is a supply chain disruption, the Secretary—

"(i) shall, not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary makes that determination, designate an emergency warehouse contractor to provide the required food capacity in a timely manner; and

"(ii) may provide direct payments or reimbursements to an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization administering the food distribution program on Indian reservations under this subsection to purchase food in accordance with subparagraph (D).

"(C) PAYMENTS.—The total amount of payments provided under subparagraph (B)(ii) to an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization shall not exceed the amount of funding that the Secretary would otherwise expend for that Indian Tribe or Tribal organization during the same time period under the food distribution program on Indian reservations under this subsection.

"(D) PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Any agricultural commodities purchased by an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization using payments

under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall satisfy the conditions described in clause (ii), unless waived by the Secretary.

''(ii) CONDITIONS DESCRIBED.—The conditions referred to in clause (i) for agricultural commodities are the following:

''(I) The agricultural commodities are domestically produced.

''(II) The agricultural commodities supplant, not supplement, the type of agricultural commodities in existing food packages for that Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

''(III) The agricultural commodities are of similar or higher nutritional value as the type of agricultural commodities that would be supplanted in the existing food package for that Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

''(IV) The agricultural commodities meet any other criteria determined by the Secretary.

''(E) NOTIFICATION; PUBLICATION.—If the Secretary designates an emergency warehouse

contractor under subparagraph (B)(i), the Secretary shall—

''(i) notify each affected Tribal organization or State agency of the designation, including an explanation of the determination of the Secretary of a supply chain disruption; and

''(ii) make that designation, and explanation of the determination, publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture.''.

(2) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.—Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(n) CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN TRIBES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall implement the commodity supplemental food program in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the members of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations by conducting annual consultations with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.

''(2) AMENDMENTS TO STATE PLANS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to submitting any amendment to a State plan pursuant to section 247.6 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), a State agency is encouraged—

"(i) prior to that submission, to consult in good faith with applicable Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations on the content of the amendment; and

"(ii) to include in the submission documentation evidencing that consultation.

"(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to State agencies, including by entering into cooperative agreements, on how to properly conduct consultations pursuant to subparagraph (A), including relating to—

"(i) providing proper notice as to when a consultation will take place;

"(ii) ensuring consultations are with Tribal officials; and

"(iii) releasing a collaborative agenda in advance of the consultation.

"(o) SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTIONS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term 'supply chain disruption' means a shortage of foods that impedes the distribution of commodities, as determined by the Secretary.

''(B) INCLUSION.—The term 'supply chain disruption' includes a supplemental food shortage due to a multifood warehouse issue that affects contracting, production, manufacture, sourcing, procurement, transportation, or storage of food and impedes the function of the commodity supplemental food program, as determined by the Secretary.

''(2) EMERGENCY WAREHOUSE CONTRACTOR.—If the Secretary determines that there is a supply chain disruption, the Secretary shall, not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary makes that determination, designate an emergency warehouse contractor to provide the required food capacity in a timely manner.

''(3) NOTIFICATION; PUBLICATION.—If the Secretary designates an emergency warehouse contractor under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

''(A) notify each affected Tribal organization or State agency of the designation, including an explanation of the determination of the Secretary of a supply chain disruption; and

''(B) make that designation, and explanation of the determination, publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture.''.

SEC. 4103. SUPPORT FOR WIRELESS AND MOBILE EQUIPMENT FOR CERTAIN ENTITIES.

Section 7(f)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that equipment or systems made available to entities described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B) by a State agency or an implementing partner of a State agency is appropriate for the entity, including, with respect to farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer markets, wireless or mobile processing equipment and technology systems.''.

SEC. 4104. PROHIBITED FEES.

Section 7(h)(13)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(13)(B)) is amended by striking ''Effective through fiscal year 2023, neither'' and inserting ''Neither''.

SEC. 4105. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR ONLINE PURCHASING.

Section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(l) ONLINE PURCHASING PROGRAM.—

''(1) PERMANENT AUTHORITY.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall begin transitioning the supplemental nutrition assistance program online purchasing initiative from pilot or demonstration status to permanent nationwide program operation, with the completion of the regulations required under paragraph (2) marking the end of the transition.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall issue such regulations and guidance as may be necessary to carry out paragraph (1), including provisions relating to program integrity, con-

sumer protections, and equitable access in rural areas.

''(3) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a formal process for consultation with State agencies, authorized retailers, electronic benefit transfer processors, consumer advocates, and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate lessons learned from online purchasing operations during the period of 2014 through 2025.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing the consultation process under subparagraph (A) and recommendations received from stakeholders under that process.''.

SEC. 4106. ENHANCED CYBERSECURITY FOR EBT CARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(15) CYBERSECURITY OF EBT CARDS.—

"(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

"(i) CHIP-ENABLED.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—The term 'chip-enabled', with respect to a payment card, means a payment card that uses industry standard secure payment technology, as identified by the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, that—

"(aa) provides for secure card-based payment; and

"(bb) is resistant to cloning.

"(II) CHIP CARD TECHNOLOGY.—The Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Accredited Standards Committee X9, shall consider whether the secure payment technology described in subclause (I) should meet the industry standards for contact and contactless payments.

"(ii) MOBILE FRIENDLY.—The term 'mobile friendly' has the meaning given the term in section 3559(b) of title 44, United States Code.

"(iii) NIST PIN AND PASSWORD STANDARDS.—The term 'NIST PIN and password standards' means the PIN and password standards described in Special Publication 800–63B entitled 'Digital Identity Guidelines' (or a successor document) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

"(iv) PIN.—The term 'PIN' has the meaning given the term 'personal identification number (PIN)' in section 271.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

"(B) REGULATIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall promulgate, and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall review and update as necessary, cybersecurity and digital service regulations relating to EBT cards and mobile tech-

nologies under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, including, at a minimum, to ensure that cybersecurity measures for EBT cards and mobile technologies keep pace with security safeguards used by the private sector and required by Federal agencies for credit, debit, and other payment cards and mobile technologies.

''(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the cybersecurity and digital service regulations described in clause (i) require the following:

''(I)(aa) Each State shall operate the user interfaces listed on the list of required user interfaces maintained by the Secretary under item (dd)(AA), in accordance with this subclause, 1 or more user interfaces of which households in the State may, at the election of the applicable household, use to manage the EBT account of the applicable household.

''(bb)(AA) A State may operate other user interfaces under item (aa)

in addition to the required user interfaces on the list maintained by the Secretary under item (dd)(AA).

''(BB) Any web-based online portal operated by a State as a user interface shall be mobile friendly.

''(cc) Each user interface offered by a State under items (aa) and (bb), as applicable, shall—

''(AA) provide information in each language in which the State agency is required to make material available pursuant to section 272.4(b) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

''(BB) be available to households at least 99 percent of the time; and

''(CC) include any other features required by the Secretary.

''(dd)(AA) The Secretary shall maintain a list of required user interfaces for purposes of item (aa), which

may include a web-based online portal and a mobile application.

''(BB) The list under subitem (AA) shall include an application programming interface through which at least 1 user interface offered by a State under item (aa) allows households to delegate access to some or all account features identified by the Secretary to third-party provided software. No fee shall be charged to any party for the use of that application programming interface.

''(CC) During the 10-year period following the date on which the regulations promulgated pursuant to clause (i) become final, unless the Secretary extends that period, the Secretary shall maintain on the list under subitem (AA) the following user interfaces: text message, voice telephone service, and a nondigital user interface that does not require the use of a phone or computer by the household.

"(II)(aa) Each State shall provide households on an opt-in basis—

"(AA) through each digital user interface offered under subclause (I), timely electronic notice of transactions using the EBT account of the household; and

"(BB) through each user interface offered under subclause (I), access to, including the ability to search, historical transactions for not less than the preceding 12 months.

"(bb) Transaction information under subitems (AA) and (BB) of item (aa) shall include the amount of the transaction, the merchant for the transaction, the city and State of the merchant for an in-person transaction, and the delivery address or collection address for an online transaction.

"(cc) Each State shall offer households the ability, through each user interface offered under subclause

(I), to report a fraudulent transaction to the State.

''(dd) A State shall not require a household to respond to or acknowledge a notice of transaction delivered pursuant to item (aa)(AA).

''(ee) A State shall notify any household that has reported an instance of EBT card skimming or fraud, or is otherwise identified as being a victim of EBT card skimming or fraud, of any State or Federal funds that may be reimbursed if the household experiences fraud again.

''(III) Each State shall provide households issued an EBT card the ability, through each user interface offered under subclause (I) to check the enrollment status of the household, including the date on which the household is required to apply for recertification.

''(IV) Not later than 2 years after the date on which the regulations promulgated pursuant to clause

(i) become final, States shall begin issuing chip-enabled EBT cards.

''(V) Not later than 4 years after the date on which the regulations promulgated pursuant to clause (i) become final, States may not issue new EBT cards with magnetic stripes.

''(VI) Not later than 5 years after the date on which the regulations promulgated pursuant to clause (i) become final, States shall be required to reissue any existing valid EBT cards with magnetic stripes as chip-enabled EBT cards without magnetic stripes.

''(VII) In the case of a chip-enabled EBT card reissued pursuant to any of subclauses (IV) through (VI), absent suspicion of fraud, as applicable, a State shall—

''(aa) reissue a new chip-enabled EBT card; and

''(bb) deactivate the current chip-enabled EBT card on the date that is the earlier of—

"(AA) the date on which the new chip-enabled EBT card is activated; and

"(BB) 60 days after the date on which the new chip-enabled EBT card is sent to the household.

"(iii) SUNSET FOR REQUIREMENT TO USE CHIP TECHNOLOGY.—Under the cybersecurity regulations described in clause (i), all EBT cards, except EBT cards issued to victims of a disaster pursuant to section 5(h) or solely for benefits under the summer electronic benefits transfer for children program established under section 13A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1762), issued during the 5-year period following the deadline for carrying out clause (ii)(VI) shall be chip-enabled, unless the Secretary extends that period.

"(iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The cybersecurity and digital service regulations described in clause (i) shall supersede any regulations promulgated under para-

graph (2) of section 501(a) of division HH of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (7 U.S.C. 2016a(a)) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026).

''(C) REIMBURSEMENTS.—Each State upgrading EBT cards to comply with the regulations promulgated under subparagraph (B)(i) shall receive reimbursement from the Secretary in an amount determined by the Secretary to cover all reasonable costs incurred by the State, including—

''(i) the 1-time up-front costs paid by the State to card vendors;

''(ii) the additional annual fees associated with chip-enabled cards paid by States to card vendors; and

''(iii) postage or other delivery-related costs.

''(D) PROHIBITION ON PASSWORD AND PIN REQUIREMENTS INCONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY STANDARDS.—Beginning 60 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, a State agency may not require, with respect to a PIN for use of an EBT card or a

password for access to an online account or mobile application managing the EBT card—

"(i) that the PIN or password be periodically changed in circumstances that are prohibited by the NIST PIN and password standards; or

"(ii) that the password meet complexity requirements that are prohibited by the NIST PIN and password standards.

"(E) GRANT PROGRAM FOR CHIP-ENABLED EBT CARDS.—

"(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

"(I) ADMINISTERING ENTITY.—The term 'administering entity' means an entity awarded a grant under clause (ii) to provide subgrants to eligible entities.

"(II) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

"(aa) an entity described in paragraph (1) or (3) of section 3(o) that—

"(AA) is authorized to participate in the supple-

mental nutrition assistance program under section 9;

"(BB) does not have payment terminals that accept chip-enabled EBT cards; and

"(CC) is located in an area with limited grocery access, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(bb) an entity described in paragraph (2), (4), or (5) of section 3(o) that meets the requirements described in subitems (AA) and (BB) of item (aa).

"(ii) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall establish a grant program to award a grant to an administering entity to provide subgrants to eligible entities to upgrade to chip-compatible payment terminals that support contact and contactless payment card technology.

"(F) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall—

''(i) collect, and publish on the website of the Department of Agriculture, data on—

''(I) the length of time each user interface offered by each State pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii)(I) was unavailable for use, including due to technical problems or maintenance needs; and

''(II) cybersecurity measures adopted for EBT cards in each State; and

''(ii) maintain and annually update the data collected under clause (i) to support States in implementing any regulations promulgated pursuant to subparagraph (B)(i).

''(G) PUBLIC REPORT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Ag-

riculture of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture, a report that—

"(I) identifies trends relating to the theft of benefits, including the frequency of theft of benefits, the locations at which EBT cards are compromised, and the method by which EBT cards are compromised;

"(II) evaluates the effectiveness of existing cybersecurity regulations for the supplemental nutrition assistance program, including identifying ineffective measures and the compliance burden borne by individual benefit recipients;

"(III) describes the efforts of States—

"(aa) to update cybersecurity measures for EBT cards; and

"(bb) to reimburse stolen benefits; and

"(IV) examines usability issues of EBT cards, including issues that present barriers to households using benefits or affect fraud prevention goals.

"(ii) RESTRICTED ANNEX.—The report under clause (i) may include a non-publicly available annex containing classified or law enforcement-sensitive information and any identifying merchant information.".

(b) ONLINE TRANSACTION SECURITY.—Section 7(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)) (as amended by subsection (a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(16) ONLINE TRANSACTION SECURITY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In promulgating and updating, as necessary, the regulations under paragraph (15)(B)(i), the Secretary shall, with respect to online transactions using EBT cards (or any successor financial product used for a substantially similar purpose)—

"(i) require security measures that—

"(I) are effective in detecting and preventing theft of benefits through

online transactions, including the theft of data from online merchants that may compromise the ability of a household to use benefits in transactions with other merchants, either online or in-person; and

''(II) prevent sensitive data from being stolen during online transactions and securely manage sensitive data generated by online transactions, including through cybersecurity enhancements for online retailers;

''(ii) establish standard reporting methods for States to collect and share data with the Secretary on the scope of benefits and data being stolen through online transactions; and

''(iii) in carrying out clauses (i) and (ii), take into consideration the feasibility of cost, availability, and implementation for States.

''(B) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consult with the Director of the Administration for Children and Families, the Attorney General of

the United States, State agencies, retail food stores, and EBT contractors—

"(i) on the measures, methods, and considerations under that subparagraph; and

"(ii) to determine—

"(I) how benefits are being stolen and sensitive data is being compromised through online transactions; and

"(II) how those stolen benefits and data are being used.

"(C) REPORT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

"(I) to the maximum extent practicable, information on the frequency of theft of benefits, the number of reported thefts from online transactions,

the amount of benefits stolen through online transactions, and the online retailers most commonly compromised;

''(II) a description of the measures and methods developed, and considerations taken, under subparagraph (A);

''(III) the determinations made under subparagraph (B)(ii); and

''(IV) recommendations on how to consistently detect, track, report, and prevent theft of benefits, including the theft of data described in subparagraph (A)(i)(I).

''(ii) CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX.—The report under clause (i) may include a non-publicly available confidential annex containing any identifying merchant information.''.

(c) ENSURING NO LOSS OF ACCESS TO BENEFITS DUE TO EBT CARD DAMAGE, LOSS, OR FRAUD.—Section 7(h)(7) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(7)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Regulations'' and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Regulations"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) ENSURING NO LOSS OF ACCESS TO BENEFITS DUE TO EBT CARD DAMAGE, LOSS, OR FRAUD.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations requiring the following:

"(i) If an EBT card is damaged, no longer functions properly, is stolen, or is frozen due to fraud, the applicable State shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the household receives a replacement card, either by mail or in person, as selected by the household, not later than 3 business days after the household submits to the State a request for a replacement EBT card.

"(ii) A State shall not require, but shall offer as an option, in-person collection of a new or replacement EBT card.".

(d) NO REPLACEMENT FEES FOR CERTAIN EBT CARDS.—Section 7(h)(8)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(8)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''A State agency'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a State agency''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Beginning 60 days after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, a State agency may not collect a charge under clause (i) if the replacement of the EBT card is due to—

''(I) the EBT card malfunctioning;

''(II) suspected or reported fraud relating to that EBT card by an individual outside of the household to which the EBT card belongs;

''(III) the expiration of the EBT card; or

''(IV) required replacement of the EBT card in compliance with regulations promulgated pursuant to paragraph (15)(B).''.

(e) REQUIREMENT FOR RETAILER USE OF CHIP-ENABLED PAYMENT TERMINALS AS A CONDITION OF SNAP

PARTICIPATION.—Section 9(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) CHIP-ENABLED PAYMENT TERMINALS.—Beginning not later than 180 days after the date on which the regulations promulgated pursuant to section 7(h)(15)(B)(i) become final, the Secretary shall require retail food stores and wholesale food concerns seeking authorization or reauthorization to accept and redeem benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program to have a chip-enabled (as defined in section 7(h)(15)(A)) payment terminal at each retail location of the retail food store or wholesale food concern.''.

(f) REPORT ON EBT CARDS ISSUED IN PUERTO RICO.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available on the website of the Department, a report on the security of EBT cards (as defined in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008

(7 U.S.C. 2012)) issued in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, including—

(A) the resistance of those EBT cards to cloning; and

(B) if appropriate, recommendations for improving the security of the electronic benefit transfer system against EBT card cloning-based fraud.

(2) RESTRICTED ANNEX.—The report under paragraph (1) may include a nonpublicly available annex containing classified or law enforcement-sensitive information.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 501 of division HH of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (7 U.S.C. 2016a), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''paragraph (4)(A)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(A)'';

(II) by striking ''paragraph (4)(B)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(B)''; and

(III) by striking ''paragraph (4)(C)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(C)'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(vi), by striking ''measures'' and all that follows through ''(a)(1)'' and inserting ''measures'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(iv) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''subsection (a)(3)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(1)''.

SEC. 4107. APPROVAL OF RETAIL FOOD STORES AND WHOLESALE FOOD CONCERNS.

(a) DEFINITION OF RETAIL FOOD STORE.—Section 3(o)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(o)(1)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''sells food'' and inserting ''owns food inventory and sells that food''.

(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION OF RETAIL FOOD STORES.—Section 9 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''(2) The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary''; and

(ii) by indenting the margins of subparagraphs (A) and (B) appropriately; and

(B) by indenting the margin of paragraph (3) appropriately;

(2) in subsection (c), in the third sentence, by inserting ''(42 U.S.C. 1786)'' after ''Act of 1966''; and

(3) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

''(f) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION.—

''(1) HOUSE-TO-HOUSE TRADE ROUTES, ONLINE-ONLY ENTITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall limit participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program of house-to-house trade routes and entities that operate solely online (referred to in this paragraph as 'online-only entities') to include only such routes and online-only entities that support the purposes of the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

''(B) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall establish terms and conditions for participation of house-to-house trade routes and online-only entities in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, which shall include, at a minimum—

''(i) a requirement to be fully operational with respect to sales to the public for not less than 1 year before receiving authorization under this section, including,

for online-only entities, operation in e-commerce for not less than that 1-year period;

''(ii) a requirement to provide to the Secretary, on request—

''(I) documentation to establish inventory ownership, such as business records; and

''(II) evidence of sufficient and consistent minimum inventory levels, such as business records, inventory storage facility visit reports, and other means, including, for online-only entities, documentation matching owned inventory with online offerings, as the Secretary determines to be sufficient to qualify continuously as a retail food store; and

''(iii) a requirement to demonstrate sales consistent with inventory, as determined by the Secretary, for not less than 1 year before receiving authorization under this section and periodically thereafter, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(2) ENTITIES WITHOUT INVENTORY.—An entity (including a product aggregator) that does not

qualify as a retail food store described in section 3(o)(1) because the entity does not own food inventory may not participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

''(3) THIRD-PARTY ENTITIES AND INVENTORY.—

''(A) RETAILERS.—An entity that is not an approved retail food store may not offer food for sale in exchange for benefits through an approved retail food store.

''(B) INVENTORY.—An approved retail food store may not offer inventory for sale in exchange for benefits if that inventory is owned by an entity that is not an approved retail food store.''.

SEC. 4108. STREAMLINING APPLICATIONS FOR FARMERS.

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED NUTRITION PROGRAM.—In this section, the term ''covered nutrition program'' means—

(1) the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

(2) the senior farmers' market nutrition program established under section 4402 of the Farm

Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007);

(3) the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), including the farmers' market nutrition program under that program; and

(4) the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program established under section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517), as practicable with respect to the activities carried out by the Secretary under subsections (b) and (c).

(b) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a streamlined application process—

(A) for direct marketing farmers and ranchers to apply to be vendors under each of the covered nutrition programs; and

(B) by—

(i) developing a single application that a direct marketing farmer or rancher may use to apply to each of the covered nutrition programs; or

(ii) developing an information sharing system that—

(I) shares the information of a direct marketing farmer or rancher who is approved as an authorized vendor under a covered nutrition program with each of the other covered nutrition programs; and

(II) deems that direct marketing farmer or rancher as a prequalified eligible vendor for those other covered nutrition programs.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing progress made in carrying out paragraph (1).

(c) STREAMLINED PROCESSING OF BENEFITS.—The Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for direct marketing farmers and ranchers that are vendors under any of the covered nutrition programs to process benefits under those programs through the use of standardized

technology, such as a single piece of equipment or a mobile application.

SEC. 4109. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR RETAILERS.

Section 9(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018(d)) is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting ", on 2 consecutive occasions within a 3-year period," after "does not meet".

SEC. 4110. ANIMAL PROTEIN AS ELIGIBLE INCENTIVE FOOD.

Section 9(j)(1)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018(j)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting "animal protein," after "whole grain,".

SEC. 4111. STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.

Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(y) STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.—

"(1) HIRING CONTRACTORS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (e)(6)(B), a State agency may, subject to subparagraph (B), hire 1 or more contractors, by contract, to undertake the certification described in subsection (e)(6)(A) or carry out any other function of the State agency under

the supplemental nutrition assistance program, subject to subparagraph (C).

"(B) CIRCUMSTANCES FOR HIRING.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A State agency may hire 1 or more contractors under subparagraph (A) if the State agency—

"(I) experiences an increase in applications to the supplemental nutrition assistance program; or

"(II) cannot timely process applications to the supplemental nutrition assistance program, including due to—

"(aa) a pandemic or other health emergency;

"(bb) a seasonal workforce cycle;

"(cc) a temporary staffing shortage; and

"(dd) weather or other natural disaster.

"(ii) TEMPORARY STAFFING SHORTAGE.—In the case of a State agency hiring 1 or more contractors under subparagraph (A) due to a temporary staffing shortage

under clause (i)(II)(cc), the authority of a State agency to conduct that hiring—

"(I) shall expire when there is adequate staffing for the State agency to timely process applications; and

"(II) shall not impact any collective bargaining agreement or memorandum of understanding in effect between the State and employees of the State or a local government of the State.

"(C) REQUIREMENTS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A contract entered into by a State agency under subparagraph (A) shall not provide incentives for the State agency or contractor to delay eligibility determinations or deny eligibility for individuals otherwise eligible for benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

"(ii) NO FINANCIAL INTEREST.—A State agency may not hire a contractor under subparagraph (A) if the contractor has a direct or indirect financial interest in any approved retail store, wholesale food

concern, or employment and training program.

''(iii) EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES.—A contractor hired under subparagraph (A) may not—

''(I) determine eligibility;

''(II) initiate enforcement actions;

''(III) conduct quality control;

''(IV) conduct administrative hearings; or

''(V) screen for or make a referral to an employment and training program.

''(D) ADMINISTRATION.—A State agency that hires 1 or more contractors under subparagraph (A) shall ensure that—

''(i) the contracts are for a reasonable cost and in accordance with the standard contracting rules of the State agency;

''(ii) hiring is consistent with the merit principles described in section 900.603 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation); and

"(iii) the contractors do not supplant existing merit-based personnel in the State.

"(2) PROGRAM DESIGN.—The hiring of 1 or more contractors by a State agency under paragraph (1) shall not—

"(A) be considered to be a major change in the operations of the State agency for purposes of subsection (a)(4); or

"(B) be subject to any requirement specified in that section.

"(3) STATE AGENCY NOTIFICATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A State agency that hires 1 or more contractors under paragraph (1) shall notify the Secretary of such hiring, including providing information or data indicating the applicable circumstance under subparagraph (B) of that paragraph for carrying out that hiring.

"(B) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 10 days after the date of receipt of a notification under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture the notification and the accompanying information or data.

"(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives an annual report that describes—

"(A) the measures taken by State agencies to address increases in applications to the supplemental nutrition assistance program;

"(B) reasons for the inability of State agencies to timely process those applications, as applicable;

"(C) the information or data submitted with each notification under paragraph (3)(A); and

"(D) any recommended changes to the authority of the Secretary to assist State agencies in preparing for any future increase in applications to the supplemental nutrition assistance program or inability to timely process those applications.".

SEC. 4112. QUALITY CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025 (c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (11); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

''(9) REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT ERRORS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall include all identified payment errors, including small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), regardless of dollar amount, in a supplemental section of the annual payment error rate measurement report for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

''(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The information reported under subparagraph (A) shall not alter, modify, or affect the calculation of the tolerance level for excluding small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii).

''(10) REPORT ON UNKNOWN AND TECHNICALLY IMPROPER PAYMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall include all unknown and improper payments, as identified under the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (31 U.S.C. 3351 et seq.), regardless of dollar amount, in a supplemental section of the annual payment error rate meas-

urement report for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

"(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The information reported under subparagraph (A) shall not alter, modify, or affect the calculation of the tolerance level for excluding small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii).".

SEC. 4113. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 18(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(1)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 4114. RETAIL FOOD STORE AND RECIPIENT TRAFFICKING.

Section 29(c)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036b(c)(1)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 4115. THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.—Section 209(d) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7511a(d)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(b) AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITIES.—Section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 4116. DAIRY NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

Section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**HEALTHY FLUID MILK**'' and inserting ''**DAIRY NUTRITION**'';

(2) by striking ''healthy fluid milk'' each place it appears and inserting ''dairy nutrition'';

(3) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED DAIRY PRODUCT.—The term 'covered dairy product' means—

''(A) cheese (including nonstandardized cheese) that—

''(i) is made from pasteurized cow's milk;

''(ii) is a good source of protein, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(iii) is sold as a block, chunk, shred, slice, stick, or string, or in snack-size form; and

''(B) yogurt or other cultured dairy product that—

''(i) is made from pasteurized cow's milk;

''(ii) is a good source of protein, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(iii) contains limited amounts of added sugars, as determined by the Secretary.

''(2) FLUID MILK.—The term 'fluid milk' means all varieties of pasteurized cow's milk that—

''(A) is packaged in liquid form; and

''(B) contains vitamins A and D at levels consistent with the Food and Drug Administration, State, and local standards for fluid milk.'';

(4) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''of Agriculture''; and

(B) by inserting ''and covered dairy products'' after ''of fluid milk'' each place it appears;

(5) in subsection (c)(3)—

(A) by inserting ''and covered dairy products'' after ''purchase of fluid milk''; and

(B) by inserting ''established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)'' before the period at the end;

(6) in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (d)(2), by striking '', and'' each place it appears and inserting ''; and''; and

(7) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) by striking ''$20,000,000'' and inserting ''$80,000,000''; and

(B) by inserting ''dairy nutrition incentive'' before ''projects''.

Subtitle B—Commodity Distribution Programs

SEC. 4201. DELIVERING FOR RURAL SENIORS.

The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 is amended by inserting after section 5 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86) the following:

''SEC. 5A. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM HOME DELIVERY PILOT PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.—The term 'commodity supplemental food

program' means the program established under section 4.

''(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) a local agency; and

''(B) a subdistributing agency.

''(3) LOCAL AGENCY.—The term 'local agency' has the meaning given the term in section 247.1 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

''(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term 'pilot program' means the home delivery pilot program established under subsection (b).

''(5) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' has the meaning given the term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

''(6) STATE AGENCY.—The term 'State agency' has the meaning given the term in section 247.1 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

''(7) SUBDISTRIBUTING AGENCY.—The term 'subdistributing agency' has the meaning given the term in section 247.1 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

''(b) HOME DELIVERY PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a home delivery pilot program under which the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to State agencies to carry out the activities described in subsection (e)(1).

''(c) APPLICATIONS.—A State agency seeking a grant under the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(d) MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.—The amount of a grant awarded to a State agency under the pilot program may not exceed the lesser of—

''(1) $4,000,000; and

''(2) the product obtained by multiplying—

''(A) the commodity supplemental food program caseload number for the applicable State at the time that the application for the grant is submitted under subsection (c); and

''(B) $60.

''(e) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A State agency awarded a grant under the pilot program shall distribute the grant funds to eligible entities to operate projects that facilitate home delivery of commodities to par-

ticipants in the commodity supplemental food program, including for costs relating to—

"(A) the transportation and distribution of those commodities for home delivery, including transportation and distribution services provided by a third party;

"(B) staffing required to operate home delivery services; and

"(C) outreach to participants or potential participants in the commodity supplemental food program with respect to home delivery.

"(2) PRIORITY.—In distributing grant funds under paragraph (1), a State agency shall give priority to eligible entities that serve participants in the commodity supplemental food program who reside in rural areas.

"(f) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 180 days after the end of the fiscal year in which a State agency is awarded a grant under the pilot program, and each fiscal year thereafter until all grant funds are expended, the State agency shall submit to the Secretary a report that includes—

"(1) a summary of the activities carried out using the grant funds, including—

"(A) the quantity of commodities delivered;

''(B) the number of participants in the commodity supplemental food program served; and

''(C) the total number of deliveries;

''(2) an assessment of the effectiveness of those activities, including—

''(A) a calculation of the average cost per delivery; and

''(B) an evaluation of any services provided by a third party; and

''(3) best practices regarding use of home delivery to improve the effectiveness of the commodity supplemental food program.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 4202. COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

Section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 4203. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.

Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in each of paragraphs (1) and (2)(B), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2), in the first sentence, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 4204. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES TO SPECIAL NUTRITION PROJECTS.

Section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e(a)(2)(A)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

SEC. 4301. SENIORS FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.

Section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''and herbs'' and inserting ''herbs, and tree nuts (including shelled tree nuts)''.

SEC. 4302. PURCHASE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS AND SERVICE INSTITUTIONS.

Section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 612c–4(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 4303. GUS SCHUMACHER NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

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

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii) and subparagraph (D)(iii), the Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity under this subsection shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the activity.

''(ii) WAIVER FOR PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTIES.—The Secretary may waive the application of clause (i) in the case of an activity carried out in a county that, during the preceding 30-year period, has had a population not less than 20 per-

cent of which are living in poverty (as measured by the most recent decennial census).''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (ix) and (x) as clauses (x) and (xi); and

(ii) by inserting after clause (viii) the following:

''(ix) increase year-round availability of incentives by offering all forms of fruits or vegetables;'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''fruits and vegetables'' and inserting ''fruits, vegetables, and legumes'';

(B) by striking ''fresh fruits and vegetables'' and inserting ''all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes'' each place it appears; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT ON TRANSITION TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—

''(A) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Secretary, in

consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall provide to Congress recommendations regarding methods to transition the produce prescription program established under this subsection to the Department of Health and Human Services to be administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

''(ii) CONSIDERATION.—In developing recommendations under clause (i), the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consider the policy option described in the report of the Comptroller General of the United States described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Comptroller General of the United States shall finalize and submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that examines policy options relating to the transition of the produce prescription program established

under this subsection to the Department of Health and Human Services to be administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.''; and

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (G) as subparagraphs (E) through (H), respectively; and

(ii) by redesignating the second subparagraph (C) (relating to fiscal year 2019) as subparagraph (D); and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 4304. BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12(n)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(n)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) PURCHASE EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY.—Subject to clause (ii) and subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall re-

quire that, of the total quantity of commodities and products purchased by a school food authority in each food purchase category designated by the Agricultural Marketing Service for each school year, not less than 95 percent are domestic commodities and products.

''(ii) DOMESTICALLY UNAVAILABLE COMMODITIES AND PRODUCTS.—Domestically unavailable products and commodities included on a list developed under clause (iii) with respect to a school year and purchased by a school food authority during that school year shall not be used to calculate whether the school food authority meets the requirement described in clause (i).

''(iii) UPDATED LIST.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall develop, and make available to school food authorities, a list of domestically unavailable products and commodities.''.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to school food authorities (within the meaning of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.)) beginning on the first day of the first school year (as defined in section 12(d) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d))) that begins after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4305. DIETARY GUIDELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(a) of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''At least every five years'' and inserting ''Beginning with the 2030 report and at least every 10 years thereafter,''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: ''Rulemaking requirements under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the development of each report under this paragraph.'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''shall'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''shall—

"(A) be based on significant scientific agreement that is determined by evidence-based review (as defined in paragraph (8)(A));

"(B) be current at the time that the report is prepared;

"(C) be derived from questions generated under paragraph (5)(E);

"(D) address high-priority areas of concern to advance health outcomes;

"(E) be designed to achieve nutritional adequacy and promote health, as specified by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, from the consumption of food, including nutrients and bioactive food components occurring naturally and in fortified foods;

"(F) include nutritional and dietary information relevant to individuals with nutrition-related common chronic diseases, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

"(G) include recommendations that are affordable, available, and accessible for the general population.";

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (7);

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) FREQUENCY.—The Secretaries may publish the report required under paragraph (1) more frequently than required under that paragraph if the Secretaries determine that more frequent publication is necessary to promote health, based on the updated dietary reference intake values specified by—

''(A) the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; and

''(B) other relevant scientific advancements based on continuous monitoring of the totality of publicly available scientific evidence.

''(4) NOTIFICATION OF UPDATE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days before the Secretaries plan to update a report under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall submit notification of that plan, in writing, to the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committees on

Agriculture and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

"(B) JUSTIFICATION.—The notification under subparagraph (A) shall include a justification for updating the report.

"(5) INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the Secretaries submit a notification under paragraph (4)(A), the Secretaries shall establish an Independent Advisory Board (referred to in this paragraph as the 'Board').

"(B) MEMBERS.—The Board shall comprise at least 4 but not more than 8 members, of which—

"(i) 4 shall be appointed by the Secretaries, 2 of whom shall not be Federal employees; and

"(ii) 1 may be appointed by each of the highest-ranking Members of Congress on each Committee described in paragraph (4)(A) of the opposite political party of the President of the United States at the time of the appointment.

"(C) EXPERTISE.—Each member appointed to the Board shall have expertise in nu-

trition science or food science, including academic and applied experience.

''(D) MEETINGS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The first meeting of the Board—

''(I) may only take place on or after the date on which there are 4 members appointed to the Board under subparagraph (B); and

''(II) shall take place on or after the date that is 90 days after the Secretaries submit a notification under paragraph (4)(A).

''(ii) QUORUM.—A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Board.

''(E) DUTIES.—Not later than 1 year after the establishment of the Board, the Board shall submit to the Secretaries and the Committees described in paragraph (4)(A) a list of scientific questions for purposes of being used in the development of a report under paragraph (1), as described in paragraph (2)(C).

''(F) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Board shall terminate, and the Board shall dis-

band, immediately after carrying out subparagraph (E).

''(6) EXCLUSION.—The information and guidelines contained in each report required under paragraph (1) shall not be based on or include topics that are not relevant to dietary guidance, as determined by the Secretaries, in consultation with the Independent Advisory Board established under paragraph (5), including taxation, social welfare policies, purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and agricultural production practices, food labeling, socioeconomic status, race, religion, ethnicity, culture, or regulations relating to nutrition.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW.—In this paragraph, the term 'evidence-based review' means a process under which—

''(i) the totality of the scientific evidence relevant to a question of interest is collected, analyzed, and evaluated;

''(ii) scientific studies, conclusions, and recommendations are rated, adhering

strictly to standardized, generally accepted evidence-based review methods; and

"(iii) external peer review is conducted by nongovernment experts with recognized expertise in quality-of-evidence evaluation.

"(B) STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE.—Each guideline contained in a report published under paragraph (1) shall be assigned a rating by the Secretaries for the strength of evidence used, including the extent to which the guideline will improve the Healthy Eating Index.

"(9) TRANSPARENCY.—

"(A) DISCLOSURE.—Any individual appointed to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee or an Independent Advisory Board established under paragraph (5) shall—

"(i) be appointed as a special government employee;

"(ii) comply with the financial disclosure requirements applicable to a special government employee under subpart I of part 2634 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), including the requirement to file the Office of Gov-

ernment Ethics Form 450 (or successor form); and

"(iii) prior to the appointment, submit to the Secretaries a report regarding, for the 10-year period preceding the report, any research funding or professional affiliation relating to a report under paragraph (1).

"(B) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date on which a Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee is established or an Independent Advisory Board is established under paragraph (5), the Secretaries shall make publicly available—

"(i) a summary of the financial disclosures reported by the members of the Committee or Board, as applicable;

"(ii) the research funding and professional affiliations reported by those members under subparagraph (A)(iii), categorized by the name of the member; and

"(iii) a detailed plan for managing any disclosed conflicts of interest, includ-

ing financial or ethical conflicts of interest, preferences, values, and beliefs.''.

(b) CONTROLLING REPORT.—The 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans published by the Secretaries under subsection (a)(1) of section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341) shall be controlling and considered to be the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans until the publication of the first report under that subsection after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4306. STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM.

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

''SEC. 210B. STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term 'beginning farmer or rancher' has the meaning given the term in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)).

''(2) COVERED LOCAL PRODUCER.—The term 'covered local producer' means, with respect to an el-

igible entity participating in the program, a fisherman, farmer, producer, rancher, processor, or cooperative processor that is—

"(A) within the geographic boundaries of the State of the eligible entity; or

"(B) not more than 400 miles from the delivery destination of the food.

"(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a State agency, commission, or department that is responsible for agriculture, procurement, food distribution, emergency response, or other similar activities within the State.

"(4) MEDIUM-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term 'medium-size producer' means an individual whose annual gross cash farm income is equal to or exceeds $350,000 but less than $999,999.

"(5) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means the program established under subsection (b).

"(6) SMALL-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term 'small-size producer' means an individual whose annual gross cash farm income is less than $350,000.

"(7) STATE.—The term 'State' includes—

"(A) each territory or possession of the United States; and

''(B) each Federally recognized Indian Tribe.

''(8) UNPROCESSED OR MINIMALLY PROCESSED FOODS.—The term 'unprocessed or minimally processed foods' means agricultural products that retain their inherent character, including—

''(A) fruits and vegetables (including 100-percent juices);

''(B) grain products, such as pastas and rice;

''(C) milk and dairy products and eggs;

''(D) meat (including whole carcasses, pieces thereof, or ground meat) , poultry, and seafood;

''(E) protein sources that are meat alternatives (such as beans or legumes) and fluid milk and other dairy foods (such as cheese and yogurt); and

''(F) foods in a wide variety of minimal processing states (such as whole, cut, or pureed) or forms (such as fresh, frozen, canned, or dried).

''(9) VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term 'veteran farmer or rancher' has the meaning given the term in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agri-

culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program under which the Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements, on a noncompetitive basis, with eligible entities—

''(1) to support covered local producers by building and expanding economic opportunities for those covered local producers;

''(2) to establish and broaden partnerships with covered local producers and the food distribution community to ensure distribution of fresh (including fresh frozen) and nutritious foods;

''(3) to strengthen the local and regional food security and systems within the State of the eligible entity; and

''(4) to distribute food within the geographic boundaries of an eligible entity, including to hunger relief organizations and schools participating in school meal programs under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

''(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that enters into a cooperative agreement under the program shall use funds received under that cooperative agreement—

''(1) to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed foods from covered local producers;

''(2) to ensure that at least 51 percent of the total annual value of purchased unprocessed or minimally processed foods by the eligible entity comprises purchases from small-size producers, medium-size producers, beginning farmers or ranchers, or veteran farmers or ranchers;

''(3) to provide technical assistance to covered local producers, including—

''(A) in obtaining food safety training and certifications; and

''(B) to support efforts to grow the local agricultural value chain;

''(4) to distribute unprocessed or minimally processed foods from covered local producers to organizations, including nonprofit organizations, that have experience in food distribution to improve access to healthy and nutritious food; and

''(5) to build and expand economic opportunity for covered local producers.

''(d) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amount made available to an eligible entity through a cooperative agreement under the program, an eligible entity may use not more than 25 percent for administrative expenses, of which not less than 35 percent shall be used to provide the technical assistance described in subsection (c)(3).

''(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary shall provide to eligible entities entering into a cooperative agreement under the program guidance, technical assistance, instruction, and monitoring throughout the duration of the cooperative agreement.

''(f) FOOD SAFETY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require food purchased by an eligible entity under a cooperative agreement entered into under the program to be purchased from a farm that has undergone food safety training or received a relevant food safety certification with respect to production, packaging, handling, and storage to minimize risks of food safety hazards.

''(2) FEDERAL CERTIFICATION NOT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall not require a food

safety certification described in paragraph (1) to be a Federal certification.

''(g) AMOUNT OF ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall—

''(1) first allocate 10 percent to Tribal governments, to be allocated using a funding formula determined by the Secretary;

''(2) of the amounts remaining after making the allocation under paragraph (1), allocate 1 percent to each State (other than Tribal governments); and

''(3) after making the allocations under paragraphs (1) and (2), allocate the remaining amounts to each eligible entity (other than Tribal governments) by applying the formula described in section 214 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515).

''(h) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 4307. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION LIASON ANNUAL REPORT.

Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924(e)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''REPORT'' and inserting ''ANNUAL REPORT'';

(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and annually thereafter,'' after ''paragraph (1),'';

(3) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

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

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) a general description of each project and activity implemented pursuant to this section;

''(D) a summary of the cooperative agreements entered into under subsection (c);

''(E) a detailed account of how the Secretary avoided, managed, or will manage market disruption; and

''(F) a summary of coordinated activities with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Commissioner of

Food and Drugs, including interagency communication and coordination related to the promotion or exclusion of practices and technologies to limit food waste.''.

SEC. 4308. HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE.

Section 243(d) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953(d)) is amended by striking ''$125,000,000'' and inserting ''$135,000,000''.

SEC. 4309. OPTION FOR PURCHASING TEFAP THROUGH DOD FRESH.

Section 214(c) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DOD FRESH.—At the request of a State agency, the Secretary may allow the State agency to use not more than 20 percent of the cost of the commodities allocated to that State agency under this section to order commodities through the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.''.

SEC. 4310. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Section 12(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking the subsection designation and all that follows through ''Act—'' in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:'';

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) COMMODITY ONLY SCHOOL.—The term 'commodity only school' means a school that—

''(A) does not participate in the school lunch program under this Act; but

''(B) receives commodities made available by the Secretary for use by the school in a nonprofit lunch program.'';

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking ''U.S.C'' and inserting ''U.S.C.'';

(4) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking the paragraph designation and all that follows through ''not limited to,'' in the first sentence and inserting the following:

''(5) SCHOOL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'school' means—

''(i) any public or nonprofit private school of high school grade or under; and

''(ii) any public or licensed nonprofit private residential child care institution (including''; and

(B) in clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by striking ''For purposes of this paragraph'' and inserting the following:

''(B) ASSOCIATED DEFINITION.—For purposes of schools and institutions under subparagraph (A)'';

(5) in paragraph (6), by striking ''School'' and inserting ''school''; and

(6) in each of paragraphs (6) through (9)—

(A) by inserting ''The term'' after the paragraph designation; and

(B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the text of which comprises the term defined in the paragraph.

TITLE V—CREDIT

Subtitle A—Farm Credit System

SEC. 5101. EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO BUSINESSES PROVIDING SERVICES TO PRODUCERS OR HARVESTERS OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS.

(a) FARM CREDIT BANKS.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT AND FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Section 1.9 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2017) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) persons furnishing to producers or harvesters of aquatic products services directly related to their aquatic operating needs; or''.

(2) PURPOSES FOR EXTENSIONS OF CREDIT.—Section 1.11(c)(1) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2019(c)(1)) is amended by inserting ''and to persons furnishing services directly related to the aquatic operating needs of producers or harvesters of aquatic products'' after ''needs''.

(b) PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.—Section 2.4(a) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2075(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) persons furnishing to producers or harvesters of aquatic products services directly related to their aquatic operating needs.''.

SEC. 5102. EXPORT FINANCE AUTHORITY.

Section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)) is amended, in the undesignated matter following subclause (II), by striking ''50 percent of the bank's capital'' each place it appears and inserting ''15 percent of the total assets of the bank''.

SEC. 5103. SUPPORT FOR RURAL WATER SYSTEMS.

Section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''(f) The banks'' and inserting the following:

''(f) WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND OTHER FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS.—

''(2) WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES.—The banks'';

(3) in the undesignated matter following paragraph (2)(B) (as so redesignated), by striking ''For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(1) DEFINITION OF RURAL AREA.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), for purposes'';

(4) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by adding at the end the following:

''(B) GUARANTEES.—In the case of a loan, commitment, or assistance described in paragraph (2) that is guaranteed, the term 'rural area' means an area described in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).'';

(5) by moving paragraphs (1) and (2) (as so designated) so as to appear in numerical order; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) OTHER FACILITIES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), a bank for cooperatives may make and participate in loans and commitments and provide technical and other financial assistance to cooperatives and any other public or private entity (except the Federal Government) for the purpose of in-

stalling, maintaining, expanding, improving, or operating facilities in a rural area for—

''(A) the processing or disposal of waste from any source; or

''(B) producing electricity from any source for use or sale by the borrower.''.

SEC. 5104. FINANCING FOR ESSENTIAL RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

Title IV of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2153 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''PART H—SUPPORT FOR RURAL AND TRIBAL ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECTS

''SEC. 4.40. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term 'Administration' means the Farm Credit Administration.

''(2) ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'essential community facility' has the same meaning as in section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'essential community facility' includes a commu-

nity center, a library, a firehouse, a healthcare facility, a senior living facility, a childcare facility, an education facility, and a transportation facility.

''(ii) SERVICES.—The term 'essential community facility' includes any services provided at the applicable facility to rural residents, rural businesses, or members of an Indian Tribe, including healthcare services, senior living services, childcare services, education services, and transportation services.

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

''(4) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' means each of the following:

''(A) A rural city, town, or equivalent jurisdiction, as determined by the Administration.

''(B) A rural area (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))).

''(5) TRIBAL AREA.—The term 'Tribal area' means an area under the jurisdiction of an Indian Tribe.

''(b) FINANCING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In order to make available private capital to develop, build, maintain, improve, or provide other support for essential community facilities in rural areas or Tribal areas, Farm Credit System institutions chartered and operating under title I, II, or III may provide financing and technical assistance for essential community facilities.

''(c) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) ELIGIBILITY.—Only an entity eligible for financing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) may receive financing or any other assistance under this section.

''(2) AMOUNT OF FINANCING.—A Farm Credit System institution shall not provide financing under this section in an amount that exceeds 15 percent of the total assets of the Farm Credit System institution.

''(3) OFFER REQUIREMENT.—A Farm Credit System institution shall not provide financing under this section unless the Farm Credit System institution has—

"(A) offered in writing, under reasonable terms and conditions acceptable to the applicable sponsor, owner, or operator of the essential community facility involved, an interest in the financing to at least 1 domestic nongovernmental lending institution that is not chartered and operating under this Act; and

"(B) reported that offer, including the terms and conditions of the offer, to the Administration.

"(4) RURAL COMMUNITY BANK PRIORITY.—In offering an interest in financing under this section to domestic nongovermental lending institutions described in paragraph (3)(A), a Farm Credit System institution shall give priority to community banks located in the service area of the essential community facility being financed.

"(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the activities undertaken pursuant to this section by Farm Credit System institutions during the period covered by the report, including activities undertaken through partnerships between

Farm Credit System institutions and other non-governmental lending institutions.

''(2) PUBLICATION.—A copy of each report submitted to Congress under paragraph (1) shall be published on the website of the Administration.''.

SEC. 5105. LIMITATION ON RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Section 384J(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–9(c)) is amended by striking ''50'' and inserting ''75''.

SEC. 5106. LOAN GUARANTEES.

Section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa(7)(B)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''or section 9007(c)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(c)(1))'' before '', except''.

SEC. 5107. STANDARDS FOR QUALIFIED LOANS.

Section 8.8 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa–8) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''mortgage investors'' and inserting ''investors in those types of loans''; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) QUALIFIED LOAN LIMITATION FOR SINGLE BORROWERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall not treat a loan secured by agricultural real estate as a qualified loan whenever the cumulative principal amount of all loans to any single borrower or to any group of related borrowers exceeds 10 percent of the tier 1 capital of the Corporation (as defined by the Farm Credit Administration).

''(2) REGULATOR DETERMINATION.—The Farm Credit Administration may promulgate regulations establishing a single-borrower concentration limit lower than the percentage specified in paragraph (1) if the Farm Credit Administration determines that a lower limit is necessary for the safe and sound operation of the Corporation.''.

Subtitle B—Farm Ownership and Operating Loans

SEC. 5201. LIMITATIONS ON LOAN AMOUNTS.

(a) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.—Section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''$600,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $1,750,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2019'' and inserting ''$850,000, or, in the case

of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $3,500,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2027''.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF OPERATING LOANS.—Section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''$400,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $1,750,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2019'' and inserting ''$750,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $3,000,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2027''.

SEC. 5202. INFLATION PERCENTAGE.

Section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''of the Prices Paid By Farmers Index (as compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the Department of Agriculture) for the 12-month period ending on July 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year'' and inserting ''of the per acre average United States farm real estate value, the per acre average United States cropland value, and the per acre average United States pasture value for the preceding year (as published in the applicable Agricultural Land Values report of the National Agricultural Statistics

Service of the Department of Agriculture), weighted equally, to the extent practicable''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''of such index (as so defined) for the 12-month period that immediately precedes the 12-month period described in paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''of the per acre average United States farm real estate value, the per acre average United States cropland value, and the per acre average United States pasture value for the preceding year (as so published), weighted equally, to the extent practicable''.

SEC. 5203. PRECISION AGRICULTURE UNDER THE CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (1), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(2) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term 'precision agriculture' means managing, tracking, or

reducing crop or livestock production inputs, including seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time, at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain or improve environmental quality.

''(3) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'precision agriculture technology' means any technology (including equipment that is necessary for the deployment of that technology) that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or livestock production, including—

''(A) Global Positioning System-based or geospatial mapping;

''(B) satellite or aerial imagery;

''(C) yield monitors;

''(D) soil mapping;

''(E) sensors for gathering data on crop, soil, or livestock conditions;

''(F) Internet of Things and telematics technologies;

''(G) data management software and advanced analytics;

''(H) network connectivity products and solutions;

''(I) Global Positioning System guidance or auto-steer systems;

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

''(K) any other technology, as determined by the Secretary, that leads to a reduction in, or improves efficiency of, crop and livestock production inputs, which may include seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time.'';

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''1985.'' and inserting ''1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812); and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) producers who use the loans to adopt precision agriculture practices or acquire precision agriculture technologies, including adoption or acquisition for the purpose of participating in the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.).''; and

(3) in subsection (h), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5204. DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM.

Section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1935(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''exceed 45 percent of the least'' and inserting ''exceed, subject to section 305(a), 45 percent of the lesser'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), by adding ''or'' after the semicolon;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a period; and

(4) by striking subparagraph (C).

SEC. 5205. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR LOANS.

(a) OWNERSHIP LOANS.—Section 302(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the second sentence, by striking ''a majority'' each place it appears and inserting ''at least a 50 percent'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

"(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS.—A qualified operator (as defined by the Secretary) shall be considered to meet the operator requirement of paragraph (1).

"(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An applicant that is or will become only the operator of farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle shall be considered to meet the owner-operator requirements of paragraph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who are owners of the farm real estate collectively own at least 50 percent (or such other percentage as the Secretary determines to be appropriate) of the applicant.

"(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator described in paragraph (1), or an operator described in subparagraph (B), that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more other entities shall be considered to meet the direct ownership requirement imposed under paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total ownership interests of the embedded entity, or of the other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by qualified op-

erators of the farm acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle.''.

(b) OPERATING LOANS.—Section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''a majority'' each place it appears and inserting ''at least a 50 percent''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''ownership interests'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''total ownership interests of that entity, or of the other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by qualified operators of the farm improved or supported with funds under this subtitle.''; and

(B) by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through ''An entity'' and inserting the following:

''(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS.—A qualified operator (as defined by the Secretary) shall be considered to meet the operator requirement of paragraph (1).

''(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An entity''.

(c) EMERGENCY LOANS.—Section 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence, in the matter preceding the proviso—

(i) by striking ''(A)'' and inserting ''(i)'';

(ii) by striking ''(B)'' and inserting ''(ii)'';

(iii) by striking ''(1)'' and inserting ''(A)'';

(iv) by striking ''(2)'' and inserting ''(B)''; and

(v) by striking ''a majority'' each place it appears and inserting ''at least a 50 percent'';

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''this subsection'' and inserting ''this paragraph'';

(C) by striking the fifth sentence; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

"(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS.—A qualified operator (as defined by the Secretary) shall be considered to meet the operator requirement of paragraph (1).

"(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An applicant that is or will become only the operator of farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle shall be considered to meet the owner-operator requirements of paragraph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who are owners of the farm real estate collectively own at least 50 percent (or such other percentage as the Secretary determines to be appropriate) of the applicant.

"(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator described in paragraph (1), or an operator described in subparagraph (B), that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more other entities shall be considered to meet the direct ownership requirement imposed under paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total ownership interests of the embedded entity, or of the other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by qualified op-

erators of the farm acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle.''; and

(2) by striking the section designation and all that follows through ''shall make and insure'' in subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''SEC. 321. ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall make and insure''.

SEC. 5206. REFINANCING OF BRIDGE LOANS.

Section 303(a)(1)(E)(ii) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1923(a)(1)(E)(ii)) is amended by striking ''was approved'' and inserting ''was approved or the temporary bridge loan was closed''.

SEC. 5207. SUPPORT FOR RESOLVING OWNERSHIP AND SUCCESSION ISSUES RELATING TO FARMLAND.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEIRS PROPERTY INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.—Section 310I(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936c(g)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON OPERATIONS AND OUTCOMES UNDER THE RELENDING PROGRAM TO RESOLVE OWNERSHIP AND SUCCESSION ON FARMLAND.—Section

310I(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936c(f)) is amended by striking ''Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall annually''.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROPERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL SERVICES.—Section 310I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROPERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL SERVICES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to provide legal or accounting services to underserved heirs, at no cost to the underserved heirs, to assist in resolving undivided ownership interests on farmland or forest land, or land transitioning to farmland or forest land, that has multiple owners. Such a co-

operative agreement must be for any of the following purposes:

"(A) To assist with transitioning land to agricultural production.

"(B) To maintain land in agricultural production.

"(C) To increase access to programs administered by the Secretary through the resolution of real property claims in order to allow real property owners to meet land ownership eligibility requirements for participation in a program administered by the Secretary.

"(2) ADMINISTRATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

"(A) DURATION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) shall be in effect for not more than 4 years, subject to clause (ii).

"(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may extend a cooperative agreement or reenter into a cooperative agreement with the same or a different eligible entity to provide continued services for heirs if—

"(I) property ownership is not resolved within the initial term of the original cooperative agreement; and

"(II) the entity certifies that the entity understands that the cooperative agreement is not guaranteed to be funded for more than 4 years after the commencement of the original cooperative agreement.

"(B) MANAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCE.—

"(i) ANNUAL REPORTS.—An eligible entity must provide annual reports to the Secretary summarizing the progress made during each fiscal year towards achieving the goals of the cooperative agreement for the heirs for whom services are provided under the cooperative agreement.

"(ii) INFORMATION AND DATA.—The Secretary may require an eligible entity to provide the Secretary with such information or data as the Secretary deems necessary to determine that the eligible entity is making acceptable progress. The data may not include personally identifiable information.

"(iii) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO DEMONSTRATE SUCCESS.—If an eligible entity providing services under such a cooperative agreement does not demonstrate success, as determined by the Secretary, in resolving or reasonably attempting to resolve the property claims of an heir, the Secretary may terminate the agreement.

"(C) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may utilize requests for public input or the formal rulemaking process to effectuate this subsection. At a minimum, the Secretary shall make publicly available the criteria for selecting an eligible entity to enter into an agreement to provide services, the administrative and performance requirements for cooperative agreements under this subsection, as well as codify within its internal policy its implementation process.

"(D) HEIRS PROPERTY NOT IN FARMING.—On a limited basis, and when determined by the Secretary to meet the purposes of a program administered by the Secretary and to expand access to such a program, the Secretary may allow an eligible entity to provide services

at no cost to an heir who is not an underserved heir if—

''(i) the land with respect to which the services are to be provided is not farmland or in agricultural production, but could be viably productive for agricultural, conservation, or forestry purposes;

''(ii) the heir satisfies all other requirements of the definition of 'underserved heir';

''(iii) the heir can provide proof to substantiate that the heir is in control of the real property; and

''(iv) the heir certifies to the Secretary that the heir intends to apply for, and make a good faith effort to enroll the land in, a program administered by the Secretary once property claims to the land are resolved through services provided under a cooperative agreement entered into under this subsection.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a nonprofit organization that—

"(i) provides legal or accounting services to an underserved heir at no cost to the underserved heir to resolve property ownership issues; and

"(ii) has demonstrated experience in resolving issues related to ownership and succession on farmland or forest land that has multiple owners.

"(B) LIMITED RESOURCE HEIR.—An heir shall be considered a limited resource heir for purposes of this subsection if—

"(i) the total household income of the heir is at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50 percent of the county median household income for the 2 immediately preceding calendar years, as determined annually using data of the Department of Commerce; or

"(ii) the property of the heir for which legal services are provided pursuant to a cooperative agreement entered into under this subsection is in a persistent poverty community, as determined annually on the basis of data from the Department of Commerce, or a socially vulnerable area, as

designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

''(C) UNDERSERVED HEIR.—The term 'underserved heir' means an heir with an undivided ownership interest in farmland or forest land that has multiple owners, who is—

''(i) a limited resource heir;

''(ii) a member of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))); or

''(iii) a veteran (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

''(4) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare, make public, and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written report on the activities carried out under this subsection in the year covered by the report.

''(5) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there

is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 5208. LIMITATION ON MICROLOAN AMOUNTS.

Section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(2)) is amended by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$100,000''.

SEC. 5209. COOPERATIVE LENDING PILOT PROJECTS.

Section 313(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(4)(A)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5210. REFINANCING OF GUARANTEED LOANS INTO DIRECT LOANS.

Section 303 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1923) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) REFINANCING OF GUARANTEED LOANS INTO DIRECT LOANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations allowing certain loans guaranteed by the Farm Service Agency to be refinanced into direct loans issued by the Farm Service Agency, in accordance with this subsection.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) shall provide that a guaranteed loan described in that paragraph may be refinanced into a direct loan described in that paragraph only if the Secretary, in consultation with the lender holding the guaranteed loan, determines that—

''(i) the guaranteed loan is distressed due to its status as a non-performing loan that does not have a positive cashflow;

''(ii) the borrower on the guaranteed loan has attempted to work with the lender and has been unsuccessful;

''(iii) the borrower on the guaranteed loan is in default and the lender has notified the borrower of a pending liquidation or foreclosure action;

''(iv) a reasonable chance for the success of the operation financed by the guaranteed loan exists; and

''(v) all other criteria established by the Secretary for purposes of this section to protect taxpayer funds and the loan pro-

grams of the Farm Service Agency have been satisfied.

''(B) REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iv), the Secretary may determine that a reasonable chance for the success of an operation exists if the Secretary determines that—

''(i) all relevant problems with the operation financed by the guaranteed loan—

''(I) have been identified; and

''(II) can be corrected; and

''(ii) on correction of those problems, the operation can achieve, or be returned to, a sound financial basis.

''(3) LOAN PROGRAMS.—In making direct loans pursuant to the regulations promulgated under paragraph (1), the Secretary may refinance a loan guaranteed under 1 program of the Farm Service Agency into a direct loan issued under another program of the Farm Service Agency, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate and in accordance with the laws applicable to the program under which the new direct loan is issued.

''(4) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DIRECT REFINANCING LOANS.—A direct loan issued by the Farm

Service Agency pursuant to the regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) shall be subject to any otherwise applicable limitation on the maximum amount of a direct loan issued by the Farm Service Agency, including, if applicable, the limitations described in sections 305 and 313.''.

SEC. 5211. PILOT PROJECTS FOR PREAPPROVAL OF DIRECT FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.

Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act is amended by inserting after section 333D (7 U.S.C. 1983d) the following:

''SEC. 333E. PILOT PROJECTS.

''The Secretary shall conduct pilot projects that use financial benchmarking and streamlined loan assessment requirements under section 360(b) to provide farmers and ranchers with a preapproval or prequalification mechanism for direct farm ownership loans under subtitle A.''.

SEC. 5212. DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.

Section 343(a)(11) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (G) as subparagraphs (C) through (F), respectively.

SEC. 5213. USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR DIRECT OPERATING MICROLOANS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

Section 346(b)(5)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(5)(C)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5214. STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS.

(a) MATCHING GRANTS TO STATES.—Section 502 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5102) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''$500,000'' and inserting ''$700,000''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) CARRYOVER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall permit a State that receives financial assistance under subsection (a) for a fiscal year to carry over not more than 25 percent of the financial assistance that is not expended by the end of the fiscal year for use during the next fiscal year without deducting the amount from any assistance provided under this Act in subsequent fiscal years.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 Act (7 U.S.C. 5106) is amended by inserting ''and $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 5215. PROMPT APPROVAL OF LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333A of the of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) REAL ESTATE AND OPERATING GUARANTEED LOANS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to lenders a short, simplified application form for real estate and operating guaranteed loans of not more than $1,000,000 under this title.

''(B) NOTICE.—Not later than 5 business days after receipt of an application to guarantee a real estate or operating loan described in subparagraph (A) originated by a Preferred Certified Lender or Certified Lender, the Sec-

retary shall notify the lender as to whether the application is approved or disapproved.

''(C) MAXIMUM GUARANTEE.—The percentage of the principal amount of a loan that may be guaranteed pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed—

''(i) 90 percent, in the case of a loan of not more than $125,000;

''(ii) 75 percent, in the case of a loan of more than $125,000 and not more than $500,000; or

''(iii) 50 percent, in the case of a loan of more than $500,000 and not more than $1,000,000.'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED LOANS TO ASSIST RURAL ENTITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop an application process that accelerates, to the maximum extent practicable, the processing of applications for business and industry guaranteed loans of not more than $400,000 to

assist rural entities, as described in section 310B(a)(2)(A).

''(B) EXCEPTION.—The accelerated application process developed under subparagraph (A) shall apply to a loan of more than $400,000, but not more than $600,000, if the Secretary determines that there is not a significant increased risk of a default on the loan.''; and

(2) by striking subsection (h).

(b) AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE CERTAIN CERTIFIED LENDERS AS PREFERRED CERTIFIED LENDERS.—Section 339(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1989(d)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through ''the Secretary'' in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(3) by striking the undesignated matter following subparagraph (A)(iii) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

"(B) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall certify as a Preferred Certified Lender—

"(i) any lending institution that meets such criteria as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation; and

"(ii) any lending institution certified under subsection (c), if the Secretary determines that including the lending institution in the program under this subsection is feasible as a result of the lending institution meeting alternative eligibility criteria established by the Secretary.".

SEC. 5216. FARM OPERATING LOANS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(14) COMMERCIAL FISHING.—The term 'commercial fishing' means fishing (as defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) in which the fish harvested, either in whole or in part—

"(A) are intended to enter commerce; or

"(B) enter commerce through sale, barter, or trade.

"(15) COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL.—The term 'commercial fishing vessel' has the meaning given the term 'fishing vessel' in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

"(16) FISH.—The term 'fish' has the meaning given the term in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.".

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.—Section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND SHELLFISH.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, for purposes of direct and guaranteed farm loans under this subtitle—

"(A) the terms 'farmer' and 'rancher' shall include an individual or entity engaged in commercial fishing; and

"(B) the terms 'farm' and 'ranch' shall include a commercial fishing vessel.".

(c) PURPOSES OF LOANS.—Section 312 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS.—An individual or entity engaged in commercial fishing may only use a direct or guaranteed loan under this subtitle for the costs associated with acquiring, operating, or maintaining a commercial fishing vessel.''.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION.—

(1) DEFINITION OF COMMERCIAL FISHING.—In this subsection, the term ''commercial fishing'' has the meaning given the term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure the successful and effective integration of individuals and entities in the commercial fishing industry into each program of the Department for which those individuals and entities are eligible pursuant to the amendments made by this section.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) provide outreach and technical assistance to participants in the commercial fishing industry, including through cooperative agreements and public-private and other partner-

ships, to promote awareness of and access to relevant programs;

(B) provide guidance and training to relevant agency personnel of the Department, including through cooperative agreements and public-private and other partnerships, to ensure program services are effectively delivered to the commercial fishing industry; and

(C) coordinate, as appropriate, with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other relevant Federal and State agencies to implement the amendments made by this section.

Subtitle C—Administrative Provisions

SEC. 5301. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b(h)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5302. LOAN AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.

Section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(1)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5303. LOAN FUND SET-ASIDES.

Section 346(b)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (i)(II), by inserting ‘‘, to the extent practicable’’ after ‘‘April 1 of the fiscal year’’;

(B) in clause (ii)(III), by striking ‘‘2023’’ and inserting ‘‘2031’’; and

(C) in clause (iii), by inserting ‘‘, to the extent practicable’’ after ‘‘September 1 of the fiscal year’’; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by inserting ‘‘, to the extent practicable’’ after ‘‘April 1 of the fiscal year’’.

SEC. 5304. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF LOANS TO BORROWERS THAT HAVE RECEIVED DEBT FORGIVENESS.

Section 373(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008h(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

‘‘(1) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary may not make or guarantee a loan under this title to a borrower for a pe-

riod of 7 years after the borrower has received debt forgiveness on a loan made or guaranteed under this title.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), by striking ''chapters'' and inserting ''chapter''.

SEC. 5305. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCES TO COUNTY COMMITTEES.—

(1) Section 333A(a)(2)(B)(vi) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a(a)(2)(B)(vi)) is amended by striking ''by the county committee'' and inserting ''of the application''.

(2) Section 336 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1986) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking the second sentence;

(B) by striking subsection (c); and

(C) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(3) Section 339 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1989) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking ''county committee certification that the borrower of the loan meets'' and inserting ''the borrower meeting''; and

(B) in subsection (d)(4)(A), by striking ''county committee certification that the borrower meets'' and inserting ''the borrower meeting''.

(4) Section 359(c)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2006a(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''(as determined by the appropriate county committee during the determination of eligibility for the loan)''.

(b) REVISION OF LOAN ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 360(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2006b(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''annual review of direct loans, and periodic review (as determined necessary by the Secretary) of guaranteed loans,'' and inserting ''periodic review (as determined by the Secretary) of direct loans and guaranteed loans''.

(c) UPDATING OF OUTDATED REFERENCES TO THE FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION AND THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) Section 309(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(e)) is amended by striking ''Farmers Home Administration and the Rural Development Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency and Rural Development''.

(2) Section 331(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking ''Consolidated Farm Service Agency'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency''; and

(ii) by striking ''Rural Development Administration'' and inserting ''Rural Development'';

(B) in each of paragraphs (5) and (7), by striking ''Farmers Home Administration'' each place it appears and inserting ''Farm Service Agency and Rural Development''; and

(C) in paragraph (8), by striking ''Rural Development Administration or by the Farmers Home Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency or by Rural Development''.

(3) Section 331A(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking ''Farmers Home Administration or by the Rural Development Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency or by Rural Development''.

(4) Section 333A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by striking ''Farmers Home Administration'' each place it appears and inserting ''Farm Service Agency''; and

(B) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''Farmers Home Administration'' each place it appears and inserting ''Farm Service Agency''.

(5) Section 335 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1985) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''Farmers Home Administration or the Rural Development Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency or Rural Development'';

(B) in subsection (d), in the second sentence, by striking ''Farmers Home Administra-

tion'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency''; and

(C) in subsection (f)(1)—

(i) by striking ''Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service payments'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency farm program'';

(ii) by striking ''Farmers Home Administration liens'' and inserting ''liens for a farmer program loan''; and

(iii) by striking ''Farmers Home Administration farmer'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency farmer''.

(6) Section 338(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1988(a)) is amended by striking ''Farmers Home Administration or the Rural Development Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency or Rural Development''.

(7) Section 347 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1995) is amended, in the first sentence by striking ''Farmers Home Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency or Rural Development''.

(8) Section 349(e)(1)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1997(e)(1)(B)) is amended by striking ''Farmers Home Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency''.

(9) Section 353A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2001a) is amended by striking ''the Farmers Home Administration'' and inserting ''Rural Development''.

(10) Section 356 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2004) is amended, in the first sentence—

(A) by striking ''Farmers Home Administration may'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency and Rural Development may''; and

(B) by striking ''the inventory of the Farmers Home Administration'' and inserting ''inventory''.

(11) Section 361 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2006c) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Farmers Home Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency''.

(12) Section 370(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008e(a)) is

amended by striking ''the Rural Development Administration, the Farmers Home Administration, the Rural Electrification Administration'' and inserting ''Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency, the Rural Utilities Service''.

(d) EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR SALES OF REAL PROPERTY.—Section 335(c)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''15'' and inserting ''60'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(A) by striking ''135'' and inserting ''180''; and

(B) by inserting ''suitable for farming or ranching, as determined by the Secretary'' before the comma; and

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''not later than 135 days after acquiring the real property, the Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after the 135-day period,'' and inserting ''or if the Secretary determines that the property is not suitable for farming or ranching, not later than 60 days after the 180-day period described in subparagraph (B)(i), the Secretary shall''.

(e) CORRECTION OF INFEASIBLE INVENTORY PROPERTY DISPOSITION FRAMEWORK.—

(1) Section 331(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(1)) is amended by striking ", and until January" and all that follows through "fit)".

(2) Section 335(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraphs (3) through (5);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

"(4) The Secretary shall issue regulations consistent with this section that ensure the release of funds to each borrower.".

(f) REPLACEMENT OF REFERENCES TO DISTRICT OFFICE WITH REFERENCES TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR.—Section 333A(a)(2)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking "district office" each place it appears and inserting "District Director".

(g) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO FORMER TRUST TERRITORIES.—Section 343(a)(6) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(6)) is amended by striking ''the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands'' and inserting ''the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands''.

(h) REVISION OF FARMER PROGRAM LOAN DEFINITION.—Section 343(a)(10) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(10)) is amended by striking ''304,'' and inserting ''304 before June 18, 2008, conservation loan (CL) under section 304 on or after June 18, 2008,''.

(i) UPDATING OF PROVISIONS TO REFLECT REPURPOSING OF CONSERVATION LOAN PROVISIONS.—

(1) Section 303(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1923(a)) is amended in each of paragraphs (1)(D) and (2)(D) by striking ''described in section 304''.

(2) Section 310D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1934) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking '', or paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 304(a),'' and inserting ''or 304(a)''.

(j) UPDATING OF NOTICE PROVISION REQUIREMENT AND LIFETIME DEBT FORGIVENESS LIMIT.—Section 353(i)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2001(i)(1)) is amended by striking ''registered or certified mail'' and inserting ''any method that provides documentation of delivery''.

(k) CLARIFICATION OF INTEREST RATE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) Section 307(a)(3)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1927(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking ''not be–'' in the matter preceding clause (i) and all that follows through the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting ''be equal to the interest rate for direct farm ownership loans under this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.''.

(2) Section 316(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1946(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''not be—'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all that follows through the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ''be equal to the interest rate for direct farm operating loans under this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.''.

(l) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—Section 309(h)(6) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(h)(6)) is amended, in the paragraph heading, by striking ''BEGINNING FARMER LOANS'' and inserting ''DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS''.

(m) ELIMINATION OF SUPERFLUOUS RESTRICTIONS.—Section 312 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) (as amended by section 5216(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

(n) ELIMINATION OF CONFUSING REFERENCES TO LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 319 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1949) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**OR GUARANTEES**''; and

(2) by striking ''or with respect to whom there is an outstanding guarantee under this subtitle''.

(o) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 346 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(p) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE APPEALS PROVISIONS.—

(1) Section 352(c)(3) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2000(c)(3)) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking ''section 333B'' and inserting ''subtitle H of title II of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6991 et seq.)''.

(2) Section 353 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is amended—

(A) in subsection (h), by striking ''under section 333B''; and

(B) in subsection (j)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking ''filed with the appeals division under section 333B'' and inserting ''to the National Appeals Division''; and

(ii) in the second sentence—

(I) by striking ''appeals division shall'' and inserting ''Secretary shall''; and

(II) by striking ''county supervisor'' and inserting ''Secretary''.

(q) ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY CONSTRAINT ON PILOT PROJECTS.—Section 333D(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983d(a)) is amended by striking ''that are consistent with subtitle A through this subtitle''.

(r) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—Section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa–8(a)(3)) is amended, in the paragraph heading, by striking ''MORTGAGE LOANS'' and inserting ''LOAN QUALITY''.

TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Subtitle A—Rural Electrification Act of 1936

PART I—RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS

SEC. 6101. STREAMLINING BROADBAND AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting ''**RECONNECT PROGRAM**'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) RECONNECT PROGRAM.—The term 'ReConnect Program' means the program established under this section.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking ''10-Mbps'' and inserting ''25-Mbps''; and

(II) in subclause (II), by striking ''1-Mbps'' and inserting ''3-Mbps'';

(ii) in clause (iii), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by striking clause (iv) and inserting the following:

''(iv) give priority to applications from applicants that have demonstrated the technical and financial experience required to construct and operate broadband networks; and

''(v) give priority to applications from applicants that ensure that the network built under the project can easily scale speeds over time, as determined by the Secretary—

"(I) to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses; and

"(II) to support the deployment of 5G wireless technology, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services."; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish an application process for grants, loans, and loan guarantees under this section that—

"(A) reduces the amount of data required to apply by limiting the required data to only—

"(i) the entity applying, excluding any parent or affiliate entity that is not a party to the application, to the greatest extent practicable; and

"(ii) the geographic area affected by the application, if a parent or affiliate is not a party to the application;

"(B) simplifies the data interfaces for submission to the greatest extent practicable; and

"(C) allows all applicants, regardless of whether an applicant is publicly traded, to rely on a bond rating of at least investment grade

(when bond ratings are available) in place of financial documentation.'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''subsection (j)'' and inserting ''subsection (l)''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary—

''(i) shall not restrict the eligibility of an entity for a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section based on the legal structure of the entity;

''(ii) in determining the financial ability of an entity to carry out a project using a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section, shall allow the entity to demonstrate that financial ability by methods that—

''(I) the Secretary determines to be the least burdensome; and

''(II) subject to clause (iv), in the case of a project using a grant, are not limited to providing the Federal

Government an exclusive first lien on all grant-funded assets during the service obligation of the grant;

''(iii) subject to clause (iv), in determining the required collateral to secure grant funds or to secure performance during the service obligation of a grant, shall allow an awardee to offer alternative security, such as a letter of credit or performance bond, in lieu of providing the Federal Government an exclusive first lien on all grant-funded assets; and

''(iv) if the Secretary reasonably determines that alternative methods or alternative security established under clause (ii)(II) or (iii) are insufficient to secure performance with respect to a project under this section—

''(I) may require an entity to provide the Federal Government an exclusive first lien on all grant-funded assets during the service obligation of the grant; and

''(II) may release that lien after the Secretary determines that the en-

tity is performing to the satisfaction of the Secretary.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''50'' and inserting ''90''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE BROADBAND SERVICE IN THE SAME SERVICE TERRITORY.—

''(i) DEFINITION OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE.—In this subparagraph, the term 'broadband infrastructure' means any cables, fiber optics, wiring, or other permanent infrastructure that is integral to the structure, including fixed wireless infrastructure, that—

''(I) is capable of providing access to internet connections in individual locations; and

''(II) offers an advanced telecommunications capability (as defined in section 706(d) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302(d))).

"(ii) OTHER PROVIDERS.—The Secretary shall consider a proposed service territory with respect to which an eligible entity submits an application for grant funding to carry out a project under this section to be served by broadband service if a broadband service provider other than that eligible entity is subject to an obligation by a Federal, State, or local government entity to build broadband infrastructure and offer broadband service in that service territory, subject to conditions—

"(I) under a Federal, State, or local funding award program; or

"(II) otherwise required by the Federal, State, or local government entity.

"(iii) OTHER FUNDING.—Subject to clause (iv), the Secretary shall not be required to consider a proposed service territory with respect to which an eligible entity submits an application for grant funding to carry out a project under this section to be served by broadband service if that eligible entity has accepted an obligation

under a Federal, State, or local funding award program to build broadband infrastructure and offer broadband service in that service territory, if the proposed project under this section—

"(I) would not be duplicative of the obligation under the other award program; and

"(II) would build broadband infrastructure that results in faster speeds or expedited milestones of deployment of broadband infrastructure in that service territory, as compared to the obligation under the other award program.

"(iv) OTHER OBLIGATIONS FOR LOWER TRANSMISSION CAPACITY.—The Secretary shall consider a proposed service territory with respect to which an eligible entity submits an application to carry out a project under this section to be unserved by broadband service if an obligation under another award program described in clause (iii) would not provide broadband service of at least—

"(I) a 25-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

"(II) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

"(E) REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING.—

"(i) SEPARATE OWNERSHIP OR OPERATION OF NETWORK.—A grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section may be used to construct networks that will be owned and operated by another entity other than the eligible entity receiving the grant, loan, or loan guarantee, subject to the condition that the eligible entity, the other entity, or both, as the Secretary determines to be necessary, shall provide adequate security for the grant, loan, or loan guarantee.

"(ii) REPORTING AND AUDITING.—The Secretary shall—

"(I) simplify, to the maximum extent practicable, ongoing reporting and auditing requirements for recipients of a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section; and

''(II) allow a recipient described in subclause (I) whose financial information is consolidated with the financial information of a parent entity to rely on that consolidated financial information in complying with the requirements described in that subclause if the parent entity is providing an adequate guarantee on behalf of a subsidiary of the parent entity with respect to the grant, loan, or loan guarantee.

''(iii) PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING.—The Secretary—

''(I) shall simplify, to the maximum extent practicable, requirements for recipients of a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section relating to the procurement of materials and retention of contractors; and

''(II) shall not unreasonably restrict the ability of a recipient described in subclause (I) to obtain goods and services from affiliated entities.'';

(5) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''25-Mbps'' and inserting ''100-Mbps''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''3-Mbps'' and inserting ''20-Mbps'';

(6) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (m);

(7) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

''(j) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this section in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

''(k) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary shall—

''(1) publish a report describing—

''(A) the distribution of amounts made available under the ReConnect Program for the preceding year;

''(B) the number of locations at which broadband service was made available using

amounts under the ReConnect Program for the preceding year;

''(C) the number of locations described in subparagraph (B) at which broadband service was used; and

''(D) the highest level of broadband service made available at each location described in subparagraph (B); and

''(2) submit the report described in paragraph (1) to—

''(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

''(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

''(C) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

''(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

''(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until expended.''; and

(8) in subsection (m) (as so redesignated), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) SUNSET.—Beginning on the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141; 132 Stat. 399), shall have no force or effect.

(c) TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS.—The unobligated balance, as of the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, of any amounts made available to carry out the pilot program described in section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141; 132 Stat. 399)—

(1) is transferred to, and merged with, amounts made available to carry out section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb); and

(2) shall remain available, until expended, and without further appropriation, to carry out the ReConnect Program established under that section.

(d) EFFECT.—Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 608. EFFECT.

''Nothing in this title authorizes the Secretary to regulate rates charged for broadband service.''.

(e) PUBLIC NOTICE, ASSESSMENTS, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950cc) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**AND REPORTING**'' and inserting ''**REPORTING, AND COORDINATION**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting '', including a complete shapefile map'' after ''applicant''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking ''(c)'' and inserting ''(d)'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) CHALLENGE PROCESS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a transparent, evidence-based, and expeditious process for challenging, with respect to any area for which assistance is sought under an application described in subsection (a)(1), whether that area has access to broadband service.

''(2) NOTICE.—If the Secretary denies an application described in subsection (a)(1), the Secretary

shall provide to the applicant a written notice of the denial, including a detailed description of the reasons for the denial.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELIGIBLE FUNDING AREAS.—Prior to making available to the public the database under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make available to the public a fully searchable database on the website of the Rural Utilities Service that contains information on areas eligible for assistance, as identified by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (i).

''(h) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, including the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Department of the Treasury, in the deployment of broadband service using Federal funding to prevent overbuilding.

''(i) FCC MAPS.—

''(1) USE OF FCC MAPS.—The Secretary shall identify areas eligible for assistance under broadband programs administered by the Secretary using the maps created by the Federal Communications Commission under section 802(c)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1)).

''(2) DATA SHARING.—The Secretary shall ensure that any broadband service data collected is made available to the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission and the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for inclusion in any broadband maps or data sets maintained by the Federal Communications Commission or the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.''.

(f) CONSULTATION.—Section 6212 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–6) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by inserting ''and State broadband offices'' after ''Assistant Secretary''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) RECONNECT PROGRAM.—On awarding a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under the ReConnect Program established under section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7

U.S.C. 950bb), the Secretary shall notify the Commission of that award.''.

SEC. 6102. EXPANSION OF MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE INTO RURAL AREAS.

Section 602(g) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–1(g)) is amended by striking ''2018 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6103. COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–3) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''less than the'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''less than—

''(A) a 100-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

''(B) a 20-Mbps upstream transmission capacity.''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) ELIGIBLE SERVICE AREA.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible service area' means a rural area in which broadband service capacity is less than—

''(i) a 25-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

''(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

''(B) ADJUSTMENTS.—At least once every 2 years, the Secretary shall review, and may adjust through notice published in the Federal Register, the levels of broadband service described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) to ensure that high quality, cost-effective broadband service is provided to rural areas over time.'';

(2) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by striking ''area; or'' and inserting ''area (including any eligible broadband service that will be provided in the future in the eligible service area pursuant to enforceable commitments for network deployment applicable under another broadband funding program); or''; and

(3) in subsection (g), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6104. LAST MILE BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 is amended by inserting after section 606 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–5) the following:

"SEC. 607. LAST ACRE PROGRAM.

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

"(1) to advance precision agriculture connectivity nationwide; and

"(2) to augment last mile broadband deployment for agricultural producers by expanding high-speed internet access across the last acre.

"(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term 'broadband internet access service' has the meaning given the term in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

"(2) BROADBAND MAPS.—The term 'broadband maps' means any map created under—

"(A) section 802(c)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1)); or

"(B) section 60105 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C. 1704).

"(3) COMMISSION.—The term 'Commission' means the Federal Communications Commission.

''(4) CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term 'configuration management plan', with respect to a covered provider, means a comprehensive description of the roles, responsibilities, policies, and procedures intended to improve the integrity of the systems and networks of the covered provider.

''(5) COVERED PRODUCER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'covered producer' means a person or entity that is described as eligible under section 311(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)(1)).

''(B) INCLUSION.—The term 'covered producer' includes agricultural research centers of the Agricultural Research Service.

''(6) COVERED PROVIDER.—The term 'covered provider' means—

''(A) with respect to the provision of qualified connectivity to eligible land, a provider of broadband internet access service; or

''(B) with respect to the provision of wireless solutions using or extending the range of network connectivity, a provider of wireless equipment or communications services, in asso-

ciation with an entity described in subparagraph (A).

''(7) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term 'eligible land' means cropland, grassland, rangeland, pastureland, farm sites, and other agricultural land used for the active production of agricultural commodities or livestock.

''(8) FARM SITE.—The term 'farm site' means a portion of land contiguous to land actively devoted to agricultural production and that includes improvements that are agricultural or horticultural in nature.

''(9) LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER OR RANCHER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the term 'limited resource farmer or rancher' means a covered producer—

''(i) with direct or indirect gross farm sales in each of the previous 2 years of not more than $100,000, as adjusted for changes in inflation since 2002 using the Prices Paid by Farmer Index compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service; and

"(ii) that has a total household income that is—

"(I) at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4; or

"(II) less than 50 percent of the county median household income in each of the previous 2 years.

"(B) DOCUMENTATION.—For purposes of determining if a covered producer is a limited resource farmer or rancher, the Secretary may require the submission of sufficient documentation to verify the status of the covered producer.

"(C) EXCLUSION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'covered producer' does not include the agricultural research centers described in paragraph (5)(B).

"(10) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term 'precision agriculture' means managing, tracking, or reducing crop or livestock production inputs, including seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time, at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain or improve environmental quality.

"(11) QUALIFYING CONNECTIVITY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualifying connectivity' means the service offered by a covered provider as a result of assistance under subsection (c) that—

"(i) is capable of a speed of not less than—

"(I) a 100-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

"(II) a 20-Mbps upstream transmission capacity; and

"(ii) carries out not less than 1 of the activities described in subparagraph (B).

"(B) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii) are—

"(i) providing broadband internet access service by any technology to structures and devices on eligible land, including tractors, combines, irrigation systems, drones, under-soil sensors, livestock facilities, and farm offices;

"(ii) providing multipoint wireless network connectivity that facilitates data transmission between structures and devices on eligible land, including structures and devices described in clause (i); and

"(iii) supporting—

"(I) the construction of wireless infrastructure, including poles, towers, base stations, or other structures, regardless of whether the structure has an existing antenna facility, that is used or will be used for the provision of wireless service; or

"(II) the retrofitting of existing towers or vertical structures, such as water towers, grain elevators, or center pivots, to accommodate wireless infrastructure.

"(12) REMOTE AREA.—The term 'remote area' means the frontier and remote ZIP Code areas published by the Economic Research Service.

"(13) UNDERSERVED.—The term 'underserved' means, with respect to eligible land, that the eligible land lacks access to broadband internet access service that is capable of a speed of not less than—

"(A) a 100-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

"(B) a 20-Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

''(14) UNSERVED.—The term 'unserved' means, with respect to eligible land, eligible land that lacks access to broadband internet access service that is capable of a speed of not less than—

''(A) a 25-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

''(B) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

''(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a program, to be known as the 'Last Acre Program', to make grants and loans to covered providers on a competitive basis to provide qualifying connectivity to unserved and underserved eligible land.

''(2) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (k) for a fiscal year for assistance under paragraph (1), the Secretary may award not more than 10 percent to agricultural research centers described in subsection (b)(5)(B).

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) CYBERSECURITY.—The Secretary may allow a covered provider to use a portion of the assistance provided to the covered provider under sub-

section (c), as necessary, to address the cybersecurity requirements under subsection (g).

''(2) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary shall not award any assistance under subsection (c) for broadband internet access service—

''(A) to an inhabitable residence that is identified as serviceable or as to be served due to an enforceable commitment to deploy on the broadband maps; or

''(B) on a commercial basis to surrounding areas outside the eligible land.

''(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Federal share of a project carried out using assistance under subsection (c) shall be not more than 80 percent of the total cost of the project.

''(B) LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS OR RANCHERS.—The Secretary may increase the Federal share of the costs described in subparagraph (A) to 90 percent if the covered producer of the applicable eligible land is a limited resource farmer or rancher.

''(e) BID APPLICATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To apply for assistance under subsection (c), a covered provider shall submit to the Secretary an application in such manner and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

"(A) the measures by which the covered producer has engaged with the covered provider to identify the appropriate qualifying connectivity plan to serve the eligible land of the covered producer;

"(B) a description of how the assistance provided under subsection (c) would be used to establish qualifying connectivity on the unserved or underserved eligible land of a covered producer, including the entire acreage in need of qualifying connectivity;

"(C) the amount of the Federal share for the project and the amount of the non-Federal share for the project;

"(D) whether the covered provider is capable of carrying out the specific funded activities in compliance with all Federal, State, and local laws;

"(E) whether the covered provider has the financial and managerial capacity to meet the

specific commitments contained in the application, including buildout obligations;

"(F) whether the covered provider has the technical and operational capability to construct and operate broadband networks;

"(G) whether the eligible land of the covered producer—

"(i) is unserved or underserved; and

"(ii) is not subject to an enforceable commitment to deploy broadband by the applicant or another covered provider, as determined according to the broadband maps; and

"(H) any additional information that the Secretary determines necessary to ensure the effective function of the program under this section.

"(2) REGISTRATION OF COVERED PROVIDERS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date on which the Secretary establishes the program under this section pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary shall create an online portal within which covered providers may register vol-

untarily with the Secretary for purposes of the program under this section.

''(B) REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.—To register with the Secretary under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall require a covered provider to submit the minimum amount of information necessary for the covered provider to demonstrate to the Secretary that the covered provider—

''(i) is capable of carrying out activities for which assistance is provided under subsection (c) in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws;

''(ii) has the financial and managerial capacity to meet commitments necessary to carry out the projects for which assistance is received under subsection (c); and

''(iii) has the technical and operational capability—

''(I) to construct and operate broadband networks; and

''(II) to meet the requirement described in paragraph (1) of subsection (g) and provide the cybersecurity cer-

tification required under paragraph (2) of that subsection.

''(C) PROHIBITIONS.—In registering covered providers under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall not—

''(i) require a covered provider to provide any proprietary business information for purposes of registering under that subparagraph; or

''(ii) require a covered provider to participate in the program under this section.

''(D) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary may make a list of covered providers registered under subparagraph (A) publicly available.

''(3) BIDDING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—After the Secretary receives a complete initial bid application under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allow covered providers registered under paragraph (2)(A) that operate contiguous to, near, or partially on the eligible land that is the subject of the initial bid application to submit competing bid applications for the proposed service area.

"(B) NOTIFICATION TO COVERED PROVIDERS.—Not less frequently than once every 30 days, the Secretary shall—

"(i) post on an internet website of the Secretary that is accessible to covered providers the necessary identifying information of eligible land contained in a complete initial bid application; and

"(ii) not later than 24 hours after the time at which the information described in clause (i) is posted, send notice of that post to covered providers registered under paragraph (2)(A) by electronic mail.

"(C) CHALLENGES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 business days after the date on which the Secretary posts the information described in subparagraph (B)(i), a covered provider may submit to the Secretary notice of a challenge of any posted eligible land at which—

"(I) the qualifying connectivity of the covered provider is available to the entire portion of land in the initial bid

application without assistance under subsection (c);

''(II) the covered provider could initiate qualifying connectivity through a routine installation within 10 business days of a request with no extraordinary monetary charges or delays attributable to the extension of the network of the covered provider; or

''(III) the covered provider has an enforceable commitment to deploy broadband to the eligible land.

''(ii) ADJUDICATION OF CHALLENGES.—

''(I) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall establish a transparent, evidence-based, and expeditious process for adjudicating a challenge submitted under clause (i) with respect to a location within 90 business days of the date on which the Secretary posts the information described in subparagraph (B)(i).

"(II) REQUIREMENT.—The process established by the Secretary under subclause (I) shall include making publicly available on the website of the Secretary a written notice describing the outcome and reason for the decision of the Secretary with respect to each challenge submitted under clause (i).

"(III) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not award any assistance under subsection (c) for a particular application until all challenges with respect to the eligible land described in that application have been fully adjudicated.

"(iii) NEW SOLICITATION.—If, after adjudicating a challenge under clause (i), the Secretary determines that the land subject to the challenge is eligible land that is unserved or underserved, the Secretary shall transmit to each covered provider registered under paragraph (2)(A) a bid notification for the provision of qualifying connectivity to the eligible land.

"(D) COMPETING BID APPLICATIONS.—A covered provider registered under paragraph (2)(A) that receives a notification under subparagraph (B)(ii) or a notification under subparagraph (C)(iii) and wishes to submit a competing bid application for provision of qualifying connectivity to the eligible land described in that notification shall, not later than 120 days after the date on which the covered provider registered under paragraph (2)(A) receives the notification, submit to the Secretary a competing bid application to provide that qualifying connectivity in accordance with paragraph (1).

"(E) EVALUATION.—Not later than 30 business days after the date on which the 120-day period described in subparagraph (D) ends, the Secretary shall evaluate the bid applications received and select the applicant that—

"(i) presents the lowest cost to the Secretary for the provision of qualifying connectivity to the eligible land that is unserved or underserved; and

"(ii) best demonstrates to the covered producer the ability to provide downstream and upstream transmission capacity that

can reliably support the specific connectivity needs of all on-farm applications described in the bid application, including mobility, if mobility was included in the bid application.

''(F) ENHANCED SPEEDS.—

''(i) FINDING.—Congress finds that there are unique connectivity needs to support the adoption of precision agriculture.

''(ii) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting bid applicants under subparagraph (E), the Secretary may give priority to a covered provider that offers enhanced service speeds that are greater than those described in subsection (b)(11)(A)(i), if the applicant demonstrates that the proposal to serve the eligible land of a covered producer that is unserved or underserved requires such enhanced service speeds.

''(G) TREATMENT OF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The prohibition under paragraph (2)(C)(i) shall not apply to a covered provider in the submission of a bid application under this subsection, in-

cluding a competing bid application under subparagraph (D) or a challenge under subparagraph (C), if the proprietary information is necessary for the Secretary—

"(I) to determine the eligibility of a covered provider; or

"(II) to evaluate an initial bid application, competing bid application, or challenge.

"(ii) DISCLOSURE IN NOTIFICATION.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—In the notification required under subparagraph (B), the Secretary—

"(aa) shall only disclose the necessary and appropriate information contained within an initial bid application for the purposes of facilitating competing bid applications; and

"(bb) shall not divulge proprietary information of the applicable covered provider and covered producer in the application.

"(II) REQUIREMENT.—In a bid application under this subsection, including a competing bid application under subparagraph (D) or a challenge under subparagraph (C), an applicant shall clearly mark any proprietary information with the term 'confidential proprietary information'.

"(iii) TREATMENT.—If a covered provider provides in a bid application under this subsection, including a competing bid application under subparagraph (D) or a challenge under subparagraph (C), proprietary information that constitutes a trade secret, proprietary commercial or financial information, confidential business information, or data affecting national security, the Secretary shall treat the information in confidence to the greatest extent permitted by law.

"(iv) PRIVACY.—Nothing in this section affects the applicability to this section of section 1619 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791).

"(4) TIMELINE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For each project for which assistance under subsection (c) is provided, the Secretary shall establish service buildout milestones and periodic certifications by recipients of the assistance for purposes of project compliance and implementation.

''(B) REQUIREMENT.—The milestones required under subparagraph (A) shall establish a maximum buildout timeframe of not more than 4 years from the date on which the assistance is provided.

''(C) PENALTIES.—The Secretary shall establish and enforce standardized penalties, fines, and sanctions for noncompliance with a milestone or certification established under subparagraph (A).

''(f) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance under subsection (c), the Secretary shall give priority to applications to carry out projects in the following order:

''(1) Unserved eligible land in remote areas.

''(2) Other unserved eligible land.

''(3) Underserved eligible land in remote areas.

''(4) Other underserved eligible land.

''(g) CYBERSECURITY.—As a condition on receipt of assistance under subsection (c), a covered provider shall—

''(1) ensure that any structure, device, or system provided or constructed using the assistance incorporates a layered defense strategy as a means of defensible security architecture; and

''(2) certify to the Secretary that the covered provider maintains a regularly updated configuration management plan.

''(h) PROHIBITION.—In selecting recipients of assistance under subsection (c), the Secretary shall not advantage or disadvantage the selection of a recipient under this section based on consideration of the existence, or lack thereof, of any State law.

''(i) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall, on an annual basis—

''(1) submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes the outcome of the bids that occurred during the previous fiscal year, including the number of parcels of eligible land for which initial bid applications were submitted during the previous fiscal year, the number of challenges filed under subsection (e)(3)(C) during the previous fiscal year, the outcomes of those challenges, the number of competing bid applications received under this

section, and the respective amounts awarded for eligible land; and

''(2) make the report required under paragraph (1) publicly available on the website of the Secretary.

''(j) PROVISION OF DATA TO FCC.—The Secretary shall, on an annual basis, make the necessary data available to the Commission for inclusion on the broadband maps.

''(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

(b) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE DATA COLLECTION ON BROADBAND ADOPTION.—To provide for the collection and analysis by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of more comprehensive broadband usage data, the Secretary shall update the computer usage and ownership survey and the census of agriculture conducted under section 2 of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 (7 U.S.C. 2204g) to contain questions relating to—

(1) whether the respondent subscribes to a broadband internet access service for a farm site (as defined in section 607(b) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936); and

(2) if the respondent subscribes to the broadband internet access service described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the download and upload speeds of the broadband internet access service to which the respondent is subscribed; and

(B) the purposes for which the internet access is used, including the use of precision agriculture (as defined in section 607(b) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936).

PART II—ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS

SEC. 6111. GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED FOR UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PURPOSES.

Section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–1(f)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6112. RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND GRANTS.

Section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through ''In the case'' and inserting the following:

''(b) ZERO INTEREST LOANS.—

''(1) COLLATERAL.—

"(A) ACCEPTABLE FORMS.—The Secretary may, at the sole discretion of the Secretary, accept as collateral for a zero interest loan under this section any of the following:

"(i) An irrevocable letter of credit.

"(ii) A performance bond.

"(iii) A revenue pledge.

"(iv) A senior preferred security interest.

"(v) The assignment of a mortgage.

"(vi) Such other forms of security as the Secretary determines are reasonably adequate and acceptable.

"(B) CONSIDERATION OF PAST PERFORMANCE.—In determining an adequate and acceptable form of collateral for a zero interest loan under this section, the Secretary shall consider the past financial and project performance of—

"(i) a borrower of a loan or a recipient of a grant under this section; and

"(ii) any recipients of the funds provided by a borrower or recipient described in clause (i).

"(C) CONSIDERATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—In determining an adequate and ac-

ceptable form of collateral for a zero interest loan under this section, the Secretary shall make every practicable effort to accept a form of collateral that minimizes the administrative costs of securing collateral, for the purpose of maximizing the benefits of the program under this section for the ultimate recipients of the funds provided through zero interest loans.

''(D) NO EFFECT OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF COLLATERAL ON SUBSIDIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that accepting collateral for zero interest loans under this section has no impact on the subsidy rate of—

''(i) loans guaranteed by the Secretary under this title; or

''(ii) direct loans issued by the Secretary under this title.

''(2) REPAYMENTS.—In the case''; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6113. EXPANSION OF 911 ACCESS.

Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

Subtitle B—Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

SEC. 6201. WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND WASTEWATER FACILITY GRANTS.

Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(i) by striking ''per centum'' and inserting ''percent''; and

(ii) by striking ''area.'' and inserting ''area, except that in the case of demonstrated need, as determined by the Secretary, the amount of a grant made under the authority of this subparagraph for necessary expenses of developing a complete application to carry out an eligible project under this subparagraph may exceed 75 percent, but shall not exceed 100 percent, of those expenses to be incurred.''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (iii), by striking ''$200,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$500,000''; and

(ii) in clause (vii), by striking ''$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''; and

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking ''$30,000,000'' and inserting ''$100,000,000''.

SEC. 6202. SEARCH GRANTS.

Section 306(a)(2)(C)(ii) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(C)(ii)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(III) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION.—In the case of demonstrated need, as determined by the Secretary, the non-Federal share of the cost of a project funded under this subparagraph may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions.''.

SEC. 6203. RURAL WATER, WASTEWATER, AND WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY DIRECT LOANS.

Section 306(a)(13) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(13)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(13) In the making of'' and inserting the following:

''(13) PRIORITIES FOR WASTE DISPOSAL AND WATER FACILITIES LOANS AND GRANTS.—

''(A) LOW POPULATION COMMUNITIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In making'';

(2) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated)—

(A) in clause (i) (as so designated), in the second sentence, by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(ii) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary''; and

(B) in clause (ii) (as so designated)—

(i) by striking ''Soil Conservation Service'' and inserting ''Natural Resources Conservation Service'';

(ii) by striking ''paragraph'' and inserting ''subparagraph''; and

(iii) by striking ''he'' and inserting ''the Secretary''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES.—In making direct loans under paragraph (1) and grants under paragraph (2) for community waste disposal and water facilities, the Secretary shall accord highest priority to the application of an association described in paragraph (1) to carry out a project in a low-income rural community with a population of less than 10,000.''.

SEC. 6204. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.

Section 306(a)(14)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(14)(C)) is amended by striking ''Not less than 3 percent and not more than 5 percent'' and inserting ''Not less than 3 percent and not more than 10 percent''.

SEC. 6205. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.

Section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL CIRCUIT RIDER ACTIVITIES.—Activities carried out under this paragraph that are necessary to prevent imminent harm to life or property shall be treated as excepted activities and may continue during a lapse in appropriations, using unobligated balances previously appropriated under the heading 'Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account'.".

SEC. 6206. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CYBERSECURITY CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.

Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (22) the following:

"(23) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CYBERSECURITY CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a cybersecurity circuit rider program, which shall be structured similar to the general authorities under paragraph (22), to provide technical assistance to associations described in paragraph (1) that operate rural water or wastewater systems—

''(i) to provide rapid assessments of the current ability or inability of those associations—

''(I) to respond to cybersecurity threats; and

''(II) to protect the cyberinfrastructure of those associations and public health;

''(ii) to develop reasonable protocols to enhance cybersecurity protection;

''(iii) to provide assistance to address inadequate cyber protection plans; and

''(iv) to document the state of cyber protection with respect to the water supplies of those associations.

''(B) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—An entity or entities delivering the circuit rider program that receive funding under this paragraph shall submit to the Secretary an annual report documenting—

''(i) the utilities and communities served by the entity or entities under this paragraph; and

''(ii) the activities performed by the entity or entities under this paragraph.

"(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR CIRCUIT RIDERS.—To provide technical assistance under subparagraph (A), an entity shall possess the necessary experience and certification to effectively carry out the activities described in that subparagraph, as determined by the Secretary.

"(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

"(E) CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL CYBERSECURITY CIRCUIT RIDER ACTIVITIES.—Activities carried out under this paragraph that are necessary to prevent imminent harm to life or property shall be treated as excepted activities and may continue during a lapse in appropriations, using unobligated balances previously appropriated under the heading 'Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account'.".

SEC. 6207. TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

Section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25)(C)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 6208. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.

Section 306(a)(26) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(26)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) NATIONAL OR MULTI-STATE AWARDS.—Of the amounts available to carry out this paragraph for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall use not less than 2 percent to award grants under this paragraph to 1 or more of the entities described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of providing on-site technical assistance and training on a national or multi-State regional basis.''.

SEC. 6209. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(27) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to provide

grants to eligible entities to assist associations described in paragraph (1) that operate rural water or wastewater systems in preparing for and responding to natural or man-made disasters, as determined by the Secretary.

''(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under subparagraph (A) is a nonprofit organization that—

''(i) has demonstrated experience providing emergency technical assistance for disaster preparation, recovery, and response activities to water and wastewater utilities nationwide; and

''(ii) has the capacity to deploy personnel that possess—

''(I) an active water or wastewater system operators' license; or

''(II) documented knowledge of water and wastewater utilities necessary to carry out activities described in subparagraph (C).

''(C) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under subparagraph (A) shall use the grant—

"(i) to provide on-site personnel and equipment to assist with water and wastewater systems in the event of a disaster;

"(ii) to coordinate with statewide emergency response networks to assist with water and wastewater systems;

"(iii) to facilitate the development of disaster action plans between entities described in subparagraph (A), units of local government, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and State emergency management agencies;

"(iv) to improve resiliency and mitigation planning with respect to water or wastewater systems;

"(v) to provide geographic information system mapping of water and wastewater systems;

"(vi) to prepare or update predisaster risk and resiliency assessments, emergency response plans, communication protocols, or hazard recognition and evaluation skills with respect to water and wastewater systems;

"(vii) to conduct preliminary damage assessments of critical infrastructure in the event of a disaster;

"(viii) to provide emergency services with respect to water and wastewater systems to restore service in the event of a disaster, including—

"(I) pump and motor evaluation and repair;

"(II) water disinfection and flushing;

"(III) leak detection;

"(IV) line repair;

"(V) water main and valve location;

"(VI) emergency power generation;

"(VII) bypass pumping;

"(VIII) water treatment;

"(IX) maintaining safety measures; and

"(X) other appropriate activities;

"(ix) to address outstanding deficiencies focused on resolving health-based regulatory, operational, financial, and man-

agerial deficiencies that impact the sustainability of water and wastewater systems;

''(x) to assist with application and reporting requirements for Federal and State agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and insurance recovery claims, with respect to water and wastewater systems; and

''(xi) to provide for disaster preparation, support, and response activities targeted to disadvantaged communities, as determined by the Secretary, that lack the financial resources and human capital necessary to adequately address significant health, safety, or sanitary concerns with respect to the water and wastewater systems of those communities.

''(D) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under subparagraph (A) may use the grant for salaries, supplies, and expenses relating to the activities described in subparagraph (C).

"(ii) LIMITATION.—Not more than 25 percent of the amount of a grant under subparagraph (A) may be used to purchase or reimburse the rental costs of appropriate emergency equipment, as determined by the Secretary.

"(E) CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES.—Activities carried out under this paragraph that are necessary to prevent imminent harm to life or property shall be treated as excepted activities and may continue during a lapse in appropriations, using unobligated balances previously appropriated under the heading 'Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account'.

"(F) RESTRICTION.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under subparagraph (A) may not use the grant funds to pay for eligible activities for which the eligible entity receives other Federal funds.

"(G) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.".

SEC. 6210. ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES IN FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED RURAL AREAS.

Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) (as amended by section 6209) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(28) ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES IN FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED RURAL AREAS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) DISTRESSED WATER SYSTEM.—The term 'distressed water system' means an association described in paragraph (1) that—

''(I) is unable to provide water and wastewater services to the residents of an eligible area because the association—

''(aa) lacks the capacity—

''(AA) to operate, maintain, or manage water and wastewater facilities or services; or

''(BB) to provide for the continued availability and use of those facilities or

services at reasonable user rates and charges; or

''(bb) lacks the financial, technical, or managerial capability to consistently comply with pertinent Federal and State laws and requirements; and

''(II) voluntarily agrees to the provision of water or wastewater services in the eligible area described in subclause (I) by an eligible association the service area of which is contiguous to, or in the locality of, the eligible area.

''(ii) ELIGIBLE AREA.—The term 'eligible area' means a rural area that is a low-income community or an economically distressed area, as determined by the Secretary.

''(iii) ELIGIBLE ASSOCIATION.—The term 'eligible association' means an association described in paragraph (1) that—

''(I) currently receives, or is eligible for, assistance under a rural water or wastewater program; and

"(II) is experienced in, and currently, providing functioning water and wastewater services to the residents of a rural area.

"(iv) RURAL WATER OR WASTEWATER PROGRAM.—The term 'rural water or wastewater program' means a water or wastewater program under this subsection.

"(B) ASSISTANCE.—

"(i) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.— The Secretary may provide financial assistance under a rural water or wastewater program to an eligible association for construction costs relating to providing water and wastewater services to the residents in the service area of a distressed water system that is contiguous to, or in the locality of, the service area of the eligible association.

"(ii) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—The Secretary may provide grants to qualified nonprofit technical assistance organizations with demonstrated experience in working with rural communities on regionalization, consolidation, and

independent assessment, planning, and implementation projects to provide technical assistance to—

"(I) an eligible association for the purpose of providing water and wastewater services to the residents in the service area of a distressed water system that is contiguous to, or in the locality of, the service area of the eligible association; and

"(II) a distressed water system in deciding whether to voluntarily agree to allow an eligible association to provide the services described in subclause (I).

"(C) CONSOLIDATION AND REGIONALIZATION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of providing water and wastewater services using assistance provided under subparagraph (B), an eligible association and a distressed water system may—

"(I) consolidate governance, management, and financial functions; or

"(II) enter into a regional partnership.

"(ii) EFFECT ON POPULATION LIMITATION.—If an eligible association and a distressed water system consolidate or enter into a regional partnership pursuant to clause (i), the Secretary shall only consider the population of the service area of the distressed water system for purposes of eligibility for assistance under subparagraph (B).

"(iii) USE OF SYSTEMS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible association may use assistance provided under subparagraph (B) to provide water or wastewater services to the service area of a distressed water system using—

"(I) the system of the eligible association;

"(II) a system located in the service area of the distressed water system; or

"(III) a combination of both systems.

''(D) LIMITATION.—An eligible association that receives financial assistance under subparagraph (B)(i) shall only use that assistance for the benefit of the residents in the service area of the distressed water system.''.

SEC. 6211. COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) (as amended by section 6210) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(29) HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section 343(a)(13), and regardless of whether the facility is in a rural area, the Secretary may make a community facility direct or guaranteed loan under paragraph (1) for a project to provide health care services if not less than 50 percent of the encounters with individuals to whom the health care services are provided are encounters with individuals who inhabit an area with a frontier and remote area code of level 3 or level 4, as defined by the most recent Frontier and Remote Area Codes as updated by the Economic Research Service.''.

SEC. 6212. EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) for associated uses related to water resources infrastructure, including facilities for potable water, wastewater, storm drainage, or solid waste;''; and

(2) in subsection (i)(2), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6213. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL WATER SYSTEMS.

Subtitle A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act is amended by inserting after section 306A (7 U.S.C. 1926a) the following:

''SEC. 306B. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL WATER SYSTEMS.

''(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term 'eligible entity' means a rural water, wastewater, or waste disposal facility with respect to which as-

sistance may be provided under a water, wastewater, or waste disposal program under section 306(a), 306A, 306C, or 306D.

''(b) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) GRANTS AND LOANS.—The Secretary may provide to an eligible entity—

''(A) a grant in an amount that is not more than 75 percent of the cost of the project carried out by the eligible entity;

''(B) a zero percent interest loan; or

''(C) a 1 percent interest loan for not more than 100 percent of the cost of the project carried out by the eligible entity.

''(2) EXISTING LOANS.—The Secretary may—

''(A) forgive principal or interest or modify any term or condition of an outstanding loan made to an eligible entity; or

''(B) refinance part or all of any other loan (if the purpose of the loan is an eligible purpose under section 306(a)(1) or 306C) made to an eligible entity.

''(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not provide forgiveness under paragraph (2)(A) with respect to a loan made under paragraph (1).

''(c) ELIGIBLE PURPOSES.—The Secretary may provide assistance to an eligible entity under subsection (b) as the Secretary determines is necessary—

''(1) to ensure that the eligible entity has the necessary resources to improve or construct public utilities or to otherwise maintain or enhance public health, safety, affordability, or order; or

''(2) to address financial hardships of the eligible entity, if the eligible entity is located in a disadvantaged or economically distressed area, as determined under subsection (d).

''(d) DETERMINATION.—To determine whether an eligible entity may receive assistance pursuant to subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall establish—

''(1) a residential indicator of affordable water services in each State or local or geographic area, calculated using the average cost per household as a percentage of median household income; or

''(2) factors relating to disadvantaged or economically distressed areas.''.

SEC. 6214. WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL AND NATIVE VILLAGES IN ALASKA.

Section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''construction of water and wastewater systems'' and inserting ''construction of water systems and wastewater systems, including community-based systems,'';

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting ''and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium'' after ''State of Alaska''; and

(3) in subsection (d)(1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6215. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.

Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through the period at the end of subsection (b)(1) and inserting the following:

''SEC. 306E. DECENTRALIZED WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM PROGRAM.

''(a) GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary may provide grants to private nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Indian Tribes for the purpose of providing subgrants and loans in accordance with subsection (b) to individuals for the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individual household water well systems and individually owned household decentralized

wastewater systems in rural areas that are or will be owned by the individuals.

''(b) LOANS AND SUBGRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit organization or federally recognized Indian Tribe shall use grant amounts received under subsection (a) to provide—

''(A) subgrants for use in accordance with this section to individuals residing in the service area of the nonprofit organization who are members of a household with a combined income (for the most recent 12-month period for which the information is available) that is less than 80 percent of the median nonmetropolitan household income for the area, according to the most recent decennial census; and

''(B) loans for use in accordance with this section to individuals residing in the service area of the nonprofit organization who are members of a household with a combined income (for the most recent 12-month period for which the information is available) that is not more than 100 percent, of the median nonmetropolitan household income for the area, according to the most recent decennial census.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''$15,000'' and inserting ''$25,000''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) FUNDING TO COVER COST OF PERFORMANCE WARRANTIES.—A subgrant provided to an individual under this subsection for an individually owned household decentralized wastewater system may include sufficient additional funding to cover the cost of a performance warranty with a duration of at least 5 years.

''(6) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT.—A nonprofit organization or federally recognized Indian Tribe that receives a grant under this section may use an amount equal to not more than 10 percent of the grant to provide technical assistance and support to individuals eligible for a subgrant or loan under this section relating to the installation and maintenance of household decentralized water and wastewater systems.''; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6216. HEALTHY DRINKING WATER AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Subtitle A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act is amended by inserting after section 306E (7 U.S.C. 1926e) the following:

"SEC. 306F. HEALTHY DRINKING WATER AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPROVED INSTALLATION.—The term 'approved installation' means the installation of an eligible drinking water quality improvement product or a certified filter component by a qualified third-party installer that—

''(A) complies with all local and State regulations; and

''(B) follows the installation instructions of the manufacturer.

''(2) APPROVED MAINTENANCE.—The term 'approved maintenance' means required maintenance—

''(A) performed on an eligible drinking water quality improvement product that includes maintenance and replacement of the certified filter component;

''(B) performed by a qualified third-party installer;

"(C) that complies with all local and State regulations; and

"(D) that follows the maintenance instructions of the manufacturer.

"(3) CERTIFIED FILTER COMPONENT.—The term 'certified filter component' means a replaceable or replacement filter component—

"(A) for which approved maintenance can be performed; and

"(B) that is certified by a third-party certifier as compliant with—

"(i) NSF P231;

"(ii) NSF/ANSI Standard 42, 44, 53, 55, 58, or 401; or

"(iii) another successor or relevant consensus-based standard for drinking water treatment units or systems that addresses health contaminant reduction, as determined by the Secretary.

"(4) ELIGIBLE DRINKING WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PRODUCT.—The term 'eligible drinking water quality improvement product' means a point-of-use or point-of-entry system—

"(A) incorporating a certified filter component; and

"(B) that is certified by a third-party certifier to meet standards described in paragraph (3)(B)—

"(i) for material safety and performance; and

"(ii) to improve drinking water quality.

"(5) ELIGIBLE END USER.—The term 'eligible end user' means a person or entity located in a rural area (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(B)) that is—

"(A)(i) a homeowner;

"(ii) an individual lessee or renter of a home, apartment, or other dwelling;

"(iii) a property owner of a multi-unit residential building with 25 or fewer owned, leased, or rented dwelling units;

"(iv) a licensed child-care facility; or

"(v) an owned, leased, or rented facility; and

"(B) supported by a finding of need through—

"(i) a qualified water quality test demonstrating the presence of 1 or more health contaminants; or

"(ii) other documentation determined to be satisfactory by the Secretary demonstrating the presence of 1 or more health contaminants.

"(6) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term 'eligible grant recipient' means—

"(A) an eligible end user; or

"(B) a nonprofit organization that uses a grant provided under this section for the purposes described in subsection (c)(2).

"(7) HEALTH CONTAMINANT.—The term 'health contaminant' means—

"(A) a health contaminant found in drinking water, including lead, arsenic, nitrate, nitrite, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, hexavalent chromium (chrome-6), and volatile organic compounds; and

"(B) any other contaminant—

"(i) that can be reduced by an eligible drinking water quality improvement product or a certified filter component; and

"(ii)(I) with respect to which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has established—

"(aa) a primary drinking water regulation (as defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f);

"(bb) a maximum contaminant level goal established in accordance with section 1412(b) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)); or

"(cc) a health advisory issued pursuant to section 1412(b)(1)(F) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)(1)(F)); or

"(II) that is regulated by a State agency.

"(8) IMPROVE DRINKING WATER QUALITY.—The term 'improve drinking water quality' means to improve the quality of the water supplied between its source and human consumption by reducing or removing 1 or more health contaminants.

"(9) QUALIFIED THIRD-PARTY INSTALLER.—The term 'qualified third-party installer' means a person who—

"(A) is—

"(i) a professionally qualified, certified, or licensed water treatment product

installation professional, including such a professional credentialed through a manufacturer or third party;

''(ii) a licensed plumber or individual who holds a license or certification related to water treatment technologies issued by a State or local government; or

''(iii) a company or plumbing contractor employing individuals described in clause (i) or (ii); and

''(B) regularly completes, or requires applicable employees to complete, continuing education on water treatment technology and other subjects that enhance the services provided under this section.

''(10) QUALIFIED WATER QUALITY TEST.—The term 'qualified water quality test' means a baseline analysis of the bacterial and chemical characteristics of concern from a drinking water sample collected at the point of consumption and tested by a laboratory certified to conduct water quality testing—

''(A) that is provided to—

''(i) the Secretary; and

''(ii) as applicable—

''(I) a person seeking a grant under this section;

''(II) an eligible end user receiving a grant under this section; or

''(III) an eligible grant recipient receiving a grant under this section and any eligible end users served by the eligible grant recipient; and

''(B) that includes information that provides—

''(i) guidance on test interpretation, including whether the bacteria or chemical characteristic of concern meets or exceeds a prescribed health-based contaminant level; and

''(ii) sources and citations that eligible grant recipients, independent third-party organizations and institutions, and government agencies may review and consult—

''(I) to determine available eligible drinking water quality improvement products for addressing detected contaminants; and

"(II) to evaluate efficacy across eligible drinking water quality improvement products.

"(11) THIRD-PARTY CERTIFIER.—The term 'third-party certifier' means an independent certification body accredited to ISO Standard 17065, 'Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services', by an entity domiciled in the United States that is a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Recognition Arrangement, such as the Water Quality Association, NSF International, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, and the International Code Council Evaluation Service.

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to establish, and shall carry out, a clean drinking water program, to be known as the 'Healthy Drinking Water Affordability Assistance Program' or the 'Healthy H2O Program', to provide grants to eligible grant recipients to improve drinking water quality of eligible end users.

"(c) ELIGIBLE USES OF GRANTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall be used, as directed by the Secretary, for—

"(A) the purchase of an eligible drinking water quality improvement product or a replacement certified filter component;

"(B) the approved installation by a qualified third-party installer of an eligible drinking water quality improvement product;

"(C) the purchase and approved installation by a qualified third-party installer of a replacement certified filter component;

"(D) the approved maintenance of an eligible drinking water quality improvement product; or

"(E) qualified water quality tests to support products and services described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

"(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—A nonprofit organization that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant, in a manner consistent with the uses described in paragraph (1) and as directed by the Secretary—

"(A) to offer qualified water quality tests for eligible end users on a voluntary basis;

"(B) to facilitate the analysis of qualified water quality test results for eligible end users;

"(C) to assist an eligible end user in determining the response options available and supporting the selection by the eligible end user of a response that best fits the needs of the eligible end user, informed by—

"(i) a qualified water quality test; and

"(ii) an understanding of the relevant plumbing systems and environmental factors that will impact point-of-use or point-of-entry water safety; and

"(D) to coordinate or facilitate the approved installation by a qualified third-party installer of the eligible drinking water quality improvement product selected by an eligible end user.

"(d) GRANT LIMITATIONS.—

"(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under this section shall not exceed the reasonable costs, as determined by the Secretary, of the purposes described in subsection (c) for which the grant is provided.

"(2) INCOME.—No grant provided under this section shall be used to assist an eligible end user

who is a member of a household the members of which have a combined income, or an eligible end user with business income, for the most recent 12-month period for which the information is available, that is more than 80 percent of the median non-metropolitan household income for the State or territory in which the eligible end user resides, according to the most recent decennial census of the United States.

''(e) GRANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The Secretary shall appoint an officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture to administer and manage grants provided under this section.

''(f) GRANT ALLOCATION.—In providing grants under this section to eligible grant recipients, the Secretary shall allocate funds and make grants available in a manner that—

''(1) responds to a range of water quality challenges;

''(2) prioritizes funding to eligible end-users the sources of drinking water of which are private wells;

''(3) improves local and regional capacity to respond to contamination; and

''(4) ensures reasonable access to funds for—

"(A) eligible end users seeking a grant under this section; and

"(B) nonprofit organizations seeking a grant under this section.

"(g) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available, a report—

"(1) identifying ongoing barriers to universal safe drinking water prior to and after filtration or other treatment;

"(2) analyzing conditions impacting eligible grant recipients, including—

"(A) sources of contamination or degradation of water resources, especially groundwater resources or upstream resources that recharge stores of drinking water;

"(B) trends in bioaccumulation and attenuation of contaminants and nutrients; and

"(C) impacts of infrastructure materials, crop and land management practices, waste management, and other factors that impact drinking water quantity and quality;

"(3) providing a comprehensive analysis of—

"(A) technologies available to and purchased by eligible grant recipients; and

"(B) the emerging safe drinking water needs of rural and other homeowners, renters, residential multi-unit property owners, licensed child-care facilities, and other groups, as determined by the Secretary;

"(4) that includes information describing—

"(A) the types of treatment systems and filter components used under the program established under this section;

"(B) the number of qualified water quality tests conducted under the program established under this section;

"(C) emerging and changing trends relating to steps taken to ensure safe drinking water in communities and households; and

"(D) trends relating to the availability and use of eligible drinking water quality improvement products, including—

"(i) affordability at purchase and through the lifecycle of the products;

"(ii) consistency of operation as intended by the manufacturer and installer, including effectiveness across systems and

technologies at achieving stated health protections; and

''(iii) lifecycle product performance, energy use, and environmental impact;

''(5) providing recommendations regarding the best methods to increase access to—

''(A) grants under this section; and

''(B) the products and services described in subsection (c);

''(6) that incorporates input from relevant—

''(A) nongovernmental organizations; and

''(B) certification institutions that oversee the criteria for products and training of installation and maintenance professionals; and

''(7) the purposes of which are—

''(A) to improve data on health contaminants in drinking water;

''(B) to provide educational resources on water testing and water quality improvement products and services to eligible grant recipients with drinking water contamination issues;

''(C) to collect information that improves understanding of water testing and water quality improvement products and services, includ-

ing their associated health and economic benefits; and

''(D) to increase public awareness of water quality issues and treatment options.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 6217. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS.

Section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''governments and related agencies'' and inserting ''governments, related agencies, and Indian tribes''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023'' and inserting ''$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6218. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

Section 310B(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(A) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in clause (v), by striking ''or'' at the end and inserting ''and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) support outdoor recreation; or'';

(2) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection for a period of more than 1 year, but not more than 5 years.''.

SEC. 6219. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(A) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The term 'cooperative development' means activities, including outreach, education, training, and

technical assistance, to support the startup, expansion, or ongoing sustainability of new and existing cooperatives.'';

(2) in paragraph (5)(F), by striking ''contributions,'' and inserting ''contributions by awarding applications that meet the criterion described in this subparagraph the maximum points for this subparagraph in the scoring criteria,'';

(3) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking ''If the Secretary determines it to be in the best interest of the program, the'' and inserting ''The'';

(4) in paragraph (12)—

(A) by striking ''Not later'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, and annually thereafter, the interagency working group established under subparagraph (A) shall make publicly available and submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing—

"(i) research and analysis based on data from the latest available Economic Census conducted by the Bureau of the Census on the effects of all types of cooperatives on the national economy; and

"(ii) the activities carried out by the interagency working group in the prior fiscal year."; and

(5) in paragraph (13), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 6220. LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 6221. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.

Section 310B(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking ''program to assist'' and inserting the following: ''program—

''(A) to assist'';

(C) in subparagraph (A)(iv) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) to provide training opportunities and resources for veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) who are actively, or are seeking to become, agricultural producers, which shall be known as the 'Armed to Farm Initiative'.''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''2008 through 2023.'' and inserting the following: ''2027 through 2031, of which—

''(A) $3,500,000 shall be made available for each fiscal year for activities described in paragraph (2)(A); and

''(B) $1,500,000 shall be made available for each fiscal year for activities described in paragraph (2)(B).''.

SEC. 6222. RURAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP ZONES.

Section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(j)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6223. INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.

Section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936b(i)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6224. LENDER FEES IN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAMS; RURAL WATER REFINANCING IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''In connection'' and inserting the following: ''(a) IN GENERAL.—In connection'';

(2) in subsection (a) (as so designated)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking ''a new direct loan; and'' and inserting ''a new direct loan, except direct loans made under this title to communities with a population of 3,300 or fewer shall be exempt from any additional refinancing review, credit elsewhere determina-

tion, or private lender comparison requirements.''; and

(C) by striking paragraph (7); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) FEES.—

''(1) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary may assess an initial guarantee fee for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

''(2) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee for any insured or guaranteed loan or modified under section 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed loan.

''(3) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section 306(a), the Secretary, not less than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall provide a public disclosure of the financial data, economic and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and other factors used to determine the new fee rates.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 310B(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7

U.S.C. 1932(g)) is amended by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

"(5) FEES.—

"(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary may assess an initial guarantee fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

"(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed loan.

"(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged for any guaranteed business and industry loan, the Secretary, not less than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall provide a public disclosure of the financial data, economic and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and other factors used to determine the new fee rates.".

SEC. 6225. DEFINITION OF RURAL AND RURAL AREA.

Section 343(a)(13)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(B)) is

amended by striking ''For the purpose of water and waste disposal grants and direct loans provided under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 306(a),'' and inserting the following:

''(i) DIRECT LOANS.—For the purpose of water and waste disposal direct loans provided under section 306(a)(1), the terms 'rural' and 'rural area' mean a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of no more than 25,000 inhabitants.

''(ii) GRANTS.—For the purpose of water and waste disposal grants provided under section 306(a)(2),''.

SEC. 6226. STREAMLINING REVIEW.

Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2006e) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 363. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not approve any loan or grant under this title to drain, dredge, fill, or level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland (as defined in section 1201(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a))), or to engage in any activity that results

in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water, except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands, or in the case of such activity that commenced before November 28, 1990.

''(b) EXCLUSIONS.—

''(1) UTILITIES LINES.—This section shall not apply to a loan made or guaranteed under this title for a utility line.

''(2) PERMITTED ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.—This section shall not apply to a rural development loan made or guaranteed under section 306 or 306C for an activity or project for which the applicant or borrower has obtained or is required to obtain a permit, or is already covered by a general permit, from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, under section 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403; 30 Stat. 1151, chapter 425), or section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).''.

SEC. 6227. RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.

Section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008c(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6228. NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP.

Section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008m) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6229. GRANTS FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO TRANSMITTERS.

Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6230. RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$75,000'';

(2) in subsection (b)(3), by adding at the end the following:

''(E) USE OF LOANS.—A loan made by the Secretary to a microenterprise development organization under this paragraph may—

''(i) be used for 100 percent of a loan to a rural microenterprise; and

"(ii) provide up to 50 percent of the cost of demolition and construction and related costs of real estate, excluding the acquisition of real estate."; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 6231. HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008u(e)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 6232. STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLANS.

Section 379H(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008v(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "The Secretary" and inserting the following:

"(A) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities described in clause (ii) to provide technical assistance to rural communities in—

''(I) developing strategic community investment plans; and

''(II) completing applications for funding under covered programs for projects that support the implementation of strategic community investment plans.

''(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under clause (i) shall be—

''(I) a qualified nonprofit multi-State regional technical assistance organization with demonstrated experience in working with rural communities on regionalization and investment assessment, planning, and implementation projects; or

''(II) a qualified private nonprofit intermediary organization that has demonstrated experience and capacity to provide technical assistance and training on community economic development and planning in rural areas.

"(iii) GRANT TERM.—The term of a grant awarded under clause (i) shall be not less than 2 years and not more than 5 years.

"(iv) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under clause (i), the Secretary may give priority to an eligible entity that serves—

"(I) a rural community with a high poverty level;

"(II) a persistent poverty county, as determined by the Secretary;

"(III) an Indian Tribe with demonstrated support from the Tribal council or duly elected Tribal executive of the appropriate Tribal government;

"(IV) a rural community with a significant loss in population; or

"(V) a rural community with significant workforce changes or changes in major employers.";

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting ", agricultural producers and related entities, and local businesses" before the semicolon; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking ''2023,'' and inserting ''2023 and $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031,''.

SEC. 6233. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in clause (iii)—

(I) by striking subclause (I) and inserting the following:

''(I) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101, and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1002(a)(1)));'';

(II) by redesignating subclauses (II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and (IV), respectively;

(III) by inserting after subclause (I) the following:

''(II) an area career and technical education school (as defined in

section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302));''; and

(IV) in subclause (IV) (as so redesignated), by striking ''and'';

(ii) in clause (iv)—

(I) by striking subclause (IV) and inserting the following:

''(IV) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101, and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1002(a)(1)));'';

(II) by redesignating subclause (V) as subclause (VI); and

(III) by inserting after subclause (IV) the following:

''(V) an area career and technical education school (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)); or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(v) in the case of a career pathway program, includes 1 or more members of the local workforce development board established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3122) and serving the region to ensure the program is integrated with the activities carried out by the local workforce development board; and";

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (4), (3), (6), and (7), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order;

(C) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(1) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term 'career pathway' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).''; and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(5) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'industry or sector partnership' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Work-

force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or carry out career pathway training programs or industry or sector partnerships aligned with industry sectors in rural communities'' before '', including'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

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

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) address workforce challenges, including worker displacement, faced by specific industry sectors in rural communities; and

''(D) promote targeted skills development and training initiatives to stimulate innovation and enhance economic development in rural regions.'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i), by inserting ", career pathway programs, or industry or sector partnerships" before the semicolon; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by inserting ", career pathway programs, or industry or sector partnerships" before "to provide"; and

(bb) by inserting "leadership development," before "customized training";

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

"(G) the ability of the eligible entity to carry out activities to address the issues of worker displacement, an aging workforce, and youth migration."; and

(C) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

"(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall ensure regional diversity of recipients of grants or participants in providing grants under paragraph (1) for jobs accelerators, career pathway programs, and related programming.";

(3) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(xi), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) to support career pathway programs or industry or sector partnerships to be carried out within industries in rural communities, including—

"(i) telecommunications or broadband services;

"(ii) water, waste water, or disposal services;

"(iii) electric supply services;

"(iv) forestry and logging operations;

"(v) conservation practices and management;

"(vi) health care and child care;

"(vii) manufacturing;

"(viii) agribusiness related to production, processing, and distribution;

''(ix) veterinarian services; and

''(x) any other sectors identified by the local workforce development board serving the region to be an in-demand industry sector or occupation (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102)).'';

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'';

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in clause (xvii), by striking ''or'';

(ii) by redesignating clause (xviii) as clause (xix); and

(iii) by inserting after clause (xvii) the following:

''(xviii) the number of individuals who have completed skills development, recognized postsecondary credentials, or gained specialized education through career pathways programs or industry or sector partnerships; or''; and

(iv) in clause (xix) (as so redesignated), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) in the case of a career pathway program or industry or sector partnership, report to the Secretary the employment and earnings outcomes for individuals who participate in the program on the indicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(b)(2)(A)(i)).''; and

(5) in subsection (f), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6234. RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.

Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 379J. RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the rural development mission area a Rural Development Innovation Center (referred to in this section as the 'Innovation Center') to promote and facilitate innovation in the administration and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives.

''(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Innovation Center shall—

''(1) review all processes for rural development mission area programs to identify inefficiencies, redundancies, and barriers to access, including—

''(A) overly burdensome application processes that prohibit participation in rural development programs;

''(B) high application costs; and

''(C) deficiencies in technical assistance for programs;

''(2) establish and maintain an ongoing public process for public and private stakeholders to provide perspectives on the challenges faced when applying for, utilizing, or participating in rural development mission area programs;

''(3) identify and assess any innovative strategies and collaborative models to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of rural development programs and initiatives;

''(4) foster and maintain partnerships with public and private stakeholders to leverage expertise and resources for the rural development mission area;

''(5) promote cross-agency collaborations and identify best practices in rural economic development;

''(6) identify and implement technological solutions and software applications to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of rural development mission

area programs, including enhancing data management systems;

''(7) conduct research, analysis, and evaluation to modernize, simplify, and improve rural development mission area programs, and ensure that the programs are accessible, transparent, and user-friendly; and

''(8) disseminate information, guidance, and training materials to rural development mission area personnel and stakeholders on innovative rural development practices and opportunities.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.''.

SEC. 6235. RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PROGRAM.

Section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–18) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

PART I—RURAL CARE ECONOMY

SEC. 6301. IMPROVING THE RURAL CARE ECONOMY; PRIORITIZATIONS.

(a) INVESTING IN THE RURAL CARE ECONOMY.—

(1) IMPROVING RURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS.—

(A) PRIORITIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall make the following prioritizations for fiscal years 2027 through 2031:

(i) DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE.—In addition to the priorities under section 2333(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–2(d)), in selecting recipients of financial assistance under chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XXIII of that Act (7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.), the Secretary shall give priority to telemedicine projects that—

(I) provide substance use disorder prevention services, treatment services, recovery services, or any combination of those services; or

(II) provide mental or behavioral health services.

(ii) COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOANS AND GRANTS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—In selecting recipients of direct loans or grants for the development of essential community facilities under section 306(a) of

the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)), the Secretary shall give priority to entities eligible for those direct loans or grants to develop—

(aa) healthcare facilities; or

(bb) mental or behavioral health facilities, including certified community behavioral health clinics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note; Public Law 113–93).

(II) USE OF FUNDS.—In addition to the eligible uses of direct loans or grants for the development of essential community facilities under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)), an entity described in subclause (I) that receives a direct loan or grant for a purpose described in that subclause may use the direct loan or grant funds for—

(aa) providing medical equipment to increase medical surge capacity;

(bb) increasing telehealth capabilities, including underlying health care information systems; and

(cc) engaging in any other efforts to support rural development determined to be critical to address the health care or mental or behavioral health needs of rural areas, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) LIMITATION ON OTHER REPRIORITIZATIONS.—For fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall not make any reprioritizations within the Community Facilities direct loan and grant programs or the Distance Learning and Telemedicine programs under section 608 of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2204b–2).

(2) IMPROVING CHILDCARE IN RURAL AMERICA.—

(A) DEFINITION OF CHILDCARE PROGRAM.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term ''childcare program'' means a program that—

(I) provides quality care and early education for young children who—

(aa) are in kindergarten; or

(bb) have not yet entered kindergarten; and

(II) is operated by—

(aa) an eligible childcare provider described in section 658P(6)(A) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n(6)(A)); or

(bb) a childcare provider that, on the date of enactment of this Act—

(AA) is licensed, regulated, or registered in the State, territory, or Indian

Tribe in which the provider is located; and

(BB) meets applicable State, Tribal, territorial, and local health and safety requirements.

(ii) INCLUSIONS.—In this paragraph, the term ''childcare program'' includes—

(I) a school-based program described in clause (i);

(II) a program described in clause (i) that accommodates non-traditional working hours;

(III) a facility used for a program described in clause (i); and

(IV) a service provided under a program described in clause (i).

(B) PRIORITIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall make the following prioritizations for fiscal years 2027 through 2031:

(i) COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOANS AND GRANTS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—In addition the priorities described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), in selecting recipients of di-

rect loans or grants for the development of essential community facilities under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)), the Secretary shall give priority to entities eligible for those direct loans or grants to develop facilities used for a childcare program, subject to the condition that the childcare program that uses those facilities shall employ staff that have appropriate expertise and training in childcare.

(II) USE OF FUNDS.—In addition to the eligible uses of direct loans or grants for the development of essential community facilities under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)), an entity described in subclause (I) that receives a direct loan or grant for the purpose described in that subclause may use the direct loan or grant funds to support the staffing needs of the facility described in that

subclause, subject to the condition that the eligible entity shall not use more than 25 percent of the direct loan or grant funds for staffing purposes.

(ii) RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.—In selecting recipients of financial assistance under the rural business development grant program under section 310B(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)), the rural cooperative development grant program under section 310B(e) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)), and the rural microentrepreneur assistance program under section 379E of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s), the Secretary may give priority to entities eligible for financial assistance under those sections—

(I) to provide technical or financial assistance for the acquisition, construction, renovation, or improvement of facilities used for a childcare program;

(II) to provide technical, financial, or managerial assistance to childcare programs;

(III) to assist in securing private sources of capital financing for childcare programs or other low-income community development; or

(IV) to address the needs of licensed childcare programs located in the home of the childcare program provider.

(C) EVALUATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the projects carried out under this paragraph to improve access to childcare programs in rural areas, including a description of—

(i) the types of projects carried out under this paragraph;

(ii) the communities in which those projects are carried out;

(iii) the organizations and entities participating in those projects;

(iv) the types of partnerships developed to carry out those projects; and

(v) the economic and social impacts of investments in rural childcare programs.

(b) ACCESS TO CREDIT FOR CARE INDUSTRIES.—Of the amount made available for business and industry guaranteed loans under section 310B(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)) for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall make available not less than 10 percent for supporting childcare programs (as defined in subsection (a)(2)(A)) and healthcare.

(c) SUNSET.—Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 6101(a) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4726) shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 6302. RURAL HOSPITAL REVITALIZATION.

Subtitle A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act is amended by inserting after section 310 (7 U.S.C. 1930) the following:

"SEC. 310A. RURAL HOSPITAL REVITALIZATION LOANS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Under the community facilities direct loan program established under section 306(a)(1) (referred to in this section as the 'community facilities di-

rect loan program'), the Secretary shall make temporary zero-percent interest loans to eligible rural hospitals described in subsection (b) for the construction of replacement hospital facilities or the improvement or renovation of existing hospital facilities in accordance with this section.

''(b) ELIGIBLE HOSPITALS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible rural hospital described in this subsection is a rural hospital—

''(A) the campus (as defined in section 413.65(a)(2) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)) of which is in a county with a population of less than 20,000 inhabitants;

''(B)(i) the campus (as so defined) of which is not less than 35 miles from the nearest hospital;

''(ii) if the campus (as so defined) of which is in an area with mountainous terrain or only secondary roads, as determined by the Secretary, such campus is not less than 15 miles from the nearest hospital;

''(iii) that is a critical access hospital (as defined in section 1861(mm)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(mm)(1))); or

"(iv) that is a rural emergency hospital (as defined in section 1861(kkk)(2) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(kkk)(2)));

"(C) that has been continuously licensed as a hospital in the community in which the hospital is located for not less than 30 years;

"(D) that submits to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information to determine eligibility under this paragraph and priorities under paragraph (2) and such other information as the Secretary may require, including—

"(i) a statement demonstrating the need for the loan, which shall describe—

"(I) the age and condition of existing facilities to be replaced, improved, or renovated, including a certification that funds from a loan under this section will not be used for facilities that have been significantly improved during the 10-year period preceding the date of the application; and

"(II) the manner in which the use of the loan funds will address

issues relating to the quality and viability of the facilities to preserve access to healthcare;

''(ii) a demonstration that the hospital has had a positive impact in the community served by the hospital, which shall include—

''(I) a positive impact on access to primary healthcare, emergency services, and services required under conditions of participation applicable under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); and

''(II) a meaningful economic impact; and

''(iii) a statement of the anticipated health and economic impacts of the loan, including—

''(I) an impact on sustaining the provision of services that the hospital currently provides;

''(II) an impact on offering healthcare services that the hospital does not currently offer, as appropriate;

"(III) an impact on the provision of community-based services, including such services that influence social determinants of health;

"(IV) any other economic impacts; and

"(V) impacts compared to the impacts if the loan funds were not made available; and

"(E) that, subject to paragraph (3), is financially stable, as measured by having—

"(i) not less than 30 days cash on hand; and

"(ii) a projected debt-service coverage ratio of at least 1.2.

"(2) PRIORITIES.—In making loans under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible rural hospital—

"(A) that serves an area in which there are fewer than 6 inhabitants per square mile, taking into consideration—

"(i) the distance from the hospital to a population center;

"(ii) the travel time from the hospital to reach a population center or specific health service; and

"(iii) seasonal variations in the need for access to healthcare services;

"(B) that requires replacement, improvement, or renovation that is not financially feasible at the rates and terms offered under the community facilities direct loan program;

"(C) for which not less than 50 percent of its inpatient days or discharges and outpatient visits during the most recent cost reporting period for which data are available were attributable to—

"(i) individuals entitled to, or enrolled for, benefits under part A or enrolled for benefits under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, including individuals enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan under part C of such title;

"(ii) individuals eligible for medical assistance under a State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (or a waiver of such a plan); or

"(iii) self-pay individuals; or

''(D) that meets 2 or more of the criteria described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

''(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirements described in paragraph (1)(E) in the case of a hospital that demonstrates sufficient community impacts described in paragraph (1)(D)(ii).

''(4) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of making loans under this section, the Secretary shall consider an eligible rural hospital described in paragraph (1) to be eligible for the community facilities direct loan program.

''(c) LOAN INTEREST AND TERMS.—

''(1) INITIAL INTEREST-FREE LOAN.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a loan made under this section shall, for the first 5 years of the loan—

''(A) have a zero percent interest rate; and

''(B) require repayment of principal for a period of 5 years, amortized—

''(i) in accordance with the expected amortization schedule of a loan under the community facilities direct loan program; and

''(ii) over a period that is equal to the lesser of—

"(I) the expected life of the facility being constructed or renovated; and

"(II) a maximum term of 40 years.

"(2) ASSESSMENT.—At the end of the 5-year period of a loan described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall conduct an assessment of the financial stability of the eligible rural hospital to determine whether the hospital has the financial strength for the loan to be refinanced at the prevailing rates offered under the community facilities direct loan program.

"(3) REFINANCING.—If the Secretary determines through an assessment under paragraph (2) that an eligible rural hospital has sufficient financial strength to repay a loan under the community facilities direct loan program, subject to subsection (d)(2), the Secretary shall refinance the loan under this section into a loan under the community facilities direct loan program—

"(A) at the prevailing interest rate applicable to a loan under the community facilities direct loan program;

"(B) without a requirement of the payment of any interest on the amount of principal repaid during the period in which the interest rate of the loan was zero percent;

"(C) based on the unpaid principal balance; and

"(D) amortized in accordance with the community facilities direct loan program for the remaining term of the loan.

"(d) RENEWALS.—

"(1) FAILURE UNDER ASSESSMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines through an assessment under subsection (c)(2) that an eligible rural hospital does not have sufficient financial strength to repay a loan under the community facilities direct loan program, the hospital may submit to the Secretary an application for a 1-time renewal of the zero-percent interest loan in accordance with the terms described in subsection (c)(1) for 1 additional term of not more than 5 years.

"(B) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for the renewal of a zero-percent interest loan under subparagraph (A), an eligible rural hospital shall demonstrate in the application sub-

mitted under that subparagraph that the hospital—

"(i) has first applied for and accepted any available Federal technical assistance for rural hospitals to support operational improvements and improve financial stability; and

"(ii) continues to meet all applicable community facilities direct loan program eligibility criteria.

"(C) REFINANCING.—At the end of the period for which a zero-percent interest loan is renewed under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall refinance the loan into a loan under the community facilities direct loan program in accordance with subsection (c)(3).

"(2) INTEREST RATE PROTECTION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines through an assessment under subsection (c)(2) that an eligible rural hospital has sufficient financial strength to repay a loan under the community facilities direct loan program, and the interest rate applicable to a loan under the community facilities direct loan program is more than 2.5 percent, the hospital may submit

to the Secretary an application for a 1-time renewal of the zero-percent interest loan in accordance with the terms described in subsection (c)(1) for 1 additional term of 5 years.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for the renewal of a zero-percent interest loan under subparagraph (A), an eligible rural hospital shall demonstrate in the application submitted under that subparagraph that the hospital—

''(i) has had a positive impact on access to primary healthcare, emergency services, and services required under conditions of participation applicable under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) in the community served by the hospital; and

''(ii) has had positive impacts in the community described in subsection (b)(1)(D)(ii).

''(C) REFINANCING.—During the period of a zero-percent interest loan that has been renewed under subparagraph (A), at any time that the interest rate applicable to a loan under the community facilities direct loan program is

2.5 percent or less, the eligible rural hospital may elect to refinance the loan into a loan under the community facilities direct loan program in accordance with subsection (c)(3).

''(3) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary disapproves an application to renew a zero-percent interest loan under paragraph (1)(A) or (2)(A), the Secretary shall resolve the applicable issues in accordance with the procedures that apply to the community facilities direct loan program.

''(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A hospital that receives a loan under this section shall be eligible for assistance through an award under a covered program to support operational improvements and improve financial stability during—

''(A) the 5-year period of a zero-percent interest loan described in subsection (c)(1); and

''(B) any renewal of a zero-percent interest loan for a lack of sufficient financial strength under subsection (d)(1).

''(2) COVERED PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered program' means—

''(A) the Targeted Technical Assistance for Rural Hospitals Program of the Health Resources and Services Administration; and

''(B) the Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program carried out by the rural development mission area, in cooperation with the National Rural Health Association.''.

SEC. 6303. RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 342 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1990a) is amended—

(1) by striking ''a rural hospital'' and inserting ''an eligible health care facility'';

(2) by striking ''rural community'' and inserting ''rural area'';

(3) by striking ''hospital,'' and inserting ''eligible health care facility,'';

(4) by striking ''Assistance'' and inserting the following:

''(a) REFINANCING OF CERTAIN RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY DEBT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To promote the long-term sustainability and financial viability of an eligible health care facility, the Secretary shall—

"(A) provide assistance described in paragraph (1) to an eligible health care facility for the purpose of—

"(i) ensuring the facility has necessary resources to maintain public health, safety, or order;

"(ii) addressing financial hardships of the facility, the patients of the facility, and the area served by the facility; and

"(iii) identifying the financial stability of the facility, including—

"(I) operational practices;

"(II) revenue enhancements;

"(III) policy revisions;

"(IV) partnerships, regionalization, or consolidation of rural health systems; and

"(V) contract services; and

"(B) require an applicant for assistance described in paragraph (1)—

"(i) to receive financial planning assistance; and

''(ii) to prepare a long-term financial plan.

''(3) WAIVER.—In the case of an application for refinancing pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary may waive the requirement of section 302(a)(1)(D) if the eligible health care facility is insolvent.

''(b) RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of any other authority under which the Secretary may provide technical assistance to any eligible health care facility, the Secretary shall establish, and maintain, directly or by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, a Rural Health Care Facility Technical Assistance Program (referred to in this subsection as the 'Program') to provide technical assistance and training, tailored to the capacity and needs of each eligible health care facility, to help eligible health care facilities—

''(A) identify development needs for maintaining essential health care services and support action plans for operational and quality improvement projects to meet the development needs;

"(B) better manage the financial and business strategies of the eligible heath care facilities, including providing financial planning assistance and preparing long-term financial plans; and

"(C) identify, and apply for assistance from, loan and grant programs of the Department of Agriculture for which the eligible health care facilities are eligible.

"(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall be—

"(A) to improve the long-term financial position and operational efficiency of eligible health care facilities;

"(B) to prevent the closure of eligible health care facilities;

"(C) to strengthen the delivery of health care in rural areas;

"(D) to help eligible health care facilities better access and compete for loans and grants from programs administered by the Department of Agriculture; and

"(E) to continue the activities of the Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program (as in

effect on the day before the date of enactment of this subsection).

''(3) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall engage in outreach and engagement strategies to encourage eligible health care facilities to participate in the Program.

''(B) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY SELECTION.—In selecting eligible health care facilities to participate in the Program, the Secretary—

''(i) shall give priority to borrowers of loans and recipients of grants from the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Rural Utilities Service; and

''(ii) may consider—

''(I) the age and physical state of the eligible health care facility involved;

''(II) the financial vulnerability of the eligible health care facility and the ability of the eligible health care facility to meet debt obligations;

''(III) the electronic health record implementation needs of the eligible health care facility;

''(IV) whether the eligible health care facility is located in a health professional shortage area or a medically underserved area;

''(V) whether the eligible health care facility serves a medically underserved population; and

''(VI) such other criteria and priorities as are determined by the Secretary.

''(4) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written report describing the progress and results of the Program, including—

''(A) a brief description of each project to provide technical assistance to an eligible health care facility under this subsection, including—

"(i) the name and location of the facility;

"(ii) a description of the assistance provided;

"(iii) a description of the outcomes for completed projects;

"(iv) the cost of the technical assistance; and

"(v) any other information the Secretary determines to be appropriate;

"(B) a summary of the technical assistance projects completed;

"(C) a summary of the outcomes of the technical assistance projects;

"(D) an assessment of the effectiveness of the Program; and

"(E) recommendations for improving the Program.

"(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection not more than $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' has the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A).

''(2) DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.—The term 'development needs' means—

''(A) constructing, expanding, renovating, or otherwise modernizing health care facilities;

''(B) increasing telehealth capabilities;

''(C) acquiring or upgrading health care information systems, such as electronic health records;

''(D) providing financial planning assistance and preparing a long-term financial plan; and

''(E) such other needs as the Secretary determines to be critical to maintaining health care services in the community in which an eligible health care facility is located.

''(3) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY.—The term 'eligible health care facility' means a facility that is located in a rural area and is—

''(A) a hospital (as defined in section 1861(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(e)));

"(B) a psychiatric hospital (as defined in section 1861(f) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(f)));

"(C) a home health agency (as defined in section 1861(o) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(o)));

"(D) a rural health clinic (as defined in section 1861(aa)(2) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(2)));

"(E) a critical access hospital (as defined in section 1861(mm)(1) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(mm)(1)));

"(F) a religious nonmedical health care institution (as defined in section 1861(ss)(1) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ss)(1)));

"(G) a long-term care hospital (as defined in section 1861(ccc) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ccc)));

"(H) a rural emergency hospital (as defined in section 1861(kkk)(2) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(kkk)(2)));

"(I) a sole community hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(D)(iii))); and

"(J) a community health center receiving funding under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b).

"(4) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.—The term 'health professional shortage area' has the meaning given the term in section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a)(1)(A)).

"(5) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.—The term 'medically underserved area' has the meaning given the term in section 330I(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–14(a)).

"(6) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION.—The term 'medically underserved population' has the meaning given the term in section 330(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)).".

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except for purposes of issuing regulations under subsection (b), the amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the effective date of those regulations.

PART II—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 6311. DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE.

(a) USE OF GRANTS FOR OPERATING EXPENSES.—Section 2333 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''and operation'' after ''construction'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''or extend'' each place it appears and inserting ''extend, or operate'';

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) operation of the programming, equipment, or facilities referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2); or''; and

(4) by striking subsection (g) and inserting the following:

''(g) OPERATING EXPENSES.—Not more than 15 percent of the amount of financial assistance provided to a recipient under this chapter may be used for operating expenses and administrative expenses that are reasonable and allocable to the project carried out by the recipient.''.

(b) WAIVER OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Section 2334 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) WAIVER OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall waive any requirement for a recipient of financial assistance under this chapter to provide non-Federal matching funds—

''(1) in a case of demonstrated need or if the matching requirement would create a substantial burden, as determined by the Secretary; or

''(2) if the recipient is a federally recognized Indian Tribe.''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–5) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1(b) of Public Law 102–551 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa note) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6312. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 6402(g) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b(g)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6313. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.

Section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) any Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.—The term 'energy efficiency measures' means, with respect to any property service by an eligible entity—

''(A) a structural improvement or investment in a cost-effective, commercial technology to increase energy efficiency (including any cost-effective on- or off-grid renewable energy or energy storage system); and

''(B) the replacement of a manufactured housing unit or large appliance with a substantially similar manufactured housing unit or large appliance, respectively, if that replacement is a cost-effective option with respect to energy savings.'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (e) through (i) as subsections (f) through (j), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) ADDITIONAL GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), at the request of an eligible entity that receives a loan under subsection (c), the Secretary shall make a grant to the eligible entity in an amount equal to not more than 5 percent of the loan

amount received under that subsection for costs incurred by the eligible entity in—

"(A) applying for the loan received under that subsection;

"(B) making a loan to a qualified consumer under subsection (d);

"(C) making repairs to the property of a qualified consumer that facilitates the energy efficiency measures for the property financed through a loan made under that subsection;

"(D) entering into a contract under subsection (f); or

"(E) otherwise carrying out the duties of the eligible entity under this section.

"(2) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTIES.—A grant made to an eligible entity under paragraph (1) for the purpose of making a loan to a qualified consumer under subsection (d) that is located in a persistent poverty county, as determined by the Secretary, shall be made in an amount equal to not more than 10 percent of the loan amount received by the eligible entity under subsection (c)."; and

(5) in subsection (j) (as so redesignated), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 6314. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON OUTDOOR RECREATION COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall coordinate an interagency task force (referred to in this section as the ''task force'')—

(1) to examine existing Federal programs supporting hospitality, tourism, agri-tourism, and outdoor recreation in rural communities; and

(2) to better align Federal investments in outdoor recreation in or around Federal land.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The task force shall consist of—

(1) the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service;

(2) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through—

(A) the Director of the National Park Service;

(B) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(C) the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(3) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; and

(4) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 360 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the task force shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that—

(1) examines, and identifies issues relating to, the coordination of Federal programs supporting hospitality, tourism, and outdoor recreation in rural communities, particularly rural communities that are in or around Federal land; and

(2) recommends changes to existing statutory requirements, regulatory requirements, or both, to improve interagency coordination and responsiveness to support hospitality, tourism, and outdoor recreation in rural communities, particularly rural communities that are in or around Federal land.

SEC. 6315. NEW, MOBILE, AND EXPANDED MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND RENDERING GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a public, private, or cooperative organization organized on a for-profit or nonprofit basis, including a small establishment and very small establishment;

(B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

(C) a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

(D) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as defined in that section); and

(E) a State department of agriculture or other applicable State office with authority over meat and poultry processing and rendering.

(2) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT; VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT.—The terms ''small establishment'' and ''very small establishment'' have the meanings given the terms ''small establishment'' and ''very small establishment'', respectively, in the final rule entitled ''Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems'' (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to create more resilient local and regional food systems;

(2) to expand, diversify, and increase resilience in meat and poultry processing and rendering activities;

(3) to increase farmer and rancher access to animal slaughter options;

(4) to improve compliance of processors with livestock and poultry processing statutes (including regulations), including the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

(5) to reduce barriers to entry for new meat and poultry processors and renderers;

(6) to establish new, or update, expand, or otherwise improve existing, meat and poultry processing and rendering facilities; and

(7) to support the processing and slaughtering of niche production methods such as halal, kosher, and other specific cultural methods.

(c) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to use in accordance with subsection (e).

(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount of a grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed $500,000.

(3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 3 years.

(4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to small establishments and very small establishments.

(d) APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENTS.—In awarding grants under this section to a small establishment or very small establishment that has been in operation for less than 2 years, the Secretary shall ensure the establishment has the financial viability and managerial capacity necessary to carry out the activities described in subsection (e).

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In awarding grants under this section to any eligible entity, the Secretary shall ensure the eligible entity demonstrates experience in carrying out activities in support of the purposes described in subsection (b), including activities described in subsection (e).

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant to carry out

activities in support of the purposes described in subsection (b), including activities—

(1) to identify and analyze business opportunities, including feasibility studies required for credit worthiness;

(2) to achieve compliance with applicable Federal, State, or local regulations;

(3) to conduct regional, community, and local economic development planning and coordination and leadership development;

(4) to incentivize new, innovative, or mobile enterprises for increasing or improving local and regional meat or poultry processing and rendering;

(5) to implement humane handling infrastructure, including holding space for livestock and poultry prior to slaughter, shade structures, and structures and equipment for humane slaughter;

(6) to develop a feasibility study or business plan for, or carry out any other activity associated with, establishing or expanding a meat or poultry slaughter, processing, or rendering facility;

(7) to purchase equipment that enables the further use or value-added sale of coproducts or by-products; and

(8) to purchase cold storage and related equipment.

(f) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the activities carried out using a grant awarded under this section shall not exceed—

(1) 90 percent in the case of a grant in the amount of $100,000 or less; or

(2) 75 percent in the case of a grant in an amount greater than $100,000.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

SEC. 6316. ANNUAL EFFICIENCY REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and not later than April 1 of each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report on Federal economic development programs.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a catalog and description of Department statutory programs and authorities devoted to economic development, including funding levels;

(2) an identification of each economic development office, agency, sub-agency, panel, committee, or other organization created by statute or regulation;

(3) a comprehensive description of how each program described in paragraph (1) is used by the Department, any deficiencies in those programs, and any overlap with other programs; and

(4) suggestions for reforming Department rural development authorities, including—

(A) streamlining or sunsetting any unnecessary or duplicative programs or authorities;

(B) consolidating overlapping authorities; and

(C) establishing new authorities as needed.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977

SEC. 7101. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVISORY BOARD.

Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(5), by striking ''7 additional members'' and inserting ''3 additional members'';

(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking ''$500,000'' and inserting ''$750,000''; and

(3) in subsection (h), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7102. SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''11 members'' and inserting ''12 members''; and

(ii) adding at the end the following:

''(iv) One of such members shall represent all minor production States as a nonvoting member.''; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) APPOINTMENT; SERVICE.—Members of the specialty crops committee shall—

''(A) be appointed by the Secretary; and

''(B) serve at the discretion of the Secretary.''; and

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (5) and (6) as paragraph (6) and (7), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) review grant applications under such subsection and submit a summary of comments, including the relevancy of the applications to the annual priorities established under paragraph (4), to the Di-

rector of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for consideration prior to the awarding of grants under such subsection;''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 412(d) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) for competitive grants under subsection (k), the review and summary submitted to the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture under section 1408A(g)(5) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a(g)(5)).''.

(c) EFFECT.—The amendments made by subsection (a)—

(1) shall take effect on October 1 of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) shall not affect the terms of the members of the citrus disease subcommittee established under section 1408A(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-

search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a(a)(2)) who are—

(A) appointed by the Secretary before the effective date described in paragraph (1); and

(B) members of that subcommittee on that effective date.

SEC. 7103. VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT.

Section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151a) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

''(b) DETERMINATION OF VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATIONS.—In determining 'veterinarian shortage situations', the Secretary—

''(1) may consider—

''(A) geographical areas that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians;

''(B) areas of veterinary practice that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians, such as food animal medicine, public health, epidemiology, and food safety; and

''(C) areas described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) identified by appropriate State agencies; and

''(2) shall—

''(A) develop quantitative mechanisms for predicting the emergence of new veterinarian shortage situations in the short-term and long-term; and

''(B) make available to State agencies described in paragraph (1)(C) the quantitative mechanisms developed under subparagraph (A).''; and

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

''(9) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall not make a veterinarian ineligible for the program under this section based on a veterinarian's participation in a comparable Federal, State, or local program.

''(10) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish streamlined application procedures and guidelines for entering into agreements with veterinarians under this section.''.

SEC. 7104. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 1415B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by striking ", as defined in" and all that follows through "1991(a))";

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' has the meaning given the term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).";

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas;";

(3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

"(5) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural

Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish a streamlined application process.''; and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY SERVICES''; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''situations and support'' and inserting ''situations, to expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas, and to support''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) To cover expenses associated with starting a new veterinary practice or attracting new veterinarians to existing practices, including—

''(i) relocation expenses;

''(ii) the purchase of necessary start-up equipment; and

''(iii) housing or living stipends for veterinary students, veterinary interns,

externs, fellows, and residents, and veterinary technician students.''.

SEC. 7105. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SCIENCES EDUCATION.

Section 1417 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152) is amended—

(1) in subsection (j)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) to conduct workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities relating to the food and agricultural sciences.''; and

(2) in subsection (m)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2023.'' and inserting ''2025; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 7106. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS.

Section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155(e)) is amended by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each fiscal years 2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 7107. EDUCATION GRANTS TO ALASKA NATIVE SERVING INSTITUTIONS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3156) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''$10,000,000 in fiscal years 2001 through 2023'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3), by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2023'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 7108. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3175(g)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7109. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3195) is amended—

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

''(4) CARRYOVER.—The balance of any annual funds provided to an eligible institution for a fiscal year under this subsection that remains unexpended at the end of the fiscal year may be carried over for use during the following fiscal year.''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7110. EXTENSION AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

Section 1444(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''2003'' and inserting ''2027''; and

(2) by striking ''20 percent'' and inserting ''40 percent''.

SEC. 7111. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1445(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''2003'' and inserting ''2027''; and

(B) by striking ''30 percent'' and inserting ''40 percent''; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''graduate student tuition and fees,'' after ''direction,''.

(b) PAYMENT OF ALLOTMENTS TO ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—Section 1445(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222(d)) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence, by striking ''a research director'' and inserting ''an agricultural research director''; and

(2) in the third sentence—

(A) by striking ''or other officer''; and

(B) by inserting ''agricultural'' before ''chief administrative officer''.

SEC. 7112. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1446(b)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222a(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7113. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7114. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AT INSULAR AREA LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b–2(d)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7115. NEW BEGINNING FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS.

Section 1450(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222e(d)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7116. HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7117. BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''entered into'' and inserting ''as entered into in 1977'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) support mid-stage research to advance cooperative agricultural research projects of mutual interest to the United States and Israel.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) BARD FUND ACCELERATOR.—The BARD Fund shall establish an accelerator program that supports mid-stage research, as determined by the

technology readiness level, in priority areas established by the BARD Fund, and—

"(A) fast-tracks cooperative research between scientists participating in BARD Fund activities;

"(B) accelerates the successful development of agricultural research through resources and services developed or orchestrated by the BARD Fund;

"(C) provides management guidance, technical assistance, and consulting to scientists participating in activities described in paragraph (2); or

"(D) advances cooperative agricultural research projects of mutual interest to the United States and Israel.

"(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the BARD Fund—

"(A) $12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out activities under paragraph (3); and

"(B) $8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out any other activities under this subsection.".

SEC. 7118. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANTS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1458A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting "**INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANTS PROGRAM**";

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e);

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

"(d) COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—

"(1) COMPETITIVE GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may make competitive grants to colleges and universities in order to strengthen United States economic competitiveness and to promote international market development.

"(2) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—Grants under this subsection shall be directed to agricultural research, extension, and teaching activities that will—

"(A) enhance the international content of the curricula in colleges and universities so as to ensure that United States students acquire

an understanding of the international dimensions and trade implications of their studies;

''(B) ensure that United States scientists, extension agents, and educators involved in agricultural research and development activities outside of the United States have the opportunity to convey the implications of their activities and findings to their peers and students in the United States and to the users of agricultural research, extension, and teaching;

''(C) enhance the capabilities of colleges and universities to do collaborative research with other countries, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, on issues relevant to United States agricultural competitiveness;

''(D) enhance the capabilities of colleges and universities to provide cooperative extension education to promote the application of new technology developed in foreign countries to United States agriculture; and

''(E) enhance the capability of United States colleges and universities, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, to provide leadership and educational programs that will assist United States natural resources and food pro-

duction, processing, and distribution businesses and industries to compete internationally, including product market identification, international policies limiting or enhancing market production, development of new or enhancement of existing markets, and production efficiencies.''; and

(4) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1459A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b) is repealed.

(2) Section 251(f)(1)(D)(vii) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971(f)(1)(D)(vii)) is amended by striking ''section 1459A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b)'' and inserting ''subsection (d) of section 1458A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292)''.

SEC. 7119. RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS.

Section 1462A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310a(e)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7120. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH.

Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3311) is amended by striking ''2023'' each place it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7121. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.

Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3312) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7122. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.

Section 1473D of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in subsection (e)(3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7123. NEW ERA RURAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

Section 1473E(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7

U.S.C. 3319e(d)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7124. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR NLGCA INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319i(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7125. AGRICULTURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319k) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**PILOT**'';

(2) in subsection (a)(6)(A), by striking ''growing,'' and inserting ''growing (including water conservation technologies and innovation),'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''pilot program'' each place it appears and inserting ''program'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting ''the long-term and high-risk technological'' before ''barriers''; and

(II) by striking ''and resilience to extreme weather;'' and inserting ''soil and water conservation, and resilience to extreme weather, drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests;''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting ''or economic cost'' before the period at the end; and

(C) in paragraph (9), by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through ''In carrying out'' and inserting the following:

''(9) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish and maintain within the AGARDA a staff with sufficient qualifications and expertise to enable the AGARDA to carry out the responsibilities of the AGARDA under this section in conjunction with other operations of the Department of Agriculture.

''(B) USE OF EXISTING PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES.—In carrying out'';

(4) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary shall use the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1) and dated 2022 to inform the administration of the AGARDA under this section.'';

(5) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) as paragraph (5), indenting appropriately, and moving the paragraph so as to appear after paragraph (3);

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031'';

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) OTHER FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available to carry out this section, the Secretary may use to carry out this section other unobligated funds available to the Secretary for any other purpose.''; and

(D) in paragraph (5) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)), by striking ''this para-

graph'' and inserting ''paragraph (2) or (4)''; and

(6) by striking subsection (e).

SEC. 7126. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS.

Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1473I. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) a junior or community college supporting agriculture advancement; and

''(B) a consortium or alliance of 2-year public colleges supporting agriculture advancement.

''(2) JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term 'junior or community college' has the meaning given the term in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

''(b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make competitive grants to eligible entities to assist the eligible entities in maintaining and expanding the capacity of the eligible entities to conduct workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities relating to—

''(1) agriculture; and

''(2) other similar disciplines.

''(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection (b), the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity coordinating with a local agriculture industry operator to provide experiential training and other opportunities for students.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under subsection (b) may use the funds made available through the grant to expand and maintain the capacity of the eligible entity—

''(1) to successfully compete for funds from Federal grants and other sources to carry out educational, research, and outreach activities that address priority concerns of national, regional, State, and local interest;

''(2) to offer educational programming on agricultural industry jobs, including farm business management-related subjects, such as accounting, paralegal studies, and finance;

"(3) to disseminate information relating to the priority concerns described in paragraph (1) to interested members of the agriculture and other relevant communities and to the public;

"(4) to encourage members of those communities to participate in priority education, research, and outreach activities through providing matching funding from sources other than funds received through the grant; and

"(5) through—

"(A) the purchase or other acquisition of equipment and other infrastructure (not including the alteration, repair, renovation, or construction of buildings);

"(B) the professional growth and development of faculty; and

"(C) the development of apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities.

"(e) CENTERS OF AGRICULTURE ADVANCEMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may submit to the Secretary an application for designation and funding as a center of excellence for agriculture advancement.

"(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A center of excellence for agriculture advancement designated under para-

graph (1) shall use funding received as a result of that designation—

"(A) to demonstrate best practices relating to agriculture; and

"(B) to provide leadership in capacity building at a regional or national level.

"(f) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall—

"(1) conduct an evaluation of activities carried out under this section; and

"(2) submit a report describing the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1) to—

"(A) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

"(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

"(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

"(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

"(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.".

SEC. 7127. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1477(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3324(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2023.'' and inserting ''2025; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

(b) INDIRECT COSTS.—Section 1477 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3324) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) INDIRECT COSTS.—Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection—

''(1) the limitation with respect to indirect costs under section 1462 shall apply with respect to awards made under this subtitle; and

''(2) the limitation with respect to indirect costs under section 1473 shall not apply with respect to those awards.''.

SEC. 7128. RANGELAND RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

Section 1483(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7

U.S.C. 3336(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7129. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY PLANNING AND RESPONSE.

Section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3351(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7130. DISTANCE EDUCATION AND RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR INSULAR AREA INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR INSULAR AREAS.—Section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3362(f)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR INSULAR AREAS.—Section 1491(c)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3363(c)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7131. LIMITATION ON CERTAIN RESEARCH IN COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.

(a) LIMITATION ON FOREIGN RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, shall prohibit research, education, or extension activities involving vertebrate animals carried out or funded under the jurisdiction of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area from being conducted in, or performed in collaboration with, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, or any other foreign country of concern (as defined in section 10638 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19237)).

(2) SCOPE.—The limitation under paragraph (1) shall only apply to activities carried out or funded under the jurisdiction of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area.

(b) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis if the Secretary determines that the research is necessary to protect national security, animal and crop health, or public health, safety, or welfare.

(2) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may delegate the waiver authority under

paragraph (1) to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days before granting a waiver under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written notification that includes—

(1) a detailed justification for the waiver, including the specific national security, animal and crop health, or public health, safety, or welfare need;

(2) a description of the research to be conducted, including the location, collaborators, and number and species of animals involved;

(3) the projected cost to taxpayers; and

(4) the expected duration of the waiver.

Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

SEC. 7201. BEST UTILIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS.

Section 1624 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5814) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7202. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.

Section 1627(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5821(d)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7203. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER PROGRAM.

Section 1628(f)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5831(f)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7204. NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.

Section 1629(i) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7205. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.

Section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7206. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEM.

Section 1641(c) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5855(c)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7207. AGRICULTURAL GENOME TO PHENOME INITIATIVE.

Section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(g)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7208. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (9) and inserting the following:

''(9) COFFEE PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

''(A) developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat plant pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are defined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact coffee plants;

''(B) establishing an areawide integrated pest management program in areas affected by, or areas at risk of being affected by, plant pests or noxious weeds (as so defined) that impact coffee plants;

''(C) surveying and collecting data on coffee plant production and health;

''(D) investigating coffee plant biology, immunology, ecology, genomics, and bioinformatics; and

''(E) conducting research on—

''(i) factors that may contribute to or be associated with coffee plant immune systems;

''(ii) other serious threats to coffee plants, including the sublethal effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on insects and plants beneficial to coffee plant growth; and

''(iii) the development of mitigating and preventative measures to improve habitat conservation and best management practices in coffee-growing regions.'';

(2) by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

''(11) MACADAMIA TREE HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

''(A) developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat plant

pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are defined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact macadamia trees;

"(B) establishing an areawide integrated pest management program in areas affected by, or areas at risk of being affected by, invasive plant pests or noxious weeds (as so defined);

"(C) surveying and collecting data on macadamia tree production and health;

"(D) investigating macadamia tree biology, immunology, ecology, genomics, and bioinformatics; and

"(E) conducting research on various factors that may contribute to or be associated with macadamia tree immune systems, and other serious threats to macadamia trees, including—

"(i) the sublethal effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on beneficial insects and plants to macadamia tree growth; and

"(ii) the development of mitigative and preventative measures to improve habitat conservation and best management

practices in macadamia tree growing regions.'';

(3) in paragraph (14)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (F) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) to review the effectiveness of current cattle fever tick eradication efforts in preventing and reducing the spread of cattle fever ticks;''; and

(4) in paragraph (17), by inserting ''and harmful algal blooms'' after ''macro-algae systems''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(21) PFAS AGRICULTURAL EFFECTS RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out research relating to—

''(A) the effects of perfluoroalkyl substances and polyfluoroalkyl substances (as those terms are defined in section 7331(2)(B) of the PFAS Act of 2019 (15 U.S.C. 8931(2)(B))) on agricultural land used for the production of crops and livestock, including cropland, grass-

land, rangeland, pasture land, cropped woodland, marshes, environmentally sensitive areas, and other land related to agricultural production, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(B) identifying ways to mitigate the impacts of perfluoroalkyl substances and polyfluoroalkyl substances (as so defined) on agricultural land described in subparagraph (A).

''(22) PEANUT AFLATOXIN RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

''(A) pre- and post-harvest improvements in the peanut production, handling, and processing sectors to improve efficiency and manage aflatoxin;

''(B) advanced curing systems to minimize moisture variation of individual peanut kernels; and

''(C) other efforts that can lead to a reduction in the risk of losses due to mold and potential aflatoxin contamination in storage.

''(23) BIOCHAR RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

"(A) assessing the soil carbon sequestration potential of various biochars and management systems integrating biochar use;

"(B) understanding how to use biochar productively to contribute to climate mitigation, crop production, resilience to extreme weather events, ecosystem and soil health, natural resource conservation, and farm profitability; and

"(C) delivering science-based, region-specific, cost-effective, and practical information to farmers, ranchers, foresters, land reclamation managers, urban land managers, and other land and natural resource managers and businesses on sustainable biochar production and application.

"(24) SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made and cooperative agreements may be entered into under this section to mitigate the negative effects of spotted wing drosophila.

"(25) SPOTTED LANTERNFLY CONTROL INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of developing and disseminating research-based tools and treatments to combat the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*).

''(26) WHEAT RESILIENCY INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of building capacity to address underfunded and emerging pest and disease challenges to wheat production throughout the United States.

''(27) INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of supporting research projects at land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) to develop and apply methods to manage and eradicate invasive species of plants and animals, including through methods of biocontrol.

''(28) AGRICULTURAL APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of developing and evaluating agricultural uses of artificial intelligence.

''(B) EMPHASIS.—In awarding grants under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may

place emphasis on uses of artificial intelligence that improve specialty crop production.

''(29) AQUACULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of supporting research projects at land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) to develop and apply aquaculture methods, including through the propagation and rearing of economically and ecologically valuable aquatic and marine species.

''(30) WHITE OAK RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Research grants may be made under this section to land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) that have demonstrated scientific expertise relating to white oak, geographic proximity to concentrated areas of white oak, and the ability to rapidly engage in technology transfer to industry for the purpose of improving white oak species resiliency, health, and preservation.

"(B) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall prioritize research relating to—

"(i) white oak genes with resistance to disease, pests, heat, and drought in cultivated, new, and old growth white oak timber stands;

"(ii) white oak trees that exhibit heritable vigor for the purpose of increasing survival and growth;

"(iii) establishing a genetically diverse white oak seed bank capable of responding to stressors;

"(iv) providing a sustainable supply of white oak seedlings and genetic resources;

"(v) improved methods for aligning seed sources with the future climate at planting sites;

"(vi) reforestation of white oak trees through natural and artificial regeneration;

"(vii) improved methods for retaining and increasing white oak trees in forests;

"(viii) improved methods for reforesting abandoned mine land sites; and

"(ix) economic and social aspects of white oak forest management across land ownerships.

"(31) SUNFLOWER BREEDING INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of developing sunflower hybrids adapted for United States growing regions.

"(32) EQUINE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT.—Research grants may be made under this section for the purposes of enhancing equine health, safety, and disease management, including research relating to—

"(A) health, safety, and regulatory considerations for equines;

"(B) equine genomics to monitor equine health and identify at-risk equines;

"(C) racetrack and surface safety protocols;

"(D) reproductive health;

"(E) epidemiology, molecular diagnostics, and bioinformatics related to equine diseases; and

"(F) infectious diseases affecting equines.

"(33) GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be

made under this section at land-grant institutions for the purposes of—

"(A) supporting research and development of ungulate grazing land management techniques that—

"(i) promote wildfire mitigation, fuel reduction, and post-fire recovery on public land and private land, including research and development relating to understanding the economic benefits of, and increasing social support for, such activities;

"(ii) are compatible with activities that protect against adverse environmental effects, including the spread of invasive plant species and disease, soil erosion, water quality degradation, and watershed degradation, such as—

"(I) rotational grazing;

"(II) managed stocking rates;

"(III) riparian buffer zones;

"(IV) cover crops;

"(V) fencing, including virtual fencing;

"(VI) manipulation of wild ungulate populations through targeted wildlife management; and

"(VII) water point management techniques; and

"(iii) improve soil health; and

"(B) disseminating information to public and private landowners, land managers, and livestock owners, including through providing educational materials and conducting outreach programs, regarding—

"(i) ungulate grazing land management techniques that promote wildfire mitigation, fuel reduction, and post-fire recovery; and

"(ii) compatible activities described in subparagraph (A).

"(34) EMERGING TICK–BORNE LIVESTOCK DISEASES.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of improving the prevention, diagnosis, and management of emerging tick–borne diseases in livestock, including anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and bovine theileriosis caused by *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda transmitted by

the invasive Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*), through—

''(A) research to develop and evaluate vaccines, therapeutics, enhanced surveillance methods, and integrated tick management strategies; and

''(B) extension and education activities to support veterinarians, State departments of agriculture, and livestock producers in the recognition, testing, and prevention of those diseases.''.

(b) PULSE CROP HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Section 1672(e)(5) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(e)(5)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(c) TRAINING COORDINATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PROTECTION.—Section 1672(f)(5) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(f)(5)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(d) POLLINATOR PROTECTION.—Section 1672(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(g)) is amended in paragraphs (1)(B), (2)(B), and (3) by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1672(h) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(h)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7209. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is amended—

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

(A) by striking ''subsection (e)'' and inserting ''subsections (e) and (f)''; and

(B) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''(7 U.S.C. 450i)'' and inserting ''(7 U.S.C. 3157)''; and

(3) in subsection (f)(1)(C), by striking ''and'' at the end.

SEC. 7210. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.

Section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7211. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1672E of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) managing waste streams of production practices to improve the environmental impact of emerging practices.''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting ''in rural, suburban, and urban areas'' before the period at the end.

(b) DATA COLLECTION.—Section 7212(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4812) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''the date of enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''the date on which amounts are appropriated under paragraph (2)

for the period of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''; and

(B) by striking ''in the calendar year 2017''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''$14,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2021'' and inserting ''$18,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until expended''.

SEC. 7212. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**EXCELLENCE**.'' and inserting ''**EXCELLENCE AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS**.'';

(2) by striking subsections (a) through (c);

(3) in subsection (d), by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through ''The Secretary shall recognize'' in paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(a) RECOGNITION.—The Secretary shall recognize and make awards to'';

(4) in subsection (a) (as so designated)—

(A) by striking ''3'' and inserting ''6'';

(B) by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)''; and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as subsections (b) through (d), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(5) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as paragraphs (1) through (6), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (a)''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) CLIMATE RESILIENCY.—A center of excellence established under subsection (a) may focus on climate adaption and mitigation, soil health and carbon sequestration, nutrient and manure management, advanced grazing management and crop-livestock integration, perennial production systems, agroforestry, on-farm and food system energy efficiency and renewable energy production, and food waste reduction.

''(8) FORESTRY RESILIENCE AND CONSERVATION.—A center of excellence established under subsection (a) may focus on fostering forest conservation, agroforestry, enhancing forest resilience, and

urban and community forestry programs to promote biodiversity and environmental health.

''(9) FOOD SAFETY, BIOPROCESSING, AND VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.—A center of excellence established under subsection (a) may focus on food safety, bioprocessing, value-added agriculture enterprise development, and innovative food and agriculture product development.

''(10) FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES.—A center of excellence established under subsection (a) may focus on the integration of the social sciences, including economics, psychology, rural sociology, and other social sciences and data sciences, into the food and agricultural sciences to develop comprehensive solutions to issues impacting underserved farmers and communities.'';

(6) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''; and

(7) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and indenting appropriately; and

(B) in paragraph (1) (as so redesignated), by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)''.

SEC. 7213. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES.

Section 1680(c)(1)(B) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933(c)(1)(B)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7214. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER CLEARINGHOUSE.

Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

Subtitle C—Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998

SEC. 7301. NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY TRAINING, EDUCATION, EXTENSION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 405(j) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7625(j)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7302. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.

Section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626(f)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7303. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH REGARDING DISEASES OF WHEAT, TRITICALE, AND BARLEY CAUSED BY FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM OR BY TILLETIA INDICA.

Section 408(e)(3) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7628(e)(3)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), ''2023.'' and inserting ''2026; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 7304. GRANTS FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 410(d)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7630(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7305. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(3), by striking ''subsection (d) and (j)'' and inserting ''subsections (d), (j), and (k)'';

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement under subparagraph (A).''; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''the Initiative'' and inserting ''this section'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

''(j) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive research and extension grant program to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops in the United States through the advancement and acceleration of mechanization

and automation, under which the Secretary awards competitive grants to eligible entities—

"(A) to create or improve cost-effective mechanization, automation, and other innovations and technologies—

"(i) to reduce the manual labor requirements of a specialty crop grower;

"(ii) to improve specialty crop farmworker safety and health or working conditions; or

"(iii) to increase the efficiency of specialty crop—

"(I) production;

"(II) resource management;

"(III) harvesting;

"(IV) processing;

"(V) postharvest technologies; or

"(VI) packaging;

"(B) to increase the adoption of specialty crop mechanization, automation, and other innovations and technologies by—

"(i) emphasizing adoption drivers, which may include connectivity, autonomy, reliability, durability, in-field validation, and cost-effectiveness; or

"(ii) investing in and developing human capital to increase the capacity of the specialty crop sector to work with new technologies; or

"(C) to accelerate specialty crop mechanization and automation through—

"(i) prototype development;

"(ii) in-field trial testing;

"(iii) ongoing industry engagement; or

"(iv) rapid commercialization.

"(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to proposals for projects that—

"(A) address the training or retraining of farmworkers to operate, repair, program, or otherwise maintain mechanization and automation solutions involved in the project; and

"(B) include explicit mechanisms to communicate the results of the project to producers and the public.

"(3) APPLICABILITY.—Subsections (a), (c) through (g), (i), and (l) shall apply to the program established under this subsection.";

(5) in subsection (k) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking paragraph (5); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5); and

(6) in subsection (l) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

''(C) ALLOCATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made available under subparagraph (B) for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall allocate $30,000,000 for the specialty crop mechanization and automation research and development program established under subsection (j).

''(ii) REALLOCATION.—Any funds allocated under clause (i) that remain unobligated on the date that is 1 year after the last day of the fiscal year in which those funds are first made available shall be reallocated for the Initiative.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(ii) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a) (as amended by section 7102(a)) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by striking ''(j)(3)'' and inserting ''(k)(3)'';

(B) in subsection (c)(5), by striking ''specialty crop research initiative'' and inserting ''programs''; and

(C) in subsection (g), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''(j)'' and inserting ''(k)''.

(2) Section 251(f)(1)(D)(x) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971(f)(1)(D)(x)) is amended by striking ''specialty crop research initiative under section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998'' and inserting ''programs under section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632)''.

(3) Section 12605(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7632 note; Public Law 115–334) is amended—

(A) by striking ''412(j)'' and inserting ''412(k)''; and

(B) by striking ''7632(j))'' and inserting ''7632(k))''.

SEC. 7306. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE PROGRAM.

Section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7642(e)) is amended by striking ''$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2023'' and inserting ''$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 7307. FORESTRY PRODUCTS ADVANCED UTILIZATION RESEARCH.

Section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7655b(f)(1)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7308. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.

Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 414. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program under which the Secretary will award competitive grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for veterans (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

"(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible for a grant under this section if such entity is—

"(1) a cooperative extension service;

"(2) a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

"(3) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as defined in such section);

"(4) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college and university (as defined in such section);

"(5) a State department of agriculture;

"(6) a nonprofit organization;

"(7) a community-based organization; or

"(8) a combination of 2 or more eligible entities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

''(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the funds received through the grant—

''(1) to provide training and classroom education that leads to a comprehensive understanding of farm and ranch business operations and management practices;

''(2) to develop or identify curriculum that veteran farmers and ranchers can adopt to help manage their enterprise;

''(3) to offer education, workshops, tours, and instructor-supervised field experiences; or

''(4) to support any other activity, as identified by the Secretary, to increase the number of veterans pursuing knowledge and skills development in agriculture.

''(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—An entity that receives a grant under this section shall provide non-Federal matching funds for the purposes of carrying out this section in an amount equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 7309. NATIONAL BIOCHAR RESEARCH NETWORK.

Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 is amended by inserting before section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624) the following:

"SEC. 403. NATIONAL BIOCHAR RESEARCH NETWORK.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary shall establish a national biochar research network (referred to in this section as the 'research network').

"(b) SCOPE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The research network shall encompass—

"(A) agriculture, horticulture, and other biochar uses; and

"(B) a broad range of feedstocks, production processes, and application treatments, including—

"(i) common biochar types with common characteristics tested across sites; and

"(ii) promising locally produced biochar.

"(2) RESEARCH.—The research conducted by the research network shall include—

"(A) cross-site and mechanistic experiments at not more than 20 research sites or facilities described in subsection (c) to test com-

mon biochar types with common characteristics, and promising locally produced biochars, across soil types, soil health and soil management conditions, application methods, and agronomic and climate regions—

''(i) to fill critical knowledge gaps and gain a more complete understanding of the impact of various types and characteristics of biochar in varying site conditions on soil properties, plant growth, soil emissions, and soil carbon in different soils, climates, and other natural and agronomic conditions;

''(ii) to generate data to develop, calibrate, and validate robust mechanistic models to predict the full life cycle of greenhouse gas, crop response, and related agronomic and environmental implications of particular applications of biochar;

''(iii) to generate data to help guide the design of new, more efficient biochar and bioenergy production reactors and biorefineries that produce biochar with the needed characteristics to serve specific soil and crop improvement objectives; and

''(iv) to generate data to develop, calibrate, validate, and standardize testing methodologies for biochar to identify potential contaminants or other factors that may cause unintended consequences; and

''(B) site-specific farm and forestry systems assessments and pilot-scale biochar production and application systems—

''(i) to refine the most promising soil-based uses, sources, and methods of producing and applying biochar in particular regions—

''(I) to enhance productivity;

''(II) to increase profitability, scalability, and portability;

''(III) to increase soil carbon;

''(IV) to improve ecosystem and soil health;

''(V) to strengthen resilience to extreme weather events; and

''(VI) to explore soil, crop, climate, management, and biochar interactions;

''(ii) to develop new knowledge to support decisions on sustainable production and use of biochar;

''(iii) to collect relevant data needed for full life cycle greenhouse gas and economic analyses and complete those analyses;

''(iv) to predict plant response, soil health, soil carbon sequestration, ecosystem health, water quality, and economic outcomes for specific implementations of biochar technology;

''(v) to provide insights on thermochemical conversion processes in biochar production and the coproduction of biochar and bioenergy, including interactions of feedstock properties with reactor conditions and processes on the relative proportions and properties of biochar, biofuels, and value-added coproducts, as well as process efficiency;

''(vi) to provide data to evaluate local biomass feedstocks, support selection of sustainable biochar production methods, and address biochar production issues;

''(vii) to develop new knowledge on integration of biochar in soil health management systems; and

''(viii) to share research results to inform farmers, horticulturalists, ranchers, foresters, urban biochar users, extension agents and specialists, and technical assistance providers on the most advantageous ways to use biochar to increase profitability, raise productivity, lower costs, improve soil and plant health, build soil carbon, and enhance resilience to extreme weather events.

''(c) ELIGIBILITY.—An entity shall be eligible to be selected to conduct research as part of the research network if the entity is—

''(1) a State agricultural experiment station or a State forestry experiment station;

''(2) a research facility of the Agricultural Research Service, the Forest Service, or any other agency of the Department that the Secretary determines to be appropriate; or

''(3) a research facility of the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, or the Department of the Interior.

''(d) ADMINISTRATION.—The research network shall be administered by the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service.''.

Subtitle D—Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

PART I—AGRICULTURAL SECURITY

SEC. 7401. AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY COMMUNICATION CENTER.

Section 14112(c)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8912(c)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7402. ASSISTANCE TO BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY IN AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY PLANNING, PREPARATION, AND RESPONSE.

Section 14113 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8913) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7403. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COUNTERMEASURES.

Section 14121(b)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8921(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7404. AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 14122(e)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8922(e)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

PART II—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 7411. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.

Section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2019; 128 Stat. 901; 132 Stat. 4817; 138 Stat. 1769; 139 Stat. 627) is amended by striking '', for the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2026''.

SEC. 7412. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK.

Section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting '', including crisis lines'' before the semicolon at the end;

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''; and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.—As part of the efforts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to

connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant recipient may establish referral relationships with—

''(1) certified community behavioral health clinics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note; Public Law 113–93);

''(2) health centers (as defined in section 330(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(a)));

''(3) rural health clinics (as defined in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)));

''(4) Federally qualified health centers (as defined in that section); and

''(5) critical access hospitals (as defined in section 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(mm))).''.

SEC. 7413. NATURAL PRODUCTS RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Section 7525(e) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5937(e)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7414. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and bioproduct'' before ''technologies'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''product'' and inserting ''bioproduct''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''product'' and inserting ''bioproduct'';

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''4 percent'' and inserting ''30 percent''; and

(3) in subsection (g), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

Subtitle E—Other Matters

SEC. 7501. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD LAW RESEARCH.

Section 7603 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 3125a–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) or other'' after ''with'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) PROGRAM INCOME.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any program income generated by land-grant colleges and universities or institutions of higher education described in subsection (a) from the use of funding provided under that subsection shall be available to those institutions until expended for the purpose of carrying out objective programs for research, legal tools, and information in agricultural and food law.''; and

(4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking ''$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2014'' and inserting ''$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2027''.

SEC. 7502. CRITICAL AGRICULTURAL MATERIALS ACT.

Section 16(a)(2) of the Critical Agricultural Materials Act (7 U.S.C. 178n(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7503. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS ACT OF 1994.

(a) ENDOWMENT FOR 1994 INSTITUTIONS.—Section 533(b) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 534(a)(1) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(1) by striking ''1996'' and inserting ''2027''; and

(2) by striking ''equal to'' and inserting ''not less than''.

(c) INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.—Section 535 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended by striking ''2023'' each place it appears in subsections (b)(1) and (c) and inserting ''2031''.

(d) RESEARCH GRANTS.— Section 536 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''and to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate relevant equipment necessary for strengthening the capacity of the 1994 Institution to conduct research in the food and agricultural sciences'' before the period at the end;

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b); and

(4) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated), in the first sentence, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7504. REPORT ON THE EXTENSION SERVICE NEEDS OF TRIBAL LANDS AND POPULATIONS.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this section as the ''Comptroller General'') shall conduct a study of—

(1) the extension service needs with respect to Tribal lands and Tribal populations, regardless of the location of those populations;

(2) whether the cooperative extension program and the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program established under section 1677 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5930) are meeting those needs, including by examining, for the most recent 5 fiscal years—

(A) the total amount of Federal funding received in each State for extension services;

(B) the types of extension services, including extension services on agriculture, serving the Tribal population in each State and the amount of funding spent on each type of extension service in the State; and

(C) the Tribal population in each State; and

(3) how the program established under section 1677 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5930) was established when that section was enacted by Congress and the significant changes to the operation and funding of that program since that enactment.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit a report describing the results of the study to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—If the Comptroller General finds under the study under subsection (a) that the existing cooperative extension program and the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program are not meeting the needs described in subsection (a)(1), the report under paragraph (1) shall include such legislative and other recommendations as the Comptroller General determines would result in a

system under which those needs are met in an equitable and effective manner.

SEC. 7505. RESTORATION OF 4-H NAME AND EMBLEM AUTHORITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 4-H CLUB.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''4-H club'' means a 4-H club recognized under the 4-H Program.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''4-H club'' includes an authorized agent of a 4-H club.

(2) 4-H EMBLEM OR NAME.—The term ''4-H emblem or name'' means the 4-H sign or emblem, consisting of a green four-leaf clover with stem and the letter ''H'' in white or gold on each leaflet, and the words ''4-H'', ''4-H Club'', and ''4-H Clubs'', used to identify and distinguish the 4-H Program and the activities, clubs, members, goods, and services of the 4-H Program.

(3) 4-H PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''4-H Program'' means the youth development program of the land-grant colleges or universities, the Cooperative Extension System (as defined by the Secretary), and the Department.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''4-H Program'' includes an authorized agent of the 4-H Program.

(4) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''land-grant college or university'' means an 1862 Institution, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994 Institution (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''land-grant college or university'' includes an authorized agent of a land-grant college or university.

(b) EFFECT OF REPEAL; RATIFICATION.—

(1) CIVIL ACTS.—Any civil act or action of the 4-H Program, a 4-H club, the Secretary, or a land-grant college or university taken with respect to the use of the 4-H emblem or name, or the recognition of any 4-H club, during the period beginning on May 8, 1914, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act, is deemed to be of legal force and effect and ratified as if section 1002(3) of the Clean Up the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155) had not been enacted into law.

(2) EFFECT ON CRIMINAL LAW.—Nothing in this subsection affects the effect on criminal law of the repeal made by section 1002(3) of the Clean Up the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155).

(c) AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF 4-H EMBLEM OR NAME; FEES; DEPOSITS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may—

(A) use the 4-H emblem or name; and

(B) grant authorizations to use the 4-H emblem or name, as provided by regulations issued by the Secretary.

(2) FEES.—An authorization under paragraph (1) may be granted—

(A) without a fee or other consideration; or

(B) for a fee or other consideration.

(3) USE OF FEES.—The Secretary shall deposit into a special account any fees collected under paragraph (2)(B), the amounts in which shall remain available to the Secretary until expended, without further appropriation, for furthering the 4-H Program.

(d) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF 4-H EMBLEM OR NAME.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—Whoever, other than the 4-H Program, a 4-H club, the Department, a land-grant college or university, and those authorized by them, uses in commerce the 4-H emblem or name or any reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation of the 4-H emblem or name to indicate membership in an association, organization, or other collective group, or in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or advertising of goods or services, on or in connection with which that use is likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive as to membership or participation in, an affiliation, connection, or association with, or authorization or approval by, a 4-H club or the 4-H Program, shall be subject to the civil action in paragraph (2).

(2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General on behalf of the Secretary, or contract counsel procured by the Secretary, may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States against whoever engages in any of the prohibited acts described in paragraph (1) for the remedies provided in the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly known as the ''Trademark Act of 1946'' or the ''Lanham Act'') (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

(e) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

(1) PRIOR AUTHORIZED USES.—Nothing in this section makes unlawful the use of any emblem, name, sign, symbol, insignia, or words that was lawful on December 26, 2020.

(2) DELEGATION.—Nothing in this section limits the authority of the Secretary to delegate authority of the Secretary as otherwise authorized by law.

SEC. 7506. AMENDMENTS TO THE HATCH ACT.

(a) MATCHING FUNDS.—Section 3(d)(1) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''agricultural research'' and inserting ''agricultural research, for graduate student tuition and fees,''.

(b) PAYMENT OF ALLOTMENTS TO STATE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.—Section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence, by striking ''officer known as a director, and a treasurer or other officer appointed by the government board of the station'' and inserting ''officer, to be known as a 'State Agricultural Experiment Station Director', and a treasurer''; and

(2) in the third sentence—

(A) by striking ''or other officer''; and

(B) by striking ''director'' and inserting ''State Agricultural Experiment Station Director,''.

SEC. 7507. AMENDMENT TO SMITH-LEVER ACT.

Section 3(b)(3) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting after ''for the purposes set forth in section 2'' the following: '', and for 1994 Institutions to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate relevant equipment necessary to strengthen the capacity of such 1994 Institutions to achieve the purposes set forth in section 2''.

SEC. 7508. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by inserting ''regionally adapted cultivar and breed development,'' before ''selection theory,'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by inserting '', including shellfish'' before the semicolon; and

(ii) in clause (iv), by inserting ''regionally adapted breed development,'' before ''selection theory,'';

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (vii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (viii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(ix) biochar.'';

(D) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (v), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) precision agriculture technologies;

''(vii) hydroponics, aquaponics, aeroponics, and other production technologies used in controlled-environment agricultural production; and

''(viii) research, development, and implementation of artificial intelligence to enhance precision agriculture, farm management, crop production, resource management, cybersecurity, and weather monitoring.''; and

(E) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iii) through (viii) as clauses (iv) through (ix) respectively;

(ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) tools for farm business, marketing, and financial management;'';

(iii) in clause (viii) (as so redesignated), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iv) in clause (ix) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

''(x) workforce training and development, including meat and poultry processing (including rendering) and precision agriculture; and

"(xi) reducing food loss and food waste.";

(2) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

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

"(E) to a consortium of junior or community colleges (as defined in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)) that may partner with land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) to carry out workforce training, education, research, and outreach priorities described in paragraph (2)(F)(x)."; and

(3) in paragraph (11)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7509. EXTENSION DESIGN AND DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE.

Subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(d)(6)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7510. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(h)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7511. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF 1978.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 6 of the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1675) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) TERMINATION DATE.—Section 8 of the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1671 note; Public Law 95–306) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7512. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.

Section 10 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2809) is amended—

(1) by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''the'' before ''Interior''.

SEC. 7513. FEDERAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH FACILITIES.

Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985 (title XIV of Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1556) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7514. ENHANCED USE LEASE AUTHORITY PROGRAM.

Section 308(b)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 3125a note; Public Law 103–354) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7515. AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AND DURABILITY INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and the Office of the Chief Scientist, and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, shall support research, development, testing, evaluation, validation, demonstration, deployment, commercialization, and technology transition activities that strengthen the durability, security, and operational continuity of United States agricultural production, agrifood systems, and associated biomanufacturing capacity against supply chain disruptions, natural disasters, biological threats, and other risks to food security, agricultural durability, domestic

production capacity, and economic and national security, including activities relating to—

(1) agricultural biosecurity, including prevention, detection, mitigation, response, and recovery relating to plant pests, plant diseases, livestock diseases, invasive species, and other biological threats;

(2) domestic production capacity and supply chain durability relating to fertilizer, feed, seed, crop protection products, agricultural machinery, food processing, agricultural feedstocks, and other critical agricultural inputs;

(3) critical and emerging technologies applicable to agricultural production and food systems, including artificial intelligence, automation, robotics, remote sensing, biotechnology, advanced computing, precision agriculture, precision livestock systems, and advanced data systems;

(4) agricultural and industrial biomanufacturing technologies that strengthen domestic production capacity and support critical materials, feedstocks, precursors, and inputs relevant to economic and national security;

(5) water, energy, soil, forest, wildfire, and other natural resource management technologies

that reduce scarcity risks and enhance agricultural durability; and

(6) workforce development, testbeds, pilot projects, field validation, demonstration activities, deployment activities, and technology transition efforts that accelerate adoption of innovative agricultural technologies.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities under this section may include—

(1) collaboration between the Department and the Department of Defense to accelerate research, development, testing, evaluation, validation, demonstration, deployment, commercialization, and technology transition activities described in subsection (a);

(2) collaboration with other Federal agencies, federally funded research and development centers, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, State departments of agriculture, agricultural experiment stations, extension services, producer organizations, nonprofit organizations, Tribal organizations, and private-sector entities;

(3) use of competitive, merit-reviewed processes, as appropriate, and other mission-driven selection processes, including cooperative agreements, consor-

tium-based awards, prize competitions, demonstration partnerships, and other mechanisms otherwise authorized by law;

(4) support for pilot projects, demonstration activities, field validation efforts, and technology transition activities that accelerate adoption of innovative technologies; and

(5) prioritization, to the extent practicable, of projects demonstrating clear potential to enhance food security, agricultural durability, domestic production capacity, supply chain security, biosecurity, or economic and national security.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and consistent with existing authorities, the Secretary may support projects under this section, including technology maturation, validation, field testing, demonstration, deployment, commercialization, and technology transition activities.

(d) REPORTING.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and the Office of the Chief Scientist, and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Sec-

retary of Defense for Research and Engineering, shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives an implementation plan describing activities to be carried out under this section, including priority research areas, collaboration mechanisms, and technology transition objectives.

(2) QUADRENNIAL AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AND DURABILITY STRATEGY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 4 years thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and the Office of the Chief Scientist, and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, shall submit to the committees described in paragraph (1) a strategy describing—

(A) activities carried out under this section;

(B) outcomes relating to food security, agricultural durability, domestic production capacity, and supply chain security;

(C) emerging threats and vulnerabilities affecting the United States food and agriculture sector;

(D) priority research and technology areas for future activities; and

(E) recommendations, if any, for legislative or administrative action to strengthen the security and durability of the United States food and agriculture sector.

(e) RESEARCH SECURITY.—Activities carried out under this section shall be conducted in a manner consistent with applicable Federal research security requirements and policies.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit existing authorities of the Department or the Department of Defense to conduct or support research, development, testing, evaluation, demonstration, deployment, commercialization, technology transition, or other activities otherwise authorized by law.

TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

Subtitle A—Forest Data Modernization

SEC. 8101. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(e) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''their resources'' and inserting ''the resources of those forests, including forest carbon,'';

(B) by striking ''In compliance'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In compliance''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) ADDITIONAL METHODS.—Under the program under this subsection, the Secretary shall carry out, as a data collection method—

''(i) a national timber products output survey; and

''(ii) a national woodland owner survey.'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting ''including with respect to available forest carbon data,'' after ''2 decades,'';

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking ''The standards'' and inserting the following:

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The standards described in subparagraph (A)'';

(B) by striking ''(4) NATIONAL STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure'' and inserting the following:

''(4) NATIONAL CONSISTENCY.—

''(A) STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) TERMINOLOGY.—The Secretary shall include a clear description of the definition of 'forest' used for purposes of reporting data from inventories and analyses of forests and the resources of forests under this subsection with—

''(i) any data or report provided under the program under this subsection;

''(ii) Renewable Resource Assessments prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest

and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)); and

''(iii) any data or report provided to an entity outside the United States.'';

(4) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection,'' and inserting ''In accordance with paragraph (7),'';

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

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

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) the organization and procedures necessary to understand and report on changes in land cover and use; and

''(H) the organization and procedures necessary to evaluate carbon-related data variables, including soil carbon, collected from forest inventory and analysis plots, timber products output studies, and national woodland owner surveys to ensure that carbon accounting information needs can be met.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) UPDATES TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the blue ribbon panel submits the report under subsection (f)(3)(C), the Secretary shall prepare an update to the strategic plan under paragraph (6) to include—

''(i) a plan to implement nationally consistent data collection protocols and procedures to improve the statistical precision of base program estimates;

''(ii) pathways to integrate and report on status and trends in forest carbon pools, including below-ground carbon;

''(iii) plans, including the identification of challenges, to collaborate with other Federal agencies, non-Federal partners, and the private sector to integrate existing nationally available data sets and best available commercial technologies, such as remote sensing, spatial analysis techniques, and other new technologies;

"(iv) a plan to increase transparency and clarity in reporting in accordance with paragraph (4)(C);

"(v) a plan to expand current data collection, further integrate remote sensing technology, or both, to include procedures to improve the statistical precision of estimates at the sub-State level;

"(vi) a plan to expand current data collection, further integrate remote sensing technology, or both, to include information on renewable biomass supplies and carbon stocks at the local, State, regional, and national levels, including by ownership type; and

"(vii) such other matters as the Secretary determines to be appropriate based on recommendations of the Forest Inventory and Analysis National User Group.

"(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the blue ribbon panel submits the report under subsection (f)(3)(C), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the

Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House of Representatives the update to the strategic plan prepared under subparagraph (A).

''(C) FURTHER UPDATES.—Not later than 5 years after the date on which the update is submitted under subparagraph (B), and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

''(i) prepare an additional update to the strategic plan; and

''(ii) submit the additional update to the committees described in subparagraph (B).

''(8) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that data collected under this subsection is—

''(A) presented in a manner that is easily accessible to the general public and technical experts, including through tools to deliver smaller area estimates; and

''(B) collected and made accessible using means that ensure the confidentiality, in accordance with section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276), of—

''(i) plot locations;

"(ii) nonaggregated data of woodland owners; and

"(iii) nonaggregated data from the timber products output survey carried out under paragraph (1)(B)(i).

"(9) BIENNIAL COMPILATIONS.—Biennially, the Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available a compilation of national forest inventory and analysis forest statistics, which shall be similar to the tables contained in the Renewable Resource Assessments prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)) and accompanied by relevant geospatial products.

"(10) REPORTS.—Each year, the Secretary shall publish as part of the forest inventory and analysis business report a detailed description of the progress of the Secretary in implementing the programmatic elements of the strategic plan described in paragraph (6), including—

"(A) the costs and priorities of the strategic plan; and

"(B) how the program under this subsection leverages new technology, improves and

standardizes collection protocols, and increases workforce capacity.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 2(c) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1641(c)) is amended by inserting ''of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the 'Secretary')'' after ''the Secretary''.

(c) REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES.—Section 8632(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking ''technologies'' and inserting ''technologies, such as microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution remote sensing data, and advanced computing technologies including machine learning and other advanced approaches for improved modeling to provide tabular statistical estimates and geospatial products,''.

SEC. 8102. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM BLUE RIBBON PANEL.

Section 3 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM BLUE RIBBON PANEL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the

Secretary, in consultation with the National Association of State Foresters, shall convene a blue ribbon panel (referred to in this subsection as the 'Panel') to review the forest inventory and analysis program established under this section (referred to in this subsection as the 'program').

''(2) COMPOSITION.—

''(A) NUMBER.—The Panel shall be composed of not fewer than 10, and not more than 20, members.

''(B) MEMBERS.—Members of the Panel shall—

''(i) include recognized national leaders from across State and Federal agencies, universities, industry, and nongovernmental organizations;

''(ii) have knowledge of and expertise in, or be users for purposes of decision making of, forest biometrics, inventory, and remote sensing technology; and

''(iii) have no personal financial conflict of interest in serving on the Panel.

''(3) DUTIES.—

''(A) REVIEW.—The Panel shall conduct a review of the past progress, current priorities,

and future needs of the program with respect to national monitoring of forest carbon, climate change, forest health, and sustainable wood products.

''(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The review under subparagraph (A) shall include consideration of—

''(i) the modernization of the program—

''(I) broadly; and

''(II) specifically relating to the integration of advanced remote sensing technologies and methods such as small area estimation; and

''(ii) the possibility of more public-private-academic partnerships under the program to help meet the goals of the program and external needs, particularly relating to research priorities, operational implementation of current or ongoing science, and decision support.

''(C) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Panel is convened under paragraph (1), the Panel shall submit to

the Secretary and Congress a report describing the review conducted under subparagraph (A).

''(4) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

''(A) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Panel shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the non-governmental members of the Panel.

''(B) COMMITTEES.—The Panel may establish 1 or more committees within the Panel as the Panel determines to be appropriate.

''(C) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Panel shall serve without compensation.

''(D) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall provide such administrative support as is necessary for the Panel to carry out its duties.

''(E) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Panel shall be exempt from chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the 'Federal Advisory Committee Act').''.

Subtitle B—Forest Health and Management

SEC. 8201. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term ''National Forest System'' has the meaning given the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(2) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term ''public lands'' means public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)) administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) the Secretary, with respect to National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands.

PART I—FOREST SERVICE MANAGEMENT

SEC. 8211. HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL LAND.

Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6518) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8212. INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED DISEASES.

Section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6556) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8213. INSECT AND DISEASE TREATMENT AREAS.

Section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8214. COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION PROJECT.

Section 603(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''3000'' and inserting ''10,000''.

SEC. 8215. WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECT SIZE.

Section 605(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''3000 acres'' and inserting ''10,000 acres''.

SEC. 8216. GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE DEER HABITAT.

Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking ''concurrently for both greater sage-grouse and'' and inserting ''for greater sage-grouse or''; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking ''4,500 acres'' and inserting ''7,500 acres''.

SEC. 8217. FUEL BREAKS IN FORESTS AND OTHER WILDLAND VEGETATION.

Section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592b(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''3,000 acres'' and inserting ''10,000 acres''.

SEC. 8218. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE.—The term ''high-priority hazard tree'' means a standing tree that—

(A) presents a visible hazard to people or property due to conditions such as deterioration of, or damage to, the root system, trunk, stem, or limbs of the tree, or the direction or lean of the tree, as determined by the responsible official;

(B) is determined by the responsible official to be highly likely to fail and, on failure, would be highly likely to cause injury to people or damage to Federal property; and

(C) is located within 300 feet of—

(i) a National Forest System road with a maintenance level of 3, 4, or 5;

(ii) a National Forest System trail;

(iii) a developed recreation site or an administrative facility that is operated and maintained by the Secretary on National Forest System land; or

(iv) a project work site.

(2) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''high-priority hazard tree activity'' means a forest management activity that mitigates the risks associated with high-priority hazard trees, including pruning, felling, blasting, cabling, bracing, and disposal of a high-priority hazard tree.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''high-priority hazard tree activity'' does not include any activity—

(i) conducted in a wilderness area or wilderness study area;

(ii) for the construction of a permanent road or permanent trail;

(iii) conducted on Federal land on which, by Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited;

(iv) conducted in an area in which activities described in subparagraph (A)

would be inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan; or

(v) conducted in an inventoried roadless area.

(b) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—High-priority hazard tree activities are a category of actions considered an action categorically excluded from the requirements of Public Law 91–190 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.—A project carried out using the categorical exclusion established by paragraph (1) may not exceed 6,000 acres.

SEC. 8219. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY LINES RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—Forest management activities described in subsection (b) are a category of activities designated as being categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(b) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The forest management activities designated as being categorically excluded under subsection (a) are—

(1) the development and approval of a vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance plan submitted under section 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)) to the Secretary; and

(2) the implementation of routine activities conducted under the plan referred to in paragraph (1).

(c) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary may use the categorical exclusion established under subsection (a) in accordance with this section.

(d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS.—The categorical exclusion established under subsection (a) shall not apply to any forest management activity conducted—

(1) in a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System; or

(2) on National Forest System land on which, by Act of Congress, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited.

(e) PERMANENT ROADS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT.—A forest management activity designated under subsection (b) shall not include the establishment of a permanent road.

(2) EXISTING ROADS.—The Secretary may carry out necessary maintenance and repair on an existing permanent road for the purpose of conducting a forest management activity designated under subsection (b).

(3) TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed for a forest management activity designated under subsection (b) not later than 3 years after the date on which the action is completed.

(f) APPLICABLE LAW.—A forest management activity designated under subsection (b) shall not be subject to—

(1) section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536); or

(2) section 306108 of title 54, United States Code.

SEC. 8220. CONSULTATION UNDER CERTAIN LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND LAND USE PLANS.

(a) FOREST SERVICE PLANS.—Section 6(d) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not-

withstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land management plan approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

''(A) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

''(B) new information reveals effects of the land management plan that may affect a species listed or critical habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.''.

(b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal

Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land use plan approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

''(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

''(2) new information reveals effects of the land use plan that may affect a species listed or critical habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.''.

SEC. 8221. FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN ACES PROGRAM.

Section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 3851a) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**ACES**'' and inserting ''**EXPERIENCED SERVICES**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''Agriculture Conservation'';

(B) by inserting '', professional, or administrative'' after ''technical''; and

(C) by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary'' and inserting ''The Secretary''; and

(3) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. 8222. TIMBER SALES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.

Section 14(d) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a(d)) is amended by striking ''$10,000'' and inserting ''$55,000''.

PART II—STATE AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

SEC. 8231. SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.

Section 2A of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

''(f) FUNDING.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to develop and implement State-wide assessments and State-wide strategies under subsection (a) not more than $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

''(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES.—In addition to funds appropriated for a fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary may use any other funds made available under this Act to develop and implement State-wide assessments and State-wide strategies under subsection (a), except that the total amount of combined funding to develop and implement such State-wide assessments and State-

wide strategies may not exceed $40,000,000 in any fiscal year.''.

SEC. 8232. STATE AND PRIVATE FOREST LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109a(l)(3)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8233. PROMOTING CROSS-BOUNDARY WILDFIRE MITIGATION.

Section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6513(e)(5)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8234. EXTENSION OF STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING MAXIMUM TERM LIMITS.

Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting '', including retaining and expanding existing forest products infrastructure necessary to carry out an agreement or contract under this subsection'' before the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking ''10 years'' and inserting ''20 years''; and

(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

"(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF MULTIYEAR CONTRACT.—In this paragraph, the term 'multiyear contract' means a contract entered into under subsection (b) that—

"(i) has a term of longer than 5 years; and

"(ii) is entered into on or after the date of enactment of this paragraph.

"(B) SPECIAL RULE.—A multiyear contract entered into under subsection (b) by the Chief or the Director with an entity shall provide that, in the case of cancellation or termination of the multiyear contract by the Chief or the Director, the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall provide to the entity a cancellation or termination payment that is the lesser of—

"(i) an amount equal to 10 percent of the multiyear contract; or

"(ii) the amount of unrecovered costs that would have been recouped through amortization over the full term of the

multiyear contract (including the term canceled).''.

SEC. 8235. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term 'adjacent land' means non-Federal land, including State, local, Tribal, and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the same watershed as, National Forest System land on which a watershed protection and restoration project is carried out under this section.''; and

(C) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and (L), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

''(G) an acequia association;

''(H) a local, regional, or other public entity that manages stormwater or wastewater resources or other related water infrastructure;

''(I) a land-grant merced;

''(J) a local, regional, or other private entity that has water delivery authority;'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting ''and adjacent land'' before the period at the end;

(B) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection and restoration project under the Program shall be designed—

''(A) to protect and restore watershed health, water supply and quality, a municipal or agricultural water supply system, and water-related infrastructure;

''(B) to protect and restore forest health from insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

"(C) to advance any combination of the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

"(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed protection and restoration projects under the Program, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that would—

"(A) provide risk management benefits associated with drought, wildfire, post-wildfire conditions, extreme weather events, flooding, resilience to climate change, and watershed and fire resilience, including minimizing risks to watershed health, water supply and quality, and water-related infrastructure, including municipal and agricultural water supply systems;

"(B) support aquatic restoration and conservation efforts that complement existing or planned forest restoration or wildfire risk reduction efforts;

"(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water supply or quality and include the use of nature-based solutions, such as restoring wetland and riparian ecosystems;

"(D) include—

"(i) partners with demonstrated capacity to design and implement, and success in designing and implementing, ecological restoration projects, wildfire risk-reduction efforts, or post-wildfire restoration projects; or

"(ii) in the case of communities that have historically lacked access to adequate resources, partners with a strong likelihood of success in designing and implementing a watershed protection and restoration project; and

"(E) include—

"(i) a contribution of funds or in-kind support from non-Federal partners in an amount greater than the amount required under subsection (g)(2); or

"(ii) such other characteristics as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT LAND.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity may be carried out under this section on adjacent land, unless the owner of the adjacent land provides express support for, and is a willing

and engaged partner in, carrying out that project or activity.

''(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes any change in—

''(i) the ownership of adjacent land on which a project or activity is carried out under this section; or

''(ii) the management of adjacent land on which a project or activity is carried out under this section, except during the carrying out of that project or activity.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''agreements with'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''agreements with end water users—

''(A) to protect and restore the condition of National Forest watersheds and adjacent land that provide water to end water users; or

''(B) to protect and restore the condition of National Forest watersheds and adjacent land that provide water for the benefit of another end water user.'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) in the case of an agreement with a State, a county, or an Indian tribe for a project carried out on National Forest System land—

''(i) a good neighbor agreement entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or

''(ii) an agreement or contract entered into under the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–278; 118 Stat. 868); or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate, to the maximum extent practicable, with non-Federal partners in carrying out assessments, planning, project design, and project implementation under this section.'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A water source management plan shall be—

''(A) designed to protect and restore ecological integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subparagraph));

''(B) based on the best available scientific information; and

''(C) conducted in a manner consistent with the forest plan applicable to the National Forest System land on which the watershed protection and restoration project is carried out.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing watershed plan, such as a watershed restoration action plan developed under section 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning documents approved by the Secretary may be used as the basis for a water source management plan under this subsection.'';

(5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''purpose of'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''purpose of advancing any of the purposes described in subsection (b)(2).''; and

(6) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''at least equal to'' and inserting ''not less than 20 percent of'';

(ii) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A) at the discretion of the Secretary.'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING AND CAPACITY.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraphs (A) and (B) to carry out this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall use not less than 10 percent for non-Federal partner technical assistance participation and capacity-building efforts in developing or implementing a water source management plan under subsection (d).''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary may include the value of forest restoration and watershed improvement work implemented on adjacent land in the project area in determining in-kind contributions to a project from non-Federal partners under paragraph (4)(A).''.

SEC. 8236. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 304 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraphs (3) and (5), by striking ''watershed protection and restoration action plan'' each place it appears and inserting ''watershed restoration action plan'';

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) to ensure that management activities and authorizations do not result in long-term degradation of watershed health of any watershed in a National Forest.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 8237. AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERVICE SITES.

(a) CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.—Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 109–54) is amended by striking ''2019'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERVICE SITES.—Section 8623(i) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking ''2028'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8238. MODIFICATION OF GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.

(a) GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.—Section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''either the Secretary or a Governor or county'' and inserting ''the Secretary, a Governor, an Indian tribe, a special district, or a county'';

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking ''Governor or'' and inserting ''Governor, an Indian tribe, a special district, or a'';

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking ''or Indian tribe''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term 'special district' means a political subdivision of a State that—

''(A) has significant budgetary autonomy or control;

''(B) was established by, or pursuant to, the laws of the State for the purpose of performing a limited and specific governmental or proprietary function primarily relating to forest, watershed, or rangeland management or water supply; and

''(C) is distinct from any other unit of local government within the State.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''or county'' and inserting '', an Indian tribe, a special district, or a county'';

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by inserting ''special district,'' after ''Indian Tribe,'' each place it appears;

(II) in subclause (I)—

(aa) by striking ''on''; and

(bb) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(III) in subclause (II)—

(aa) in the matter preceding item (aa), by striking ''clause (i)'' and inserting ''subclause (I)''; and

(bb) in item (bb), by striking ''the Good Neighbor Authority for Recreation Act.'' and inserting ''section 351 of the EXPLORE Act (16 U.S.C. 8571);''; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) to construct new permanent roads on Federal land that are—

''(aa) necessary to implement authorized restoration activities; and

''(bb) approved by the Federal agency through environmental analysis or a categorical exclusion decision;

''(IV) to complete new permanent road construction to replace and decommission an existing permanent road that is adversely impacting for-

est, rangeland, or watershed health; and

''(V) if there are funds remaining after carrying out subclauses (I) through (IV), to carry out authorized restoration services under other good neighbor agreements and for the administration of a good neighbor authority program by a Governor, Indian tribe, special district, or country.''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ''2028'' and inserting ''2031'';

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''or county'' and inserting '', an Indian tribe, a special district, or a county''; and

(D) by striking paragraph (4).

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 443 of division E of Public Law 118–42 (138 Stat. 297) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Agriculture Act of 2014'' and inserting ''Agricultural Act of 2014''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of enactment of Public Law 118–42 (138 Stat. 25).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to any project initiated pursuant to a good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

(1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if the project was initiated after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

(2) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8239. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''species;'' and inserting ''species or pathogens;'';

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (H), by adding ''and'' after the semicolon at the end; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(I) address standardized monitoring questions and indicators;'';

(2) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) include a Federal Government staffing plan for providing support to collaboratives established pursuant to subsection (b)(2);'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) proposals that seek to use innovative implementation mechanisms, including conservation finance agreements, good neighbor

agreements entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a), and similar implementation mechanisms;

''(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecological restoration activities—

''(i) within areas across land ownerships, including State, Tribal, and private land; and

''(ii) within the wildland-urban interface (as defined in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511)); and

''(I) proposals that seek to enhance watershed health and drinking water sources.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''10'' and inserting ''20''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''2'' and inserting ''4'';

(4) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting ''conflict resolution or collaborative governance,'' before ''and woody''; and

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by striking ''$4,000,000'' and inserting ''$8,000,000''; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8240. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) to recover from wildfire; or

''(E) to enhance soil, water, and related natural resources.'';

(2) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and post-wildfire impacts'' after ''wildfire risk''; and

(B) in subparagraph (F), by inserting '', as identified in the corresponding State forest action plan, Tribal-integrated resource manage-

ment plan or Tribal forest management plan, or similar priority plan (such as a State wildlife or water plan)'' before the semicolon;

(3) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—For each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023, and not less frequently than once every 2 fiscal years thereafter, the Chiefs shall submit a report describing projects for which funding is provided under the Program, including the status and outcomes of those projects, to—

''(A) in the Senate—

''(i) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry;

''(ii) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;

''(iii) the Committee on Appropriations; and

''(iv) the Committee on Indian Affairs; and

''(B) in the House of Representatives—

''(i) the Committee on Agriculture;

''(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources; and

''(iii) the Committee on Appropriations.''; and

(4) in subsection (h)(1), by striking ''2022 and 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION

SEC. 8251. WOOD INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 8643 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**INNOVATION**'' and inserting ''**INNOVATIONS**'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''make a wood innovation grant'' and inserting ''issue competitive or non-competitive grants'';

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) TARGETING SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT.—In selecting among proposals of eligible entities under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may give priority to proposals for projects that—

''(1) include the use or retrofitting (or both) of existing sawmill facilities located in counties in which the average annual unemployment rate exceeded the national average unemployment rate by more than 1 percent in the previous calendar year;

''(2) recognize or enhance carbon reduction strategies in building design, including forest impacts, which can be improved or incentivized by North American procurement; or

''(3) report on the connection between the proposal and the resilience and economic benefits associated with wood products from anticipated wood supply areas, including wildfire risk reduction, increased fiber flow, forest or mill jobs, and support for forested communities created because of forest management.''; and

(4) in subsection (d), by inserting ''50 percent of'' before ''the amount''.

SEC. 8252. COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**ENERGY AND WOOD INNOVATION**'' and inserting ''**FACILITIES GRANT**'';

(2) in subsection (a)(4), by striking ''Energy and Wood Innovation'' and inserting ''Facilities Grant'';

(3) in subsection (b), by striking ''Energy and Wood Innovation'' and inserting ''Facilities Grant'';

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''35'' and inserting ''50'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

(5) in subsection (d), by striking ''exceed—'' in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting ''exceed $5,000,000.'';

(6) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (1) through (7), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (1) (as so redesignated), by inserting ''or market competitiveness'' after ''cost effectiveness'';

(7) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated), by striking ''use or retrofitting (or both) of existing sawmill'' and inserting ''construction,

use, or retrofitting of forest products manufacturing'';

(8) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''5 megawatts of thermal energy or combined thermal and electric energy'' and inserting ''40 megawatts of thermal energy, combined thermal and electric energy, or electric energy''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''25 percent'' and inserting ''50 percent''; and

(9) in subsection (h), by striking ''$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 8253. REPORT ON USE OF MASS TIMBER IN CONSTRUCTION OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FACILITIES AND OTHER FEDERAL STRUCTURES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report—

(1) describing the projects in which the Department has used mass timber in the construction of Department facilities;

(2) describing the factors considered when determining whether to use mass timber in the construction of a Department facility; and

(3) identifying opportunities for the use of mass timber in the construction of new Department facilities and other Federal structures.

SEC. 8254. FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS DATA TRACKER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, in collaboration with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and in consultation with Federally recognized Indian Tribes, State foresters, and private sector partners, shall establish a publicly available platform to provide measurement, monitoring, verification, and reporting data regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related atmospheric impacts of forest management and wood products.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall source data, information, and data analysis from Department programs and interagency programs, including—

(1) the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, including the Timber Products Output survey;

(2) Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service soil carbon estimations;

(3) the Forest Products Laboratory;

(4) the Federal Life Cycle Assessment Commons;

(5) Department entity-level guidelines; and

(6) other relevant programmatic data and information sources, as published and made available.

(c) PRIORITIES.—The platform established under subsection (a) shall provide tools that calculate—

(1) the above- and below-ground forest carbon stocks and stock changes associated with species composition, forest management regime, and landowner types (including small area estimations for regional and localized geographies across the United States) made available through Forest Inventory and Analysis updates and annual reports;

(2) the embodied carbon involved in the manufacture of products, using data from published environmental product declarations and life cycle assessments, updated as new and more refined data becomes available;

(3) the long-term stored carbon in manufactured timber products; and

(4) the carbon displacement of wood products, compared to other materials, using substitution factors.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to provide authority with respect to the generation, consumption, or trading of carbon or environmental credits from National Forest System land in any voluntary or compliance environmental markets.

Subtitle C—Forest Conservation

SEC. 8301. SEMIARID AGROFORESTRY RESEARCH CENTER.

Section 1243(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 101–624) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8302. FOREST SERVICE LEGACY ROAD AND TRAIL REMEDIATION PROGRAM.

Section 8 of Public Law 88–657 (16 U.S.C. 538a) (commonly known as the ''Forest Roads and Trails Act'') is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) solicit and consider public input regionally in selecting projects for funding under the Program by—

''(i) publishing annually for each region the list of projects considered for funding under the Program;

''(ii) accepting public comments on the projects listed under clause (i); and

''(iii) considering public comments received under clause (ii) in selecting projects for funding;''; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''annually for each region,'' before ''publish''; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking ''description and the proposed'' and inserting the following: ''description of—

''(I) each project considered for funding under the Program;

''(II) the public comments received with respect to each project considered for funding under the Program;

''(III) the ranking in the applicable region of each project considered for funding under the Program; and

''(IV) the proposed''; and

(II) in subclause (IV) (as so designated), by striking ''each fiscal'' and inserting ''the applicable fiscal''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) DEFINITION OF REGION.—In this section, the term 'region' means 1 of the 9 regions of the Forest Service.''.

Subtitle D—Land Designations

SEC. 8401. CHESTER COUNTY REVERSIONARY AND MINERAL INTERESTS RELEASE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) within the parcel of State forest land located in Henderson, Chester County, Tennessee, a recent survey by the State determined that Bethel Baptist Church is encroaching on State-owned land in Chickasaw State Forest by approximately 19 inches;

(2) the parcel described in paragraph (1) was conveyed to the State by the Department, which retained a reversionary interest in the land; and

(3) it is necessary to release the interests of the United States in and to that land to resolve the encroachment issue described in paragraph (1).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Tennessee.

(2) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term ''State forest land'' means the approximately 0.62-acre parcel of land in Chickasaw State Forest that is identified as ''State Forest Land'' on the map prepared by the Forest Service entitled ''State Forest Land Detail Map'' and dated December 13, 2019.

(c) RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—

(1) RELEASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall release, without consideration, the reversionary interest described in paragraph (2).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any requirement for a grant of land under section 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)) or any other provision of law, the release under subparagraph (A) shall occur without any appraisal, other report, or environmental or similar review being undertaken.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—The reversionary interest referred to in paragraph (1)(A) is the reversionary interest of the United States in and to the State forest land that—

(A) takes effect if the State forest land ceases to be used for public purposes; and

(B) was created by the deed—

(i) granting from the United States to the State the State forest land;

(ii) dated August 12, 1955; and

(iii) registered on pages 588 through 591 of book 48 of the record of deeds for Chester County, Tennessee.

(3) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—As a condition of the release under paragraph (1), the State shall pay to the United States any administrative costs incurred by the United States in carrying out the release.

(d) CONVEYANCE OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any requirement for the conveyance of Federal mineral interests under section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1719), part 2720 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), or any other provision of law, the Secretary shall convey to the State, by quit-

claim deed, without warranty, and without consideration, the mineral interest in the State forest land owned by the United States.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the conveyance under paragraph (1) shall occur—

(A) without any exploratory program as to the character of the mineral deposits in the land;

(B) without any findings as to known mineral values and mineral development of the land; and

(C) without any appraisal, other report, or environmental or similar review being undertaken by the Secretary.

(3) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—As a condition of the conveyance under paragraph (1), the State shall pay to the United States any administrative costs incurred by the United States in carrying out the conveyance.

SEC. 8402. ROUGH MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AND RICH HOLE WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS.

(a) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Section 1 of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat.

584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(21) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Certain land in the George Washington National Forest comprising approximately 1,000 acres, as generally depicted as the 'Rough Mountain Addition' on the map entitled 'GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST—South half—Alternative I—Selected Alternative Management Prescriptions—Land and Resources Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement' and dated March 4, 2014, which is incorporated in the Rough Mountain Wilderness Area designated by paragraph (1).''.

(b) RICH HOLE ADDITION.—

(1) POTENTIAL WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the George Washington National Forest comprising approximately 4,600 acres, as generally depicted as the ''Rich Hole Addition'' on the map entitled ''GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST—South half—Alternative I—Selected Alternative Management Prescriptions—Land and Resources Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement'' and dated March 4, 2014, is des-

ignated as a potential wilderness area for incorporation in the Rich Hole Wilderness Area designated by section 1(2) of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584).

(2) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—The potential wilderness area designated by paragraph (1) shall be designated as wilderness and incorporated in the Rich Hole Wilderness Area designated by section 1(2) of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584) on the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register notice that the activities permitted under paragraph (4) have been completed; or

(B) the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), the Secretary shall manage the potential wilderness area designated by paragraph (1) in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(4) WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To enhance natural ecosystems within the potential wilderness area

designated by paragraph (1) by implementing certain activities to improve water quality and aquatic passage, as set forth in the Forest Service document entitled ''Decision Notice for the Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Management Project'' and dated December 2015, the Secretary may use motorized equipment and mechanized transport in the potential wilderness area until the date on which the potential wilderness area is incorporated into the Rich Hole Wilderness Area under paragraph (2).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall use the minimum tool or administrative practice necessary to carry out that subparagraph with the least amount of adverse impact on wilderness character and resources.

SEC. 8403. CONVEYANCE OF SPECIFIED FOREST SERVICE PROPERTY TO PERRY COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

(a) REQUIRED CONVEYANCE.—Subject to this section, if the County submits to the Secretary a written request for conveyance of the property described in subsection (b) not later than 180 days after the date of enact-

ment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the County all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The property referred to in subsection (a) is the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally referred to as parcel 850–10555–001 in the urban property records of the County, consisting of approximately 0.81 acres of Forest Service land located at 1069 Fourche Avenue, Perryville, Arkansas 72126.

(2) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of land to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) subject to valid existing rights;

(2) subject to reversion under subsection (g);

(3) made without consideration;

(4) made by quitclaim deed; and

(5) subject to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(d) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—

(1) a survey, if necessary, under subsection (b)(2);

(2) any environmental analysis or resources survey required under Federal law; and

(3) any analysis required to comply with division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''National Historic Preservation Act'').

(e) ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.—Notwithstanding section 120(h)(3)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)(3)(A)), the Secretary shall not be required to provide any covenant or warranty for the property and improvements conveyed to the County under subsection (a).

(f) PUBLIC PURPOSES USE.—The property conveyed under subsection (a) shall be used only for public purposes, such as supporting education and youth development.

(g) REVERSION.—If the property conveyed under subsection (a) ceases to be used in a manner consistent

with subsection (f), the property shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTY.—The term ''County'' means Perry County, Arkansas.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 8404. OKHISSA LAKE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) DEFINITION OF ALLIANCE.—In this section, the term ''Alliance'' means the Scenic Rivers Development Alliance, an instrumentality of the State of Mississippi.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to the requirements of this section, not later than 180 days after the completion of the appraisal under subsection (d)(2) and the written agreement under subsection (e)(2), the Secretary shall convey by quitclaim deed to the Alliance all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the surface estate of the National Forest System land generally described in subsection (c).

(c) LAND TO BE CONVEYED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Forest System land referred to in subsection (b) is—

(A) the approximately 137.7 acres of real property located in secs. 5 and 6, T. 5 N., R. 4 E., and sec. 31, T. 6 N., R. 4 E., Franklin County, Mississippi, as depicted on the map prepared for the Alliance by Marling Surveying, LLC, entitled ''Map of Survey of a 137.70 Acre Tract, a Portion of U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Homochitto National Forest Tracts H-41g & H-307'', and dated September 16, 2024; and

(B) the approximately 173 acres of real property located in secs. 5, 6, 7, and 8, T. 5 N., R. 4 E., Franklin County, Mississippi, as depicted on the map prepared for the Alliance by Marling Surveying, LLC, entitled ''Map of Survey of a +/- 173 Acre Tract, a Portion of U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Homochitto National Forest Tracts H-1, H-3b, H-41g & H-307'', and dated September 16, 2024.

(2) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the National Forest System land to be conveyed under this section shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(d) CONSIDERATION.—The consideration for the conveyance of any National Forest System land under this section shall be—

(1) provided in the form of cash; and

(2) in an amount equal to the fair market value of the National Forest System land being conveyed, as determined by an appraisal conducted in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and approved by the Secretary.

(e) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under this section shall be subject to—

(1) valid existing rights;

(2) a written agreement entered into between the Secretary and the Alliance, under which the Alliance—

(A) agrees to cover the costs of upkeep and maintenance of the Okhissa Lake Dam, including the dam, spillway, and related water control facilities; and

(B) assumes responsibility and liability for compliance with all Federal and State dam safety laws and regulations;

(3) the reservations in the United States of easements for public roads and trails, including—

(A) a perpetual, nonexclusive road right-of-way 30 feet in width for ingress and egress over all portions of Forest Service Road 149A within any of the conveyed land; and

(B) such road and trail rights-of-way as the Secretary may determine to be necessary or desirable to retain public and administrative access to Okhissa Lake and appurtenant National Forest System land;

(4) the reservation in the United States of all mineral rights, oil and gas rights, and all other subsurface rights in the conveyed land;

(5) a right of re-entry reserving to the Secretary the right to retake possession and title to the conveyed land in the event the land is subsequently conveyed to a nonpublic entity or used for purposes other than public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat, subject to the condition that, in the event the Secretary exercises such a right of re-entry, the Alliance shall remain liable for the abatement and clean-up of hazardous substances, oil, and any other contaminants;

(6) a restrictive covenant against the subdivision of the conveyed land into residential lots; and

(7) such other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(f) PROCEEDS FROM SALE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds of the conveyance of any National Forest System land under this section in the fund established under Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the ''Sisk Act'') (16 U.S.C. 484a).

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited under paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for the acquisition of land and interests in land for the National Forest System.

(g) COSTS.—As a condition for the conveyance under this section, the Secretary shall require the Alliance to pay at closing any reasonable appraisal, survey, and closing costs.

(h) ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—The Secretary shall not be required to comply with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or any other applicable environmental law in carrying out the conveyance under this section.

(i) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.—For purposes of the conveyance under this section, the Secretary—

(1) shall meet disclosure requirements for hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants under section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)); and

(2) shall not otherwise be required to remediate or abate those hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

SEC. 8405. LAKE WINNIBIGOSHISH LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BWLT.—The term ''BWLT'' means Big Winnie Land and Timber, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Corporation.

(2) MAP.—The term ''Map'' means the map entitled ''Heig Land Exchange'' and dated December 14, 2023.

(3) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means the approximately 17.5 acres of Federal land in Itasca County, Minnesota, generally depicted as the ''Federal Parcel'' on the Map.

(4) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''non-Federal land'' means the approximately 36.7 acres of non-Federal land in Itasca County, Minnesota, generally depicted as the ''Non-Federal Parcel'' on the Map.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the provisions of this section, if BWLT offers to convey the non-Federal land to the United States, the Secretary shall, not later than 1 year after the date on which such offer is made—

(1) accept the offer;

(2) convey to BWLT all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land, excepting and reserving an easement for road access to National Forest System land west of the Federal Parcel; and

(3) accept from BWLT all right, title, and interest of BWLT in and to the non-Federal land.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The exchange under subsection (b) shall be—

(1) conditioned on title approval for the non-Federal land by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (f);

(2) conditioned on a cash equalization payment made by BWLT to the United States in accordance with subsection (d) if, under the appraisals conducted in accordance with this section, it is deter-

mined that the value of the Federal land exceeds the value of the non-Federal land;

(3) conditioned on the satisfactory completion of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment by BWLT, provided to the Secretary, in advance of the acceptance of the non-Federal parcel;

(4) subject to valid existing rights; and

(5) subject to any other terms and conditions the Secretary determines appropriate.

(d) EQUAL VALUE AND CASH EQUALIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the exchange under subsection (b) shall be for equal value or the values shall be equalized by a cash payment.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the appraised value of the non-Federal land to be conveyed to the United States exceeds the appraised value of the Federal land, a cash equalization payment by the United States to BWLT is hereby waived and the amount of such waived payment shall be considered a donation by BWLT to the United States for all purposes of law.

(e) APPRAISALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the land to be exchanged under this section shall be determined by

appraisals conducted by an independent and qualified appraiser mutually agreed to by the Secretary and BWLT.

(2) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall complete appraisals of the land to be exchanged under this section in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(f) FORMAT.—Title to the non-Federal land to be conveyed to the United States under this Act shall be found sufficient by the Secretary pursuant to section 3111 of title 40, United States Code.

(g) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—The non-Federal land acquired by the United States under subsection (b) shall be—

(1) added to, and managed as part of, the Chippewa National Forest; and

(2) managed in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to National Forest System lands.

(h) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary

shall finalize the Map and legal descriptions of all land to be conveyed under this section.

(2) CONTROLLING DOCUMENT.—In the case of a discrepancy between the Map and a legal description, the Map shall control.

(3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and BWLT, by mutual agreement, may correct any minor errors in the Map or in the legal descriptions, including with respect to the boundaries of the Federal land and the non-Federal land.

(4) MAP ON FILE.—The Map and legal descriptions shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(i) CLOSING COSTS.—As a condition for the exchange under subsection (b), BWLT shall pay all closing costs associated with the exchange, including for—

(1) title insurance and title search;

(2) any applicable inspection fees, escrow fees, attorneys fees, and recording fees; and

(3) any environmental analysis or resource survey required under Federal law, regulation, or policy, including a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the non-Federal land.

(j) SURVEY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The exact acreages and legal descriptions of the Federal and non-Federal land to be exchanged under subsection (b) shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Secretary.

(2) COSTS OF SURVEY.—BWLT shall bear all costs associated with the surveys under paragraph (1).

SEC. 8406. RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST, BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST, WISCONSIN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DELI, INC.—The term ''Deli, Inc.'' means Deli, Inc., a sphagnum moss production business located in Millston, Wisconsin.

(2) DELI LAND.—The term ''Deli land'' means the approximately 37.27 acres of land owned or optioned to acquire, subject to the approval of the land exchange by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, and the Governor of the State, in 2 separate parcels, by Deli, Inc., located in Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and more particularly described as follows:

(A) The approximately 31.3-acre parcel (including land within the road right-of-way), together with any improvements—

(i) comprising the NE¼NE¼ of sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 2 W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin;

(ii) excluding—

(I) land lying north of the railroad right-of-way; and

(II) a parcel 150 feet wide, with 50 feet lying to the northeast, and 100 feet to the southwest, of a line commencing at a point 5 feet east of the northwest corner of the quarter-quarter section described in clause (i), thence south 56° E. 39′ a distance of 222 feet, thence south 57° E. 31′ a distance of 1359 feet; and

(iii) subject to—

(I) any public water use or easements on Lee Lake; and

(II) any easements or restrictions of record, public roadways, zoning and use ordinances, and the railroad right-of-way.

(B) The approximately 5.97-acre parcel located in the SW¼SW¼ of sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 4 W., Town of Millston, Jackson County,

Wisconsin, comprising lot 7 of Certified Survey Map No. 4483, as recorded in volume 19S of the certified survey maps, page 334, as Document No. 413440 in the Jackson County Register of Deeds.

(3) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Black River State Forest – Deli, Inc.'' and dated June 26, 2023.

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Wisconsin.

(5) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term ''State forest land'' means the approximately 31.83 acres of land located in the Black River State Forest in Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and more particularly described as follows:

(A) The 23.13-acre parcel—

(i) comprising the portion of the E½SE¼ of sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, lying south of the Interstate 94 southern right-of-way; and

(ii) excluding a triangular parcel in the southwest corner described as commencing at the southwest corner, thence east 260 feet, thence northwesterly to a

point on the west boundary thereof 200 feet north of the southwest corner, thence south to the place of beginning.

(B) The 8.70-acre parcel comprising the portion of the NE¼NE¼ of sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, lying north of the railroad right-of-way, forming a triangular piece, and more particularly described as commencing at the northeast corner of that quarter-quarter section, thence west 1010 feet to the north line of the railroad right-of-way, thence southeasterly along the boundary of the railroad to the east line of that quarter-quarter section, thence north on the east line 750 feet to the place of beginning.

(b) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the State forest land is subject to a reversionary interest of the United States pursuant to section 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)), requiring that the State forest land be used for public purposes in perpetuity; and

(B) the State and Deli, Inc. have agreed that—

(i) the State will convey to Deli, Inc. the State forest land in exchange for the Deli land; and

(ii) after that exchange, the Deli land will be added to Black River State Forest in the State.

(2) RELEASE.—If the State offers, in a written agreement, to convey to Deli, Inc., the State forest land in exchange for the conveyance of the Deli land by Deli, Inc. to the State—

(A) the reversionary interest of the United States in the State forest land shall be released; and

(B) the Secretary shall provide, as expeditiously as practicable, recordable evidence of the release under subparagraph (A) in the form of a quitclaim deed, which shall—

(i) convey any interest of the United States in and to the State forest land, without consideration; and

(ii) be provided to the State for recording before the exchange deeds are recorded.

(3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the State, may make any necessary corrections to the legal description of the State forest land for purposes of the quitclaim deed described in paragraph (2)(B).

SEC. 8407. SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST CONSERVATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DESIGNATED NATURAL AREA.—The term ''designated natural area'' means an area determined to be of exceptional ecological, botanical, geologic, scenic, or archeological value by the Secretary.

(2) DESIGNATED RESEARCH NATURAL AREA.—The term ''designated research natural area'' means an area that has been selected by the Secretary, and is managed by the Forest Service, for scientific research value.

(3) MAP.—The term ''Map'' means the map prepared and submitted by the Secretary under subsection (b)(5)(A).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(5) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term ''Special Management Area'' means a Special Management Area established by subsection (c)(1).

(b) CAMP HUTCHINS WILDERNESS.—

(1) ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the Shawnee National Forest in the State of Illinois managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 750 acres and generally depicted as ''Camp Hutchins Wilderness Area—Proposed'' on the map prepared by the Environmental Law and Policy Center entitled ''Camp Hutchins Wilderness Area and Special Management Area'' and dated November 23, 2023, is designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and shall be known as the ''Camp Hutchins Wilderness''.

(2) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Camp Hutchins Wilderness shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in that Act to the effective date shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) HIKING TRAIL.—National Forest System Road 211 shall be closed to public vehicular traffic and may be maintained as a hiking trail, including

the eastern extension of Forest Road 211 formerly known as the ''Hutchins Creek Spur'' up to the area known as ''Hutchins Creek Corridor'', as generally depicted on the Map.

(4) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within the Camp Hutchins Wilderness, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Camp Hutchins Wilderness after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under public land law;

(B) location, entry, and patent under mining law; and

(C) operation of mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing law.

(5) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of the Camp Hutchins Wilderness with—

(i) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(B) EFFECT.—The Map and legal description filed under subparagraph (A) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors on the Map and in the legal description.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—The Map and legal description filed under subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Secretary and on the website of the Forest Service.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, the following Special Management Areas within the Shawnee National Forest in the State of Illinois are established:

(A) CAMP HUTCHINS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 2,953 acres and generally depicted as ''Camp Hutchins Special Management Area—Proposed'' on the map prepared by the Environmental Law and Policy Center entitled ''Camp Hutchins Wilderness Area and Special Manage-

ment Area'' and dated November 23, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Camp Hutchins Special Management Area''.

(B) RIPPLE HOLLOW SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 3,445 acres and generally depicted as ''Ripple Hollow Special Management Area—Proposed'' on the map prepared by the Environmental Law and Policy Center entitled ''Ripple Hollow Special Management Area'' and dated November 23, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Ripple Hollow Special Management Area''.

(C) BURKE BRANCH SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 6,310 acres and generally depicted as ''Burke Branch Special Management Area—Proposed'', on the map prepared by the Environmental Law and Policy Center entitled ''Burke Branch Special Management Area'' and dated November 23, 2023, which shall be known as the ''Burke Branch Special Management Area''.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Special Management Areas are—

(A) to conserve, protect, and enhance the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historic, educational, and scientific resources of the Special Management Areas for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations;

(B) to promote biodiversity and control invasive species;

(C) to allow for the continuation of restoration efforts and scientific study of the designated natural areas and designated research natural areas within the Special Management Areas; and

(D) to allow for public use and enjoyment of the Special Management Areas.

(d) ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Special Management Areas—

(A) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the purposes for which the Special Management Areas are established; and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) this subsection; and

(ii) other applicable law.

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management plan for the long-term protection and management of the Special Management Areas.

(3) USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall allow only uses of the Special Management Areas that are consistent with the purposes for which the Special Management Areas are established.

(B) PRESCRIBED FIRE.—The Secretary may use prescribed fire to sustain the ecological structure and composition of the Special Management Areas, to sustain the biodiversity of the Special Management Areas, and to mitigate the risk of wildfire in the Special Management Areas or nearby areas.

(C) MANAGEMENT TOOLS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use herbicides, insecticides, and mechanized equipment, including chainsaws, drones, unmanned aerial systems, aircraft, pickup trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and rubber-tired and tracked vehicles, to control

fire, insects, disease, and invasive species in managing the Special Management Areas approved by the Secretary.

(ii) REQUIREMENT.—In managing the Special Management Areas, the Secretary shall use the best available technology and science.

(D) MOTOR VEHICLES.—Except in cases in which motor vehicles are needed for administrative purposes, emergency response, or access on established roads accessing trailheads, inholdings, cemeteries, or campgrounds, or are essential to provide off-road access for ecosystem management of habitat, the use of motor vehicles, including over-snow vehicles, in the Special Management Areas shall be prohibited.

(E) ROADS.—The Secretary shall decommission as soon as practicable any National Forest System roads within the Special Management Areas that are not needed for management or access to trailheads, cemeteries, and inholdings.

(F) TIMBER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Commercial timber harvesting in the Special Management Areas, except as needed for fire, insect, and disease control, and for visitor and administrative safety, shall be prohibited.

(ii) ACTIVITIES PERMITTED.—Thinning of trees and other vegetation in the Special Management Areas is permitted for restoration of the designated natural areas and designated research natural areas and to further the management objectives described in this section.

(G) INHOLDINGS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Access to private inholdings in the Special Management Areas shall be preserved.

(ii) ACQUISITIONS.—The Secretary shall acquire any private inholdings in the Special Management Areas by purchase or exchange from willing sellers as soon as practicable.

(H) HUNTING AND TRAPPING.—

(i) HUNTING.—Hunting shall be permitted in the Special Management Areas as permitted by the State of Illinois and in

accordance with regulations of the State of Illinois and regulations and orders issued by the Forest Service.

(ii) TRAPPING.—Trapping shall not be permitted in the Special Management Areas.

(iii) ACCESS BY MOTOR VEHICLES.—Motor vehicle access by hunters within the Special Management Areas, including over-snow vehicles, shall be prohibited.

(I) VOLUNTEER RESTORATION AND RESEARCH.—

(i) VOLUNTEERS.—The Secretary shall allow volunteers of cooperators and individual Forest Service volunteers to participate in ecological restoration activities under the guidance of Forest Service ecologists and botanists within the Special Management Areas through cooperative agreements.

(ii) ACCESS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.—The Secretary shall allow access to the Special Management Areas for scientific research by individuals and organi-

zations that the Secretary determines to be qualified for that purpose.

(J) ONGOING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.—The Supervisor of the Shawnee National Forest shall have the authority, without requiring the permission of the Secretary, to make management decisions concerning any designated natural area or designated research natural area within the Special Management Areas pursuant to the land management plan for the Shawnee National Forest.

(4) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within the Special Management Areas, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Special Management Areas after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under public land law;

(B) location, entry, and patent under mining law; and

(C) operation of mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing law.

(5) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal descriptions of the Special Management Areas with—

(i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(B) EFFECT.—The map and legal descriptions filed under subparagraph (A) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors on the map and in the legal descriptions.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal descriptions filed under subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Secretary and on the website of the Forest Service.

(6) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—Annually, the Secretary shall make publicly available on the website of the Shawnee National Forest a description of the progress in achieving the management objectives described in this section.

SEC. 8408. SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) NATIONAL SCENIC AREA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''National Scenic Area'' means the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area established by subsection (b)(1).

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''National Scenic Area'' includes—

(i) any National Forest System land within the boundary of the National Scenic Area that is administered as part of the National Scenic Area; and

(ii) any National Forest System land within the boundary of the National Scenic Area that is administered as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System under the amendments made by subsection (c).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Virginia.

(4) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term ''Wilderness Area'' means a wilderness area designated by para-

graphs (22) through (26) of section 1 of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) (as added by subsection (c)).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN NATIONAL SCENIC AREA.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area, consisting of approximately 92,562 acres of National Forest System land in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, as generally depicted on the map filed under subsection (d)(1)(A).

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the National Scenic Area are—

(A) to ensure the protection and preservation of the scenic quality, water quality, natural characteristics, and water resources of the National Scenic Area;

(B) to protect wildlife, fish, and plant habitat in the National Scenic Area;

(C) to protect outstanding natural biological values and habitat for plant and animal species along the Shenandoah Mountain crest

above 3,000 feet above sea level elevation, including the Cow Knob salamander;

(D) to protect forests in the National Scenic Area that may develop characteristics of old-growth forests;

(E) to protect the Wilderness Areas; and

(F) to provide for a variety of, and improve existing, recreation settings and opportunities in the National Scenic Area in a manner consistent with the purposes of the National Scenic Area described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall administer the National Scenic Area in accordance with—

(i) this subsection; and

(ii) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the National Forest System.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the Wilderness Areas in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and any

other laws applicable to the Wilderness Areas, except that any reference in that Act to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act for purposes of administering the Wilderness Areas.

(C) EFFECT; CONFLICTS.—

(i) EFFECT.—The establishment of the National Scenic Area shall not affect the administration of the Wilderness Areas.

(ii) CONFLICTS.—In the case of any conflict between the laws applicable to the Wilderness Areas, the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) shall control.

(D) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subsection creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the National Scenic Area or a Wilderness Area.

(ii) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA OR WILDERNESS AREAS.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside the National Scenic Area or a Wilderness Area can be seen or heard by hu-

mans within the National Scenic Area or Wilderness Area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundaries of the National Scenic Area or Wilderness Area.

(4) RECREATIONAL USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection or under applicable law, the Secretary shall authorize the continuation of, or seek to improve, authorized recreational uses of the National Scenic Area in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection interferes with the authority of the Secretary—

(i) to maintain or improve nonmotorized trails and recreation sites within the National Scenic Area;

(ii) to construct new nonmotorized trails and recreation sites within the National Scenic Area;

(iii) to adjust recreational uses within the National Scenic Area for reasons of sound resource management or public safety; and

(iv) to evaluate applications for, and issue or deny, special use authorizations in

connection with recreation within the National Scenic Area.

(C) REQUIREMENT.—Recreation within the National Scenic Area shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the purposes of the National Scenic Area described in paragraph (2).

(5) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM TRAIL PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a National Forest System trail plan for National Forest System land in the National Scenic Area that is not located in a Wilderness Area in order to construct, maintain, and improve nonmotorized recreation National Forest System trails in a manner consistent with the purposes of the National Scenic Area described in paragraph (2).

(B) POTENTIAL INCLUSION.—The Secretary may address in the National Forest System trail plan developed under subparagraph (A) National Forest System land that is near, but not within the boundary of, the National Scenic Area.

(C) PUBLIC INPUT.—In developing the National Forest System trail plan under subpara-

graph (A), the Secretary shall seek input from interested parties, including members of the public.

(D) REQUIREMENTS.—The National Forest System trail plan developed under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) promote sustainable trail management that protects natural resources and provides diverse, high-quality recreation opportunities, which may include loop trails for nonmotorized uses;

(ii) consider natural resource protection, trail sustainability, and trail maintenance needs as primary factors in determining the location or relocation of National Forest System trails; and

(iii) develop a National Forest System trail outside the Little River Wilderness Area in the area of the Tillman Road corridor (along National Forest System road 101) to connect the Wolf Ridge Trail parking area to the Wild Oak National Recreation Trail, as generally depicted on the applicable map filed under subsection

(d)(1)(B), pending completion of the required environmental analysis.

(E) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes the implementation of the National Forest System trail plan developed under subparagraph (A), including the identification of the National Forest System trail described in subparagraph (D)(iii) and any other priority National Forest System trails identified for development.

(6) ROADS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The establishment of the National Scenic Area shall not—

(i) result in the closure of any National Forest System roads, as generally depicted on the map filed under subsection (d)(1)(A); or

(ii) modify public access within the National Scenic Area.

(B) NO NEW ROADS.—No new roads shall be constructed in the National Scenic Area after the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection—

(i) denies any owner of private land or an interest in private land that is located within the National Scenic Area the right to access the private land;

(ii) alters the authority of the Secretary to open or close roads in the National Scenic Area in existence on the date of enactment of this Act in furtherance of the purposes of this Act; or

(iii) alters the authority of the State—

(I) to maintain the access road to the crest of Shenandoah Mountain (Route 924); or

(II) to realign the access road described in subclause (I) if necessary for reasons of sound resource management or public safety.

(D) PARKING AREAS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the reconstruction, minor relocation, and construction of parking areas and related facilities within the National Scenic

Area are authorized in a manner consistent with the purposes of the National Scenic Area described in paragraph (2).

(ii) LIMITATION.—Additional trailhead parking areas authorized in the National Scenic Area under clause (i) may be constructed only along National Forest System roads.

(7) MOTORIZED TRAVEL.—Motorized travel shall be allowed only on roads within the portions of the National Scenic Area that are not Wilderness Areas, in a manner consistent with paragraph (6).

(8) WATER.—The Secretary shall administer the National Scenic Area in a manner that maintains and enhances water quality.

(9) WATER IMPOUNDMENTS.—The establishment of the National Scenic Area shall not prohibit—

(A) the operation, maintenance, or improvement of, or access to, dams, reservoirs, or related infrastructure in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, as generally depicted on the map filed under subsection (d)(1)(A); or

(B) the establishment of new dams, reservoirs, or related infrastructure if necessary for municipal use.

(10) TIMBER HARVEST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no harvesting of timber shall be allowed within the National Scenic Area.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—

(i) NECESSARY HARVESTING.—The Secretary may authorize harvesting of timber in the National Scenic Area if the Secretary determines that the harvesting is necessary—

(I) to control fire;

(II) to provide for public safety or trail access;

(III) to construct or maintain overlooks and vistas; or

(IV) to control insect or disease outbreaks.

(ii) FIREWOOD FOR PERSONAL USE.—Firewood may be harvested for personal use along roads within the National Scenic Area, subject to any conditions that the Secretary may require.

(11) INSECT AND DISEASE OUTBREAKS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may carry out activities necessary to control insect and disease outbreaks in a manner consistent with the purposes of the National Scenic Area described in paragraph (2)—

(i) to maintain scenic quality;

(ii) to reduce hazards to visitors; or

(iii) to protect National Forest System land or private land.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—For purposes of activities carried out under subparagraph (A)—

(i) native forest insect and disease outbreaks shall be controlled only—

(I) to prevent unacceptable damage to resources on adjacent land; or

(II) to protect threatened, endangered, sensitive, or locally rare species, with biological control methods being favored; and

(ii) nonnative insects and diseases may be eradicated or suppressed only in order to prevent a loss of a special biological community.

(12) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary may engage in vegetation management practices within the National Scenic Area in a manner consistent with the purposes of the National Scenic Area described in paragraph (2)—

(A) to maintain wildlife clearings and scenic enhancements in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) to construct not more than 100 acres of additional wildlife clearings by—

(i) expanding wildlife clearings in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(ii) constructing new wildlife clearings of approximately 2 to 5 acres.

(13) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subsection prohibits the Secretary, in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies, as appropriate, from carrying out wildfire suppression activities within the National Scenic Area.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Wildfire suppression activities within the National Scenic Area shall be carried out—

(i) in a manner consistent with the purposes of the National Scenic Area described in paragraph (2); and

(ii) using such means as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(14) PRESCRIBED FIRE.—Nothing in this subsection prohibits the Secretary from conducting prescribed burns and necessary burn unit preparation within the National Scenic Area in a manner consistent with the purposes of the National Scenic Area described in paragraph (2).

(15) WITHDRAWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within the National Scenic Area is withdrawn from—

(i) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws;

(iii) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws;

(iv) wind, solar, or other renewable energy development; and

(v) designation of new utility corridors, utility rights-of-way, or communications sites.

(B) EFFECT.—Consistent with paragraph (6)(C)(i), the withdrawal under subparagraph (A) shall not deny access to private land or an interest in private land within the National Scenic Area.

(16) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the completion of the National Forest System trail plan under paragraph (5), but not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop as an amendment to the land management plan for the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests a management plan for the National Scenic Area that is consistent with this subsection.

(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph requires the Secretary to revise the land management plan for the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

(c) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.—Section 1 of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) (as amended by section 8402(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(22) SKIDMORE FORK WILDERNESS.—Certain National Forest System land in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests comprising approximately 5,088 acres, as generally depicted on the applicable map filed under section 8408(d)(1)(B) of the Agricultural Act of 2026, which shall be known as the 'Skidmore Fork Wilderness'.

''(23) RAMSEYS DRAFT WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Certain National Forest System land in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests comprising approximately 6,961 acres, as generally depicted on the applicable map filed under section 8408(d)(1)(B) of the Agricultural Act of 2026, which shall be incorporated into the Ramseys Draft Wilderness designated by Public Law 98–586 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 98 Stat. 3106).

''(24) LYNN HOLLOW WILDERNESS.—Certain National Forest System land in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests comprising approximately 3,568 acres, as generally depicted on

the applicable map filed under section 8408(d)(1)(B) of the Agricultural Act of 2026, which shall be known as the 'Lynn Hollow Wilderness'.

''(25) LITTLE RIVER WILDERNESS.—Certain National Forest System land in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests comprising approximately 12,461 acres, as generally depicted on the applicable map filed under section 8408(d)(1)(B) of the Agricultural Act of 2026, which shall be known as the 'Little River Wilderness'.

''(26) BEECH LICK KNOB WILDERNESS.—Certain National Forest System land in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests comprising approximately 5,779 acres, as generally depicted on the applicable map filed under section 8408(d)(1)(B) of the Agricultural Act of 2026, which shall be known as the 'Beech Lick Knob Wilderness'.''.

(d) MAPS AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) FILING.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agri-

culture of the House of Representatives maps and boundary descriptions of—

(A) the National Scenic Area; and

(B) each of the Wilderness Areas.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The maps and boundary descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the maps and boundary descriptions.

(3) MAPS CONTROL.—In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage of the National Scenic Area or a Wilderness Area and the applicable map filed under paragraph (1), the applicable map filed under that paragraph shall control.

(4) AVAILABILITY.—The maps and boundary descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 8409. FLATSIDE WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(d) of Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–508; 98 Stat. 2349) is amended by inserting ''and certain land in the Ouachita National Forest, which comprise approximately 2,212 acres, generally depicted as 'Land Proposed for Wilder-

ness Designation' on the map titled 'Flatside Wilderness, Proposed Addition Designation', dated November 12, 2024'' after ''1984''.

(b) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—Nothing in this section or the amendment made by subsection (a) shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary under section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), in accordance with existing laws (including regulations).

(c) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS ADDITION.—The wilderness designated by section 3(d) of Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–508; 98 Stat. 2349), shall be known as the ''Flatside-Bethune Wilderness''. Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such portion of the Flatside Wilderness shall be deemed to be a reference to the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness.

SEC. 8410. TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundaries of the Talladega National Forest are modified to include the land depicted on the map entitled ''Talladega National Forest Proposed Proclamation Boundary Addition'' and dated September 6, 2024.

(b) MAP.—The map described in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Forest Service.

(c) ACQUISITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the area delineated on the map described in subsection (a), the Secretary may use the land acquisition authorities applicable to the National Forest System, including the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the ''Weeks Law'') (36 Stat. 961, chapter 186; 16 U.S.C. 552 et seq.), to acquire land, waters, and interests therein.

(2) MANAGEMENT.—Land acquired pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be managed as land acquired under the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the ''Weeks Law'') (36 Stat. 961, chapter 186; 16 U.S.C. 552 et seq.), and in accordance with all laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System.

(3) STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that any private land or waters and any interest in private land or waters acquired pursuant to paragraph (1) is acquired—

(A) from a willing seller by donation, exchange, or purchase using donated or appropriated funds; and

(B) to the extent practicable, without undue delay.

SEC. 8411. BENTON MACKAYE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the Benton MacKaye Trail—

(1) is a scenic, nonmotorized trail that traverses approximately 287 miles over some of the most renowned forests and mountains in the States of Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina;

(2) showcases a wide variety of scenic views, including high-elevation peaks, mature forests, and secluded waterfalls;

(3) passes through wilderness that is rich with biodiversity;

(4) passes through six designated Wilderness Areas, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the Chattahoochee-Oconee, Cherokee, and Nantahala National Forests;

(5) provides a wide array of easily accessible hikes for novice and intermediate hikers, as well as more challenging trails for backpacking;

(6) supports economic opportunities for numerous rural communities which benefit from the visitors of the trail spending their money on accommodations, food, and outdoor supplies;

(7) runs from Springer Mountain in Georgia, through Tennessee, and extends through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina;

(8) is physically accessible; and

(9) can be maintained at a minimal cost because—

(A) the Benton MacKaye Trail has been maintained at its current length since 2005;

(B) 95 percent of the Benton MacKaye Trail is located on Federal land; and

(C) the Benton MacKaye Trail has been successfully constructed, maintained, and managed by the Benton MacKaye Trail Association since 1980.

(b) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(50) BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Benton MacKaye Trail, a scenic, nonmotorized trail that tra-

verses approximately 287 miles in the States of Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

''(B) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with interested organizations, including the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, shall complete and submit to Congress the feasibility study for designating the Benton MacKaye Trail as a national scenic trail.''.

SEC. 8412. RELOCATION OF MEMORIAL HONORING THE 9 AIR FORCE CREW MEMBERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN AN AIRPLANE CRASH DURING A TRAINING MISSION ON AUGUST 31, 1982.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With the consent of the owner of the private land adjacent to the Cherohala Skyway in the State of North Carolina on which there is located a memorial honoring the 9 members of the Air Force crew of the C–141B transport plane that crashed during a training mission over the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests on August 31, 1982 (referred to in this section as the ''memorial''), and subject to subsections (b) through (e), the Secretary may authorize, by special use authorization, the installation and any maintenance associated with

the installation of the memorial at an appropriate site at the Stratton Ridge rest area located at mile marker 2 on the Cherohala Skyway in Graham County, North Carolina, in the Nantahala National Forest.

(b) SITE APPROVAL.—The site at which the memorial is installed under subsection (a) is subject to approval by the Secretary, in concurrence with—

(1) the North Carolina Department of Transportation; and

(2) in a case in which the site is located adjacent to a Federal-aid highway, the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

(c) FUNDING.—No Federal funds may be used to relocate, install, or maintain the memorial under subsection (a).

(d) COSTS.—The individual or entity requesting the installation of the memorial on National Forest System land under subsection (a) shall be responsible for the costs associated with the use of National Forest System land for the memorial, including the costs of—

(1) processing the application for the relocation;

(2) issuing a special use authorization for the memorial, including the costs associated with any related environmental analysis; and

(3) relocating, installing, and maintaining the memorial.

(e) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The special use authorization for the installation of the memorial under subsection (a) may include any terms and conditions that are determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, including a provision preventing any enlargement or expansion of the memorial.

SEC. 8413. APPRAISALS.

Section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1948 (commonly known as the ''Thye-Blatnik Act'') (62 Stat. 570, chapter 593; 16 U.S.C. 577g), is amended by striking ''of the fair appraised value of such'' and inserting ''of the highest fair appraised value, including historical fair appraised values, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with this section, of such''.

Subtitle E—White Oak Resilience

SEC. 8501. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a coalition, to be known as the ''White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition'' (referred to in this section as the ''Coalition'')—

(1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Federal, State, and local governments, Indian Tribes, and private and nongovernmental organizations the

purpose of which is to carry out the duties described in subsection (b); and

(2) in accordance with the charter entitled ''White Oak Initiative Coalition Charter'' adopted by the White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March 21, 2023 (or a successor charter).

(b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in the charter referred to in subsection (a)(2), the duties of the Coalition are—

(1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local, private, and nongovernmental activities for the restoration of white oak trees and forests that support white oak trees in the United States; and

(2) to make program and policy recommendations, consistent with applicable forest management plans, with respect to—

(A) changes necessary to address Federal and State policies that impede activities to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak trees;

(B) adopting or modifying Federal and State policies to increase the pace and scale of white oak regeneration and the resiliency of white oak trees;

(C) options to enhance communication, coordination, and collaboration among forest land owners, particularly with respect to cross-boundary projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak trees;

(D) research gaps that should be addressed to improve the best available science on white oaks;

(E) outreach to forest landowners the land of which possesses white oak trees or white oak regeneration potential, as determined by the Coalition; and

(F) options and policies necessary to improve the quality and quantity of white oak trees in tree nurseries.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE, STAFFING, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—The Secretaries shall make available to the Coalition such personnel for administrative support, technical services, and the development and dissemination of educational materials as those Secretaries determine to be necessary to carry out this section.

(d) PRIVATE FUNDING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for that purpose, the Secretary may make funds available to the Coalition to

carry out this section from the account established pursuant to section 1241(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)).

SEC. 8502. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in units of the National Forest System to restore white oak trees in those units through white oak restoration and natural regeneration practices that are consistent with applicable forest management plans.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—Of the pilot projects carried out under subsection (a), not fewer than 3 shall be carried out on units of the National Forest System that are reserved or withdrawn from the public domain.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects under this section.

(d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section terminates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8503. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK HABITAT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a nonregulatory program, to be known as the

''White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Program'' (referred to in this section as the ''Program'').

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program shall include—

(1) coordinating restoration and conservation activities among Federal, State, and local entities, Indian Tribes, and conservation partners to address white oak restoration priorities;

(2) improving and regenerating white oak and upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such forests provide;

(3) carrying out coordinated restoration and conservation activities that lead to the increased growth of species of white oak in native white oak regions;

(4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize the resilience of white oak systems and habitats under changing climate conditions;

(5) engaging the public through outreach, education, and citizen involvement to increase capacity and support for coordinated restoration and conservation activities for species of white oak; and

(6) increasing scientific capacity to support the planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-

essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and conservation activities.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the Program, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall consult with—

(1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(B) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(2) the Governor of each State in which restoration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the Program; and

(3) Indian Tribes.

(d) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall—

(1) draw on the best available science and management plans for species of white oak to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and conservation activities that will improve the growth of white oak trees in the United States;

(2) collaborate and coordinate with the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition established by section 8501(a) to prioritize white oak restoration initiatives;

(3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy that—

(A) supports the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and conservation activities developed in accordance with paragraph (1);

(B) targets cost-effective projects with measurable results; and

(C) maximizes restoration outcomes with no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent employees; and

(4) establish voluntary grant and technical assistance programs in accordance with subsection (e).

(e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) FOUNDATION.—The term ''Foundation'' means the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

(B) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term ''grant program'' means the voluntary grant and technical assistance program established under paragraph (2).

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—To the extent that funds are available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall establish a voluntary grant and technical

assistance program to achieve the purposes of the Program described in subsection (b).

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Foundation to manage and administer the grant program.

(B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for that purpose, on entering into a cooperative agreement with the Foundation under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall pay to the Foundation to carry out this subsection for each fiscal year an advance payment of the entire amount for the applicable fiscal year—

(i) on October 1 of that fiscal year; or

(ii) as soon as practicable thereafter.

(4) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out the grant program shall be subject to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

(f) SUNSET.—The authority under this section terminates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8504. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

(1) develop and implement a national strategy to increase the capacity of Federal, State, and private tree nurseries and tree nurseries of Indian Tribes to address the nationwide shortage of tree seedlings; and

(2) coordinate the strategy under paragraph (1) with—

(A) the national reforestation strategy of the Forest Service; and

(B) each regional implementation plan for National Forests.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be based on the best available science and data, including the consideration of Indigenous knowledge; and

(2) identify and address—

(A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot and container tree seedlings;

(B) regional reforestation opportunities and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill those opportunities;

(C) opportunities to enhance seedling diversity, improve quality, quantity, genetic resources, and availability, and close gaps in seed inventories; and

(D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or creating new infrastructure to increase nursery capacity.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 8601. NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT.

(a) MATCHING FUNDS.—Section 405(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–3(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 410(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–8(b)) is amended by striking ''$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2023'' and inserting ''$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''.

(c) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—Section 409 of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–7) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The activities'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The activities''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds described in paragraph (2) shall be made available for activities on units of the National Forest System that are approved by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service—

''(A) to re-establish white oak forests where appropriate;

''(B) to improve management of existing white oak forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak;

''(C) to improve and expand white oak nursery stock; and

''(D) to adapt and improve white oak seedlings.

''(2) FUND.—The Foundation may accept gifts, devises, or bequests for the purposes of carrying out the activities specified in paragraph (1).

''(3) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Foundation shall include in the budget justification materials

submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the Foundation for each fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) a summary of the activities carried out under paragraph (1) and the funds accepted under paragraph (2) that includes—

"(A) the amount accepted under paragraph (2) in the preceding fiscal year;

"(B) the amount described in subparagraph (A) that is unobligated on the date of the report; and

"(C) a description of the activities under paragraph (1) funded during the preceding fiscal year.".

SEC. 8602. RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.

Section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601(d)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 8603. RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(6) APPOINTMENTS BY APPLICABLE REGIONAL FORESTERS.—In making appointments under this subsection, the Secretary concerned may act through the applicable regional forester if, before the applicable regional forester makes an appointment, the applicable regional forester conducts the review and analysis that would otherwise be conducted for an appointment to a resource advisory committee, including any review and analysis with respect to civil rights, budgetary requirements, vetting, and reporting, as the Secretary concerned determines appropriate.'';

(2) in subsection (d)(6)(C), by striking ''October 1, 2026'' and inserting ''October 1, 2031''; and

(3) by striking subsection (g).

SEC. 8604. TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION MANAGEMENT.

Section 2 of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.—The term 'Indian forest land or rangeland' means—

''(A) land that—

"(i) is held in trust, or subject to a restriction against alienation, by the United States for an Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian Tribe; and

"(ii)(I) is Indian forest land (as defined in section 304 of the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103)); or

"(II)(aa) has a cover of grasses, brush, or any similar vegetation; or

"(bb) formerly had a forest cover or vegetative cover that is capable of restoration; and

"(B) land that—

"(i) is in the State of Alaska and held by an Alaska Native Corporation pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

"(ii)(I) has a cover of grasses, brush, or any similar vegetation; or

"(II) formerly had a forest cover or vegetative cover that is capable of restoration.";

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "450b" and inserting "5304"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Tribal organization' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND'' and inserting ''OR RESTORE INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND AND FEDERAL LAND OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ''or Tribal organization'' after ''Indian tribe'' each place it appears;

(ii) by striking ''a project to protect Indian forest land or rangeland (including a project to restore Federal land that borders on or is adjacent to Indian forest land or rangeland)'' and inserting ''activities and projects to protect or restore Indian forest land or rangeland or Federal land''; and

(iii) by striking ''activities described'' and inserting ''activities and projects described'';

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or Tribal organization'' after ''Indian tribe''; and

(D) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.—Under an agreement or contract entered into under paragraph (2), the Indian tribe or Tribal organization may carry out activities and projects to achieve land management goals for—

''(A) Federal land that is—

''(i) under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

''(ii) consistent with the criteria described in subsection (c); and

''(B) Indian forest land or rangeland.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''FOR FEDERAL LAND'' after ''CRITERIA'';

(B) by striking ''an Indian tribe,'' in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through ''Indian tribe—'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2)

and inserting the following: ''Federal land, are whether—

''(1) the Federal land has a special geographic, historical, or cultural significance to the Indian tribe or Tribal organization and—'';

(C) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) Indian forest land or rangeland; or''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''restoration activities;'' and inserting ''or watershed restoration activities; and'';

(D) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraphs (2);

(E) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by inserting ''and projects'' after ''activities'';

(ii) by inserting ''or Tribal organization'' after ''Indian tribe''; and

(iii) by striking ''subject land; and'' and inserting ''Federal land.''; and

(F) by striking paragraph (4);

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''or Tribal organization'' after ''Indian tribe''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''Indian tribe for'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''Indian tribe or Tribal organization for the purpose of developing a strategy for protecting or restoring—

''(A) Indian forest land or rangeland; or

''(B) Federal land that has a special geographic, historical, or cultural significance to the Indian tribe or Tribal organization.'';

(5) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''or Tribal organization'' after ''Indian tribe'';

(6) in subsection (g), by striking ''date of enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 8605. CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.

Public Law 91–378 (16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"TITLE III—CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS

"SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title:

''(1) CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTER.—The term 'Civilian Conservation Center' means any residential workforce development or training facility for underserved youth operated by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture.

''(2) COVERED GRADUATE.—The term 'covered graduate' means an individual who successfully completed a training program at a Civilian Conservation Center.

''(3) COVERED STUDENT.—The term 'covered student' means an individual who is enrolled in a training program at a Civilian Conservation Center.

''(4) SECRETARIES.—The term 'Secretaries' means—

''(A) the Secretary of Agriculture; and

''(B) the Secretary of the Interior.

"SEC. 302. CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS WILDFIRE AND CONSERVATION TRAINING PROGRAM.

''(a) SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The Secretaries, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, shall offer at Civilian Conservation Centers specialized training programs focused on—

''(1) forestry and rangeland management;

''(2) wildland firefighting; or

''(3) any other topic relating to the mission of the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior or the public interest.

''(b) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretaries shall prioritize offering specialized training programs under subsection (a) at facilities described in section 147(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3197(d)).

"SEC. 303. WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PILOT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) EXPERIMENT, RESEARCH, OR DEMONSTRATION PILOTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, may carry out experimental, research, or demonstration pilots to provide career and technical education curricula and course offerings to advance the missions of the Department of Agriculture at Civilian Conservation

Centers operated by the Department of Agriculture, including facilities described in section 147(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3197(d)).

''(2) CURRICULA AND COURSES.—Curricula and courses described in paragraph (1) include—

''(A) incident management and emergency response logistics;

''(B) disaster response;

''(C) forest products measurement;

''(D) timber sale administration and preparation;

''(E) heavy equipment operation;

''(F) equipment and mechanical services;

''(G) industrial electrical;

''(H) machining;

''(I) mill operations;

''(J) forest restoration;

''(K) habitat and water quality monitoring;

''(L) watershed and habitat enhancement;

''(M) range management;

''(N) recreation access improvement;

''(O) volunteers and visitors enhancement; and

''(P) historic preservation.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

''(1) identify workforce needs in Federal land agencies, forest, conservation, and recreation industries, and rural communities, after consulting with State governments and agencies, Federal emergency management and Federal land agencies, local communities, institutions of higher education, and Indian Tribes;

''(2) develop marketing, recruitment, and retention materials for the curricula and courses offerings provided under subsection (a); and

''(3) provide specialized staff necessary to teach curricula and courses offerings provided under subsection (a), to the extent practicable.

"SEC. 304. WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT.

''(a) RECRUITMENT GOALS AND INVESTMENTS.—

''(1) RECRUITMENT GOAL.—The Secretaries—

''(A) shall each set goals of—

''(i) hiring 300 covered graduates annually to contribute to wildland firefighting or other critical workforce needs within the respective Department of each of the Secretaries;

"(ii) a certain percentage of covered graduates annually attaining employment within the wildland firefighting, natural resources, forestry, or a related field; and

"(iii) a certain percentage of covered graduates annually attaining employment; and

"(B) may make investments to support the recruitment, training, hiring, and retention of covered graduates.

"(2) SIGNING BONUS.—The Secretaries may provide for a signing bonus to enable the successful employment and transition of covered graduates, including for the purpose of securing housing in rural and remote communities.

"(b) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—For fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretaries may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a covered graduate directly to a position for which the covered graduate meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.

"(c) PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT.—The Secretaries shall ensure that appropriate career pathways are devel-

oped for covered graduates of relevant Civilian Conservation Center training programs.

''(d) DISADVANTAGED YOUTH EMPLOYMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretaries may employ covered students at regular rates of pay for necessary hours of work.

''(e) USE OF COVERED STUDENTS FOR CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND GRANTS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of Agriculture shall encourage the use of covered students to fulfill obligations under contracts, agreements, and grants relevant to the training administered by the Forest Service at a unit of the National Forest System where a Civilian Conservation Center is located.

''SEC. 305. WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING HOUSING PILOT PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall establish a pilot program to employ covered students to improve and expand the housing stock owned by the Federal Government for the purpose of housing wildland firefighters, volunteers, partner crewmembers, interns, and other agency employees.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretaries shall—

''(1) identify properties currently owned by the Federal Government that would be appropriate housing for wildland firefighters, volunteers, partner crewmembers, interns, and other agency employees;

''(2) identify areas where the construction of new housing described in paragraph (1) would be appropriate and sustainable; and

''(3) submit to Congress a prioritized list of projects for renovation with a plan for how the Secretaries will employ covered students to repair, renovate, and remediate the properties identified under paragraph (1).

''SEC. 306. REPORT.

''Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report—

''(1) describing underutilized capacity at Civilian Conservation Centers, based on an assessment conducted by the Secretaries; and

''(2) identifying the investments, improvements, and efficiencies necessary to utilize the full capacity of Civilian Conservation Centers.''.

SEC. 8606. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRICAL UTILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or easement on National Forest System land provided to an electric utility company (as defined in section 1262 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16451)), the Secretary may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that increases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applicable land management plan.

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or easement that includes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or other vegetation described in subsection (a) shall include a requirement that, if the applicable electric utility company sells any portion of the material removed under the permit or easement, the electric utility company shall provide to the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, any proceeds received from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the sale of any material removed under a special use permit or easement that includes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or other vegetation described in subsection (a).

SEC. 8607. EXEMPTION FOR PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, shall not apply to an application for a communications use authorization on National Forest System land, including National Forest System land on which authorized utilities, communications facilities, powerline facilities, or roads have been installed, if—

(1) the communications equipment is located in or on existing infrastructure; or

(2) the communications facility is located on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System land.

(b) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, for an application for a communications use authorization on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System land if new information concerning a previously analyzed area of National Forest System land becomes available.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY; COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The terms ''communications facility'' and ''communications use authorization'' have the meanings given the terms, respectively, in section 8705 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1761a).

(2) PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—The term ''previously analyzed areas of National Forest System land'' means any National Forest System land with respect to which the Secretary has—

(A) granted, issued, and executed a communications use authorization; and

(B) conducted sufficient environmental or historical reviews, including under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 8608. ALIGNMENT OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY AND FOREST SERVICE DROUGHT RESPONSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the

Farm Service Agency and the Chief of the Forest Service shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to better align drought response activities of the Farm Service Agency and the Forest Service (referred to in this section as the ''agencies'').

(b) CONTENTS.—The memorandum of understanding entered into under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a commitment to better align practices of the agencies with respect to determining the severity of regional drought conditions;

(2) a strategy for amending those determinations to ensure consistent policy with respect to drought response in cases where the agencies are making inconsistent determinations within the same spatial scale;

(3) an agreement to utilize, to the extent practicable, the United States Drought Monitor in making those determinations; and

(4) an agreement to provide consistent information to grazing permittees, operators, and other stakeholders affected by determinations relating to drought.

SEC. 8609. RURAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL.

Section 10 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2106) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by striking ''in kind contributions.'' and inserting ''in-kind contributions. The Secretary may waive the Federal share requirements of this subparagraph with respect to any such funds made available to rural volunteer fire departments.''; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1)—

(A) by striking ''any organized, not for profit, fire protection organization'' and inserting ''any fire protection organization that is organized as a not-for-profit organization or by the authority of a local government and'';

(B) by striking ''10,000'' and inserting ''15,000''; and

(C) by striking ''80'' and inserting ''70''.

SEC. 8610. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Section 7(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(l)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''the State of Vermont'' and inserting ''any State''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i)(II), by adding ''and'' after the semicolon; and

(B) in clause (ii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''State of Vermont'' and inserting ''applicable State''.

TITLE IX—ENERGY

SEC. 9001. DEFINITION OF ADVANCED BIOFUEL.

Section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(3)(B)(iv)) is amended by inserting ''and sustainable aviation fuel'' after ''diesel-equivalent fuel''.

SEC. 9002. BIOBASED MARKETS PROGRAM.

Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

(I) in subclause (II)(bb), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(II) in subclause (III), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(IV) on an annual basis, update the procurement requirement described in subclause (III) by increas-

ing the number of biobased-only contracts or the volume purchased under those contracts from the previous year.''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, shall issue guidance to procuring agencies to consider product lifespan, savings, and efficacy in making procurement decisions under this subsection.'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking clause (ii); and

(II) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(I) in the matter preceding subclause (I)—

(aa) by inserting ''and the Secretary'' after ''Policy''; and

(bb) by striking ''information concerning—'' and inserting

''a report that describes, for the year covered by the report—'';

(II) in subclause (I), by inserting '', including the actions taken by the procuring agency to establish and implement the biobased procurement program of the procuring agency under that paragraph'' before the semicolon;

(III) in subclause (IV), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(IV) in subclause (V), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(V) by adding at the end the following:

''(VI)(aa) the specific categories of biobased products that are unavailable to meet the procurement needs of the procuring agency; and

''(bb) the desired performance standards and other relevant specifications for those products; and

''(VII) if applicable, the procurement requirement or updated procurement requirement established under

paragraph (2)(A)(i) that the procuring agency failed to meet and reasons for the failure; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) VERIFICATION.—The Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in consultation with the Secretary, shall—

''(i) annually collect the information required to be reported under subparagraph (B) and make the information publicly available; and

''(ii) annually verify, using the information collected under clause (i), that each procuring agency under paragraph (2)(A)(i), as applicable, has established a procurement program in accordance with subclause (I) of that paragraph.

''(E) TRAINING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, each procuring agency shall have completed training on biobased product purchasing for the appropriate staff of the procuring agency, including contracting

officers, purchase card managers, and purchase card holders.

''(ii) MATERIALS.—The Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall provide training materials for procuring agencies conducting training pursuant to clause (i).

''(F) FEDERAL CATALOG UPDATES.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall—

''(i) direct the Administrator of General Services to update the Federal Procurement Data System described in section 1122(a)(4) of title 41, United States Code (or any successor system), to include biobased product designations;

''(ii) direct that the System for Award Management collect biobased product purchasing data;

''(iii) direct that Federal online procurement systems, including GSA Advantage! and FedMall, include designations for

products that meet the guidelines under paragraph (3);

''(iv) require, to the maximum extent practicable, that Federal online procurement systems, including GSA Advantage! and FedMall, use North American Industry Classification System codes, North American Product Classification System-based product codes, and other product codes, as determined in consultation with the Secretary, when identifying products that meet the guidelines under paragraph (3); and

''(v) require agencies with online Federal sales platforms to include reporting of purchases in their reporting on products that meet the guidelines under paragraph (3).'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate such regulations as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to ensure the integrity of the label described in paragraph (1),

including regulations to define additional terms necessary to avoid or reduce public confusion relating to the label.

''(D) UNAUTHORIZED USE.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall, in coordination with the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture, make publicly available instructions on how to report an instance of unauthorized use of the label described in paragraph (1).''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) PUBLIC MARKETING AND EDUCATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct outreach to educate the public on and promote the use of biobased products, including by—

''(i) conducting outreach to small businesses producing biobased products that seek a label described in paragraph (1);

''(ii) providing information about biobased product procurement preferences to State procurement agencies; and

"(iii) establishing public-private partnerships to further increase awareness and use of biobased products.

"(B) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish an account to accept contributions of non-Federal funds to carry out the outreach described in subparagraph (A).

"(ii) DEPOSIT AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—Contributions under clause (i) shall—

"(I) be deposited into the account established under that clause;

"(II) be available to and subject to the control of the Secretary, without further appropriation and until expended; and

"(III) supplement any funding made available under subsection (k) and allocated by the Secretary for the outreach described in subparagraph (A).

"(6) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2027, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture and submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

"(A) a list of the biobased products that were authorized to use the label described in paragraph (1) during the preceding fiscal year;

"(B) a description of the audit and compliance activities conducted under paragraph (3)(B) during the preceding fiscal year, including any findings of noncompliance and any actions taken by the Secretary to address the noncompliance;

"(C)(i) a description of the outreach conducted under paragraph (5)(A); and

"(ii) a plan for conducting outreach under that paragraph for the following 2 fiscal years that is designed to increase the use of the label described in paragraph (1) and the purchase of biobased products; and

"(D) the total amount of contributions of non-Federal funds accepted into the account established under paragraph (5)(B).";

(3) in subsection (f), by adding at the end the following:

"(3) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that—

"(A) includes the Federal statistical collections of information related to the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes that utilize bioeconomy-specific data;

"(B) recommends necessary changes to the most recent North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes related to the bioeconomy in accordance with this subsection; and

"(C) provides an assessment of the impacts that bioeconomy-specific North American Industry Classification System codes and North

American Products Classification System codes would have on the measurement by the Secretary of the economic contributions of the bioeconomy.'';

(4) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''; and

(5) in subsection (l)—

(A) by striking ''In this section'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) STANDARD.—To determine the contents of biobased products, the Secretary shall use—

''(A) the most recent version of the ASTM-D-6866 standard of the ASTM International standards; or

''(B) any alternative standard that the Secretary determines appropriate.''.

SEC. 9003. BIOREFINERY, RENEWABLE CHEMICAL, BIOBASED PRODUCT MANUFACTURING, AND SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**AND BIOBASED PRODUCT MANUFACTURING**'' and inserting ''**BIOBASED PRODUCT MANUFACTURING, AND SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL**'';

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

(A) by striking ''to assist'' and inserting ''to develop advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, biobased product manufacturing, and sustainable aviation fuel, and to assist''; and

(B) by striking ''and biobased product manufacturing so as'' and inserting ''biobased product manufacturing, and sustainable aviation fuel so as'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ''or innovative'' after ''technologically new''; and

(ii) by striking ''end-user products'' and inserting ''end-user products, renew-

able chemicals, and biobased products''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by indenting clauses (i) through (iii) appropriately;

(II) in clause (ii), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(III) in clause (iii), by striking ''; and'' and inserting ''; or''; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) sustainable aviation fuel (as defined by the Secretary); and''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by indenting clauses (i) through (iii) appropriately;

(II) in clause (ii), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(III) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) sustainable aviation fuel (as defined by the Secretary).'';

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''The Secretary shall make available to eligible entities guarantees'' and inserting the following: ''Subject to the availability of funding, the Secretary shall make available to eligible entities—

''(1) on a year-round basis, guarantees''; and

(B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', in accordance with subsection (d); and

''(2) on a competitive basis, grants to develop, construct, or retrofit pilot or demonstration-scale biorefineries to demonstrate the commercial viability of 1 or more processes for converting renewable biomass to advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, sustainable aviation fuel (as defined by the Secretary), and biobased products in accordance with subsection (e).'';

(5) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (C);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (D) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(iii) in subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by striking ''In approving a loan guarantee application'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving an application for a loan guarantee under subsection (c)(1)''; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the feasibility study under clause (i) for proven or otherwise commercially available technologies.''; and

(iv) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated), by striking ''loan guarantee applications'' and inserting ''applications for loan guarantees under subsection (c)(1)'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''subsection (c)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (c)(1)''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) TECHNICAL REVIEW AGREEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, at the appropriate time, enter into an agreement with project applicants that clearly describes the specific objectives, outcomes, and conditions by which the Secretary shall determine the successful technical feasibility of the projects to be carried out by the project applicants.

''(B) GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The agreement entered into under clause (i) shall include clear guidelines and expectations for—

''(I) the methodologies, protocols, and procedures to be used by the Secretary to determine the technical feasibility of an integrated demonstration unit; and

''(II) the functions to be demonstrated by the integrated demonstration unit.

''(ii) CONTENTS.—The guidelines and expectations referred to in clause (i) shall include—

''(I) a set timeline for the integrated demonstration unit campaign and final technical report to show reliable evidence of continuous, steady-state production;

''(II) criteria and methods for evaluating the success of the project, including any third-party assessments or evaluations that may be conducted during the demonstration period and at the conclusion of the set timeline described in subclause (I);

''(III) criteria and methods to prove the ability of the integrated demonstration unit to use project-specific feedstock for the production of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, sustainable aviation fuels (as defined by the Secretary), or biobased products at a yield and quality consistent with the design basis of the project;

''(IV) required information and conditions that demonstrate operation

duration, quality, and quantity specifications; and

''(V) any other information that, if supplied to the Secretary, would assist the project applicants in sufficiently demonstrating the technical feasibility of the project.

''(C) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—

''(i) NOTIFICATION.—If an eligible entity fails to comply with a guideline or expectation under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall issue to the eligible entity a written notice that—

''(I) describes each deficiency; and

''(II) provides a reasonable timeframe for the eligible entity to correct any deficiencies.

''(ii) CORRECTIVE ACTION PERIOD.—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of a notice under clause (i), the applicable eligible entity shall—

''(I) address any deficiency described in clause (i)(I); and

''(II) submit to the Secretary a revised technical feasibility assessment for reconsideration.

''(D) DETERMINATION OF TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY.—On fulfillment by an eligible entity of the guidelines and expectations under subparagraph (B), or approval of a revised technical feasibility assessment submitted by an eligible entity under subparagraph (C)(ii)(II), as applicable, the Secretary shall determine that the project of the eligible entity is technically feasible.'';

(6) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) GRANTS.—

''(1) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In approving applications for grants under subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall establish a priority scoring system that assigns priority scores to each application and only approve applications that exceed a specified minimum score, as determined by the Secretary.

''(B) FEASIBILITY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving an application for a grant under subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall determine the technical and economic feasibility of the project based on a feasibility study of the project described in the application conducted by an independent third party.

''(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the feasibility study under clause (i) for proven or otherwise commercially available technologies.

''(C) SCORING SYSTEM.—The priority scoring system established under subparagraph (A) shall consider, with respect to a project proposed in an application for a grant under subsection (c)(2)—

''(i) the potential market for the advanced biofuel, renewable chemical, sustainable aviation fuel (as defined by the Secretary), or biobased product, and the byproducts produced under the project;

''(ii) the level of financial participation by the eligible entity, including support from non-Federal and private sources;

"(iii) whether the eligible entity is proposing to use—

"(I) a feedstock not previously used in the production of advanced biofuels; or

"(II) a feedstock, process, or technology used in an innovative manner in the production of renewable chemicals, sustainable aviation fuel (as defined by the Secretary), or biobased products;

"(iv) whether the eligible entity is proposing to work with producer associations or cooperatives;

"(v) whether the eligible entity has established that the adoption of the process proposed in the application will have a positive impact on resource conservation, public health, and the environment;

"(vi) the potential for rural economic development;

"(vii) whether the project can be replicated;

"(viii) scalability for commercial use; and

"(ix) in the case of an advanced biofuels project, the contribution of the project to domestic energy security.

"(2) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant awarded under subsection (c)(2) shall not exceed $10,000,000.";

(7) in subsection (g)(2), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(8) in subsection (h)(1), by striking "subsections (a) through (e), and (g)" and inserting "subsections (a) through (e) and (g)"; and

(9) in subsection (i)(1), by striking "subsections (a) through (e) and subsection (g)" and inserting "subsections (a) through (e) and (g)".

(b) RESCISSION.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts made available under section 9003(g) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103(g)), $18,000,000 are rescinded.

SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after section 9003 (7 U.S.C. 8103) the following:

"SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the

Secretary shall issue rules implementing national uniform labeling standards for, and ensuring the proper use of, the following terms in the labeling and marketing of bioproducts:

''(1) Bio-attributed plastic.

''(2) Bio-attributed product.

''(3) Biobased plastic.

''(4) Plant-based product.

''(b) INCLUSION OF DEFINED TERMS.—In issuing rules to implement national uniform labeling standards under subsection (a), the Secretary shall include the following terms (as defined in section 9001):

''(1) Biobased product.

''(2) Intermediate ingredient or feedstock.

''(3) Renewable biomass.

''(4) Renewable chemical.

''(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

''(1) biomanufacturers;

''(2) entities engaged in research and development of bioproducts;

''(3) feedstock growers; and

''(4) other industry stakeholders.''.

SEC. 9005. BIOENERGY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED BIOFUELS.

Section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105(g)(2)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 9006. BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Section 9006(d) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106(d)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 9007. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.

Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''ENERGY AUDITS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY'' and inserting ''PROJECT'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking ''provide assistance'' and inserting the following: ''provide—

"(A) assistance";

(iii) in subparagraph (A)(ii) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) technical assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to apply for financial assistance under subsection (c).";

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) an agricultural producer cooperative;";

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "audits and" and inserting "audits, relevant technical assistance, and";

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) the potential improvements to the financial conditions of those agricultural producers and rural small businesses;''; and

(E) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(iii) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking ''funds to assist'' and inserting the following: ''funds—

''(A) to assist'';

(iv) in subparagraph (A)(ii) (as so redesignated)—

(I) in subclause (I) (as so redesignated), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(II) in subclause (II) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) to apply for assistance under subsection (c); and''; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) to provide training for individuals to perform the activities described in subparagraph (A).'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

''(G) the potential improvements to the financial conditions of the agricultural producer or rural small business receiving the loan guarantee or grant; and''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking ''$25,000,000'' and inserting ''$50,000,000''; and

(C) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) APPLICATION PROCESS.—For projects carried out using assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall establish an application, evaluation, and oversight process that is—

''(A) the most simplified for projects for which the cost of the activity funded under this subsection is less than $50,000; and

''(B) more comprehensive for projects for which the cost of the activity funded under this subsection is more than $50,000.'';

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''20'' and inserting ''25''; and

(ii) by striking ''$20,000'' and inserting ''$50,000''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) REBATE PILOT PROJECT.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

"(i) COVERED REBATE.—The term 'covered rebate' means a rebate provided by the Secretary to an eligible entity for the purchase of certain energy efficient equipment described in subsection (c)(1)(A), to be determined by the Secretary, that was made by an eligible entity—

"(I) as part of a project completed in the 12-month period preceding the provision of the rebate; and

"(II) to meet the immediate needs of the eligible entity, which were not anticipated while the application period for assistance under subsection (c) was open but would otherwise meet the requirements for projects eligible for assistance under that subsection.

"(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means any entity eligible to receive financial assistance under subsection (c).

"(iii) PILOT PROJECT.—The term 'pilot project' means the pilot project established under subparagraph (B).

"(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—Using not more than 2 percent of the funds made available to carry out subsection (c) for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, the Secretary shall carry out a pilot project under which the Secretary shall—

"(i) award covered rebates to eligible entities; and

"(ii) test and evaluate a simplified application process for eligible entities to apply for those covered rebates.

"(C) NOTIFICATION PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT.—Not later than 30 days before the commencement of the pilot project, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a notification containing—

"(i) the commencement date of the pilot project;

"(ii) a detailed description of the pilot project;

"(iii) a copy of the simplified application to be used under the pilot project; and

"(iv) a list of the equipment for which covered rebates will be provided under the pilot project.

"(D) REPORT.—Not later than June 30, 2027, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available, a report on the pilot project, which shall include—

"(i) the total number of each type of equipment for which an application for a covered rebate was submitted, and the total number of each type of equipment for which a covered rebate was provided; and

"(ii) the extent to which applications for covered rebates exceeded the availability of funding, if applicable.

"(E) PROCEDURES.—The administration of this paragraph shall be—

"(i) made without regard to chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code; and

"(ii) carried out by the Secretary using the authority provided under section 808 of title 5, United States Code."; and

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking "paragraph (1), 4 percent" and inserting "this subsection, 5 percent";

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary may reserve—

"(A) not more than 10 percent for awarding grants under subsection (c) that support the adoption of underutilized but proven commercial renewable energy technologies; and

"(B) not more than 5 percent to carry out subsection (d).".

SEC. 9008. FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM FOR BIOENERGY PRODUCERS.

Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended in paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A) by striking "2026" each place it appears and inserting "2031".

SEC. 9009. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 9010. CARBON UTILIZATION AND BIOGAS EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Section 9014(c) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8115(c)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 9011. SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUELS STRATEGY.

The Secretary shall establish a Department-wide strategy to advance the production of sustainable aviation fuels by—

(1) facilitating collaboration between relevant mission areas of the Department to encourage the advancement of the sustainable aviation fuels supply chain, including use of agricultural crops grown for sustainable aviation fuel production;

(2) identifying opportunities to maximize sustainable aviation fuels development, deployment, and commercialization;

(3) leveraging the capabilities of United States farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural pro-

ducers to capture opportunities in the sustainable aviation fuels market;

(4) supporting rural economic development through sustainable aviation fuel production; and

(5) promoting public-private partnerships for the development, deployment, and commercialization of sustainable aviation fuels.

SEC. 9012. LEVERAGING EFFICIENCY AWARENESS FOR PUMPING SYSTEMS.

(a) DEFINITION OF PUMPING SYSTEM.—In this section, the term ''pumping system'' means any pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls used to move water and other fluids on farms, ranches, and aquaculture operations.

(b) INFORMATION ON ENERGY-EFFICIENT PUMPING SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with pumping system experts, in order to provide to farmers education on the benefits of energy-efficient pumping systems, shall develop and make publicly available on the website of the Department easily accessible information on cost savings, energy savings, water conservation, and car-

bon emissions reductions that can be realized through the use of energy-efficient pumping systems.

(2) CONTENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include information on—

(A) pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls that can provide energy savings and cost savings, conserve water, and reduce carbon emissions; and

(B) Department programs that provide to farmers resources for acquiring energy-efficient pumping systems and drought management infrastructure, including the environmental quality incentives program, the Rural Energy for America Program, and the conservation stewardship program.

(c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY PREASSESSMENT TOOL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with pumping system experts, in order to raise awareness of the benefits of energy-efficient pumping systems and increase participation in Department programs that promote energy efficiency, shall develop and make publicly available on the website of the Department a user-friendly tool—

(A) to assist farmers in making a preliminary assessment of the energy efficiency of existing pumping systems; and

(B) to provide an estimate of potential energy savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions reductions that may be realized through pumping system improvements.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) EASE OF USE.—The Secretary shall ensure that the tool made available under paragraph (1) provides a user with projected energy savings, projected cost savings, and projected carbon emissions reductions through the input by the user of the following data relating to an existing pumping system:

(i) Pump type.

(ii) Flow rating and actual flow.

(iii) Pressure rating and actual pressure.

(iv) Speed rating and actual speed.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the tool made available under paragraph (1)—

(i) in assessing the energy efficiency of a pumping system, takes into consider-

ation pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls associated with the pumping system; and

(ii) in projecting the energy savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions reductions that may be realized through pumping system improvements, takes into consideration the cost of electricity and the profile of the existing pumping system.

(d) ENERGY AUDITOR EDUCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with pumping system experts, in order to increase the effectiveness of Department energy efficiency programs, shall establish a process to provide to persons performing energy efficiency audits for the Department education on energy use and energy efficiency in pumping systems.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the use of existing education and training programs focused on energy use and energy efficiency in pumping systems.

(e) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act

of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting ''and energy-efficient pumping systems (as defined in section 9012(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2026'' before '', as determined''.

SEC. 9013. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Section 9008 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(1), by striking ''Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture may provide such administrative support and funds of the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to the Board and the Advisory Committee'' and inserting ''Secretary and the Secretary of Energy may provide to the Board and the Advisory Committee such administrative support and funds of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy'';

(2) in subsection (g), by striking ''Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary and the Secretary of Energy''; and

(3) by striking ''Secretary of Agriculture'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary''.

TITLE X—HORTICULTURE

Subtitle A—Horticulture Marketing and Information

SEC. 10101. MARKETING ORDERS.

Section 8e(a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608e–1(a)), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''mandarin oranges,'' after ''oranges,'';

(2) by striking ''dates,'' and inserting ''dates (including dates for processing),''; and

(3) by striking '', other than dates for processing,'' each place it appears.

SEC. 10102. SPECIALTY CROPS MARKET NEWS ALLOCATION.

Section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 10103. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.

Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (13) as paragraphs (6) through (14), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) FOOD HUB.—The term 'food hub' means a business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products to multiple buyers from multiple producers, who are primarily local and regional producers, to strengthen the ability of such producers to satisfy local and regional wholesale, retail, and institutional demands.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting '', regional food chain coordination,'' after ''collaboration'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (vii) and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), respectively; and

(II) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

''(vii) a food hub;'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a simplified application form for eligible entities described in subparagraph (B) that—

''(I) request less than $100,000; and

''(II) choose from the project categories described in clause (ii), which shall include a specific, limited set of key activities with predefined requirements established by the Secretary.

''(ii) PROJECT CATEGORIES.—The Secretary shall establish a simplified application form for the following project categories but may include additional project categories as necessary:

''(I) DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER PROJECTS.—In the case of a direct-to-consumer project, an application form

described in clause (i) may be available for the following categories of projects:

"(aa) An outreach and promotion project.

"(bb) A project to provide funding for farmers market manager staff time.

"(cc) A project to provide vendor training.

"(dd) A planning and design project.

"(ee) A data collection and evaluation project.

"(II) LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD MARKETS AND ENTERPRISE PROJECTS.—In the case of a local and regional food market and enterprise project, an application form described in clause (i) may be available for the following categories of projects:

"(aa) A food hub feasibility study project.

"(bb) A project to provide funding for regional food chain coordination staff time.

"(cc) A project to provide technical assistance.

"(dd) A data collection and evaluation project.

"(ee) A project to support the purchase of special purpose equipment.";

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (x) and (xi) as clauses (xi) and (xii), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after clause (ix) the following:

"(x) a food hub;"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking "2019 through 2023" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: "2027 through 2031 to support partnerships—

"(i) to plan a local or regional food system;

"(ii) to implement a local or regional food system plan;

"(iii) to develop and implement a regional chain coordination project; and

"(iv) to develop and implement a regional outreach, technical assistance, and evaluation project.";

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "subsection (d); or" and inserting "subsection (d)(5);";

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) are eligible to submit an application in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D); or"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In developing the simplified application and reporting process under this subsection, the Secretary shall engage with stakeholders to receive input on how the simplified application and reporting process can be streamlined

for eligible entities without affecting program integrity.'';

(6) in subsection (h)(2), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''the Agricultural Act of 2026''; and

(7) in subsection (i)(3)(B)—

(A) by striking ''Of the funds'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—Of the funds made available for grants under subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal year, not less than 10 percent, and not more than 50 percent, shall be used to provide grants to eligible entities that submit an application in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D).''.

SEC. 10104. ACER ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 1632c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) CONSULTATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first request for applications under this section that occurs at least 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, not later than 6 months before such a request for applications, the Secretary shall solicit input from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect to the research and education priorities of the maple syrup industry.

''(2) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary shall consider the information provided through the consultation required under paragraph (1) when making grants under this section.

''(f) NO COST-SHARING OR MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not impose any cost-sharing or matching requirement on any award or sub-award made using funds made available to carry out this section.''; and

(3) in subsection (h), as so redesignated, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 10105. NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM.

(a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 2107 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6506) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (d) through (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the national organic program established under this title, the Secretary may provide technical assistance, education, and outreach to—

''(A) farmers on certified organic farms; and

''(B) farmers who are transitioning to organic (as determined by the Secretary).

''(2) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

''(A) coordinate with the heads of agencies within the Department of Agriculture, including the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Administrator of the Risk Management Agency, and the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture; and

''(B) enter into cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations to provide regionally-specific training, education, and outreach.''.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 2123(b) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522(b)) is

amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (6) and inserting the following:

''(1) $26,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(2) $28,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

''(3) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

''(4) $32,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

''(5) $34,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.''.

SEC. 10106. NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM.

Section 10606 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 6523) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''(referred to in this section as the 'program')'' after ''cost-share program'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''Not'' and inserting the following:

''(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) GAO ASSESSMENT.—

''(A) EFFICACY STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess the impact that the program has had on the rising cost of organic certification.

"(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that summarizes the findings of the study conducted under subparagraph (A)."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(e) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—In addition to amounts made available under subsection (d), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section not more than $8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.".

SEC. 10107. FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION INITIATIVES.

Section 10105(c) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7655a(c)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 10108. NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTIC NETWORK.

Section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)(5)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 10109. SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS.

Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465) is amended—

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

(A) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) by striking ''specialty crops,'' and inserting ''specialty crops through priorities established annually by State program administrators in consultation with specialty crop producers and producer groups,'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) NO COST-SHARING OR MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not impose any cost-sharing or matching requirement on any award

or sub-award made using funds made available to carry out this section.'';

(3) in subsection (e), by striking ''indicate how'' and inserting the following: ''indicate—

''(1) how outreach to, and consultation with, specialty crop producers and producer groups will be achieved; and

''(2) how''; and

(4) in subsection (i)(1)—

(A) by striking ''in accordance with paragraph (2)''; and

(B) by inserting '', by adding those unobligated or unexpended amounts to the allocation funding pool for the following fiscal year or any subsequent fiscal year'' after ''determined by the Secretary''.

SEC. 10110. ORGANIC INPUTS VERIFICATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ORGANIC FEEDSTUFF.—The term ''covered organic feedstuff'' means any organic feedstuff included on the list established under subsection (c)(2)—

(A) that is shipped in bulk; and

(B) for which there is a national organic program import certificate.

(2) NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM IMPORT CERTIFICATE.—The term ''national organic program import certificate'' has the meaning given the term in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502).

(3) ORGANIC.—The term ''organic'', with respect to a feedstuff, means that the feedstuff is organically produced (as defined in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502)).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

(5) SHIPPED IN BULK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''shipped in bulk'', with respect to a feedstuff, means that the feedstuff is shipped loose in a ship hold, railcar, container, or super sack, or by another similar method.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''shipped in bulk'', with respect to a feedstuff, does not include the shipment of that feedstuff as a packaged good.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON RESIDUE TESTING FOR COVERED ORGANIC FEEDSTUFFS AND OTHER IMPORTED ORGANIC FEEDSTUFFS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the residue testing described in paragraph (2) that was carried out during the year covered by the report for—

(A) each covered organic feedstuff; and

(B) each other imported organic feedstuff—

(i) that is shipped in bulk; and

(ii) for which there is a national organic program import certificate.

(2) RESIDUE TESTING DESCRIBED.—The residue testing referred to in paragraph (1) is residue testing carried out under any of the following:

(A) Subsection (c)(3).

(B) Section 2107(a)(6) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6506(a)(6)).

(C) Section 2112(a) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 6511(a)).

(D) Section 205.670(c) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include information on—

(A) the frequency of the applicable residue testing;

(B) the methods used for that residue testing;

(C) the results of that residue testing;

(D) the standards used to analyze those results; and

(E) any actions taken as a result of that residue testing.

(c) ANNUAL TESTING AND CORRECTIVE ACTION.—

(1) RISK-BASED PROTOCOL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the organic agricultural product imports interagency working group established under section 2122A of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521a), shall develop and regularly update risk-based protocols for—

(A) determining which imported organic feedstuffs shall be included on the list of covered organic feedstuffs described in paragraph (2) each year; and

(B) determining necessary parameters of residue testing for those imported organic feedstuffs, including—

(i) frequency of testing;

(ii) quantity to be tested;

(iii) type of testing;

(iv) responsibility for testing; and

(v) other necessary parameters.

(2) LIST OF COVERED ORGANIC FEEDSTUFFS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, using the risk-based protocol established under paragraph (1)(A), shall establish and annually update a list of imported organic feedstuffs for which the Secretary shall carry out residue testing under paragraph (3) during that year.

(B) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The list established under subparagraph (A) shall not be made publicly available.

(3) ANNUAL TESTING.—Each year, the Secretary shall carry out residue testing for each covered organic feedstuff.

(4) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, if any residue testing required under paragraph (3) indicates any detect-

able prohibited substance at a level in excess of the level permitted by the national organic program established under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) or the relevant, equivalent organic certification program of a State, the applicable shipment of that covered organic feedstuff—

(A) shall be excluded from organic sale; and

(B) may not be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced.

SEC. 10111. OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION.

Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''production'' after ''emerging agricultural'';

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by inserting ''controlled-environment agriculture, including'' before ''hydroponic''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (H); and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) using the resources of the Department and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to provide technical assistance for business incorporation, navigating local zoning, and managing farm tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous parcels to growers implementing activities described in this paragraph;

''(F) using the resources of the Department and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to promote conservation techniques unique to urban agriculture and innovative production, including techniques that address stormwater runoff and the impacted nature of urban land and the subsurface of the land;

''(G) assisting urban and innovative producers in navigating Federal, State, Tribal, and local policies and regulations that impact business or operations; and'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking ''the date that is 5 years after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B)'' and inserting ''September 30, 2031'';

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award competitive grants to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production and technical or financial assistance to producers.

''(B) SUBGRANTS.—An eligible entity may use funds from a grant under subparagraph (A) to provide subgrants to urban and innovative producers to support the growth of the farm or farm business of the urban and innovative producers.

''(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under subparagraph (A) is—

''(i) a nonprofit organization;

''(ii) a unit of local government;

''(iii) a Tribal organization;

"(iv) an agricultural cooperative or other agricultural business entity or a producer network or association; or

"(v) a school that serves any of grades kindergarten through grade 12.

"(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production.

"(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to enter into a cooperative agreement under subparagraph (A) is—

"(i) a nonprofit organization;

"(ii) a unit of local government;

"(iii) a Tribal organization;

"(iv) an agricultural cooperative or other agricultural business entity; or

"(v) a producer network or association.";

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "PILOT";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program for not fewer than 5 years that establishes 10'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall continue to implement a program that establishes not fewer than 10''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(II) in clause (i), by striking ''pilot''; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''pilot'';

(II) by striking ''local or municipal'' and inserting ''local, municipal, or Tribal'';

(III) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(IV) by striking ''States to develop'' and inserting the following: ''States—

"(i) to develop"; and

(V) by adding at the end the following:

"(ii) to construct at-scale composting, food-to-feed, or anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy projects.";

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "PILOT";

(II) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "Tribal governments," after "local governments,";

(III) by redesignating clauses (vi) through (viii) as clauses (vii) through (ix), respectively; and

(IV) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

"(vi) develop food waste-to-energy operations;"; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking "pilot" each place it appears; and

(5) in subsection (e), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 10112. NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS OF RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY AND OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (6) through (22) as paragraphs (3), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (15), (17), (18), (20), (21), (22), (23), (25), (26), and (27), respectively, and moving all paragraphs of that section so as to appear in numerical order;

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

''(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.'';

(C) by inserting after paragraph (13) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(14) NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM.—The term 'national organic program' means the national organic program established under this title.";

(D) by inserting after paragraph (15) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(16) NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD.—The term 'National Organic Standards Board' means the National Organic Standards Board established under section 2119.";

(E) by inserting after paragraph (18) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(19) OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.—The term 'oversight protocols' means the regulations, policies, and procedures issued by the Secretary under the authorities provided by sections 2104, 2107, 2114, 2115, 2116, and 2120."; and

(F) by inserting after paragraph (23) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(24) RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY.—The term 'risk to organic integrity' means the likelihood that a product marketed as organically produced is, or contains, an agricultural product that—

"(A) was not produced utilizing a system of organic farming in compliance with this title; or

"(B) was not processed in compliance with this title.".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 2104(c) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6503(c)) is amended by striking "established under section 2119".

(B) Section 2107 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6506) (as amended by section 10105(a)) is amended—

(i) in subsection (c)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "established under this title"; and

(ii) in subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii), by striking "established under section 2119".

(C) Section 2115(c) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6514(c)) is amended by striking "established under this title".

(D) Section 2123(b) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522(b)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "established under this title".

(b) STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 is amended by inserting after section 2122A (7 U.S.C. 6521a) the following:

"SEC. 2122B. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.

''(a) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall complete a comprehensive study for the purpose of determining whether the establishment of oversight protocols based on risk to organic integrity and the implementation of related reforms are necessary and appropriate.

''(b) ELEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall examine the feasibility of, opportunities for, and implications of, implementing oversight protocols that—

''(A) are based on risk to organic integrity;

''(B) include differential treatment of noncompliance that increases the risk to organic integrity versus noncompliance that does not increase the risk to organic integrity;

''(C) utilize common organic plans under section 2114 that are aligned with the risk to organic integrity;

''(D) include a multi-tiered approach to certification aligned with the risk to organic integrity and the scale of the organic operation;

''(E) provide for increased guidance and interpretations of standards and criteria established under this title, to be provided by the national organic program to—

''(i) certifying agents;

''(ii) certified organic farms; and

''(iii) certified organic handling operations; and

''(F) include virtual inspections as described in subsection (e)(4).

''(2) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT FACTORS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, with respect to certified organic farms, certified organic handling operations, and certifying agents, take into account—

''(A) the scope of certification or accreditation of each entity;

''(B) the scale and complexity of each entity;

''(C) the domestic or international location of each entity;

''(D) the history of compliance of each entity; and

''(E) other relevant factors.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture, a report describing the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

''(d) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

''(1) the National Organic Standards Board;

''(2) certifying agents;

''(3) certified organic farms;

''(4) certified organic handling operations;

''(5) consumers of organically produced agricultural products; and

''(6) other relevant stakeholders.

''(e) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

''(1) OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.—Based on the findings described in the report under subsection (c), and after consultation with the appropriate committees of Congress, the Secretary may promulgate regulations to establish or modify oversight protocols

under this title that the Secretary determines are necessary and appropriate, subject to the condition that such regulations—

"(A) maintain strong organic integrity;

"(B) support a resilient domestic organic sector; and

"(C) are consistent with the requirements of this title.

"(2) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—Any rulemaking proceeding relating to the promulgation of regulations under paragraph (1) shall include a public comment period of not less than 90 days.

"(3) REDUCING OVERSIGHT COSTS; PRIORITIZATION.—In promulgating regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary may seek—

"(A) to reduce oversight costs and administrative burdens for certified organic farms, certified organic handling operations, and certifying agents that present a lower risk to organic integrity; or

"(B) to prioritize oversight resources for activities that present a higher risk to organic integrity.

"(4) LIMITED VIRTUAL INSPECTIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines, based on the study, report, and consultation required under subsections (a) through (d) and paragraph (1), that it would be appropriate to allow certifying agents to conduct a limited number of annual inspections under section 2107(a)(5) virtually pursuant to the protocol described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may, subject to all other requirements of this subsection, include in any regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) provisions allowing for the use of virtual inspections consistent with that protocol.

"(B) INSPECTION PROTOCOL.—The protocol referred to in subparagraph (A) is the following:

"(i) In the case of a farm or handling operation site located outside the United States, all inspections shall be conducted on-site.

"(ii) In the case of a farm or handling operation site located in the United States, inspections shall be conducted on-site once every 3 years with intervening annual inspections being conducted on-site or vir-

tually based on the risk to organic integrity at the farm or handling operation site, as determined by the Secretary.

''(iii) In the case of a handling operation that acquires but does not physically receive, process, package, or store organic products, inspections shall be conducted through inspection methods, including virtual methods, that provide sufficient assurance of compliance with this title, as determined by the Secretary.

''(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section limits the authority of the Secretary to enforce compliance with this title to protect organic integrity.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2107(a) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6506(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) provide for annual inspections by the certifying agent of each farm and handling operation that has been certified under this title, which shall be conducted—

''(A) on-site; or

''(B) if the Secretary has promulgated regulations under section 2122B(e) allowing for

the limited use of virtual inspections, pursuant to those regulations.''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624; 104 Stat. 3370) is amended by striking the item relating to section 2123 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 2122A. Organic agricultural product imports interagency working group.
''Sec. 2122B. Study and reform of national organic program oversight protocols.
''Sec. 2123. Funding.''.

SEC. 10113. STUDY ON BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS FACED BY CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARMS AND FARMS INTERESTED IN TRANSITIONING TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate; and

(B) Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(2) CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARM.—The term ''certified organic farm'' has the meaning given the

term in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department, a report on barriers to participation in Department programs faced by certified organic farms and farms that may be interested in transitioning to organic production.

(c) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) PROGRAM REVIEW.—An assessment of barriers to participation in Department programs faced by certified organic farms and farms that may be interested in transitioning to organic production, including barriers in programs relating to conservation, credit, disaster assistance, risk management, export promotion, market development, technical assistance, rural development, data collection, procurement, and organic certification cost-share.

(2) PARTICIPATION DATA.—To the extent practicable, data on application rates, approval rates, denial rates, funding levels, geographic distribution, farm size, production type, and reasons for denial or nonparticipation by certified organic farms and

farms that may be interested in transitioning to organic production.

(3) SPECIFIC BARRIERS.—An assessment of barriers relating to program eligibility, payment rates, ranking criteria, application forms, record-keeping requirements, crop insurance price elections, disaster assistance valuation, conservation practice standards, certification documentation, supply-chain infrastructure, organic literacy among Department staff, and the availability of organic-specific data.

(4) STAFF TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—An assessment of the need for organic-specific training, guidance, and technical assistance for Department field staff, including staff of the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Risk Management Agency, Rural Development, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and other relevant agencies and offices.

(5) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.—A description of administrative actions that the Secretary intends to take to remove barriers identified in the report.

(6) STATUTORY RECOMMENDATIONS.—Any recommendations for statutory changes needed to remove barriers identified in the report.

(d) ANNUAL UPDATES.—For each of the first 3 years following submission of the report required under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department, an annual update to that report that describes—

(1) any progress made to remove barriers identified in that report;

(2) any administrative actions completed or underway;

(3) any remaining barriers to participation in Department programs faced by certified organic farms and farms that may be interested in transitioning to organic production; and

(4) any additional recommendations for statutory changes.

Subtitle B—Regulatory Reform

SEC. 10201. BIOSTIMULANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (v) and inserting the following:

''(v) PLANT REGULATOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'plant regulator' means any substance or mixture of substances intended, through physiological action, for accelerating or retarding the rate of growth or rate of maturation, or for otherwise altering the behavior, of plants or the produce thereof.

''(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'plant regulator' does not include—

''(A) substances to the extent that they are—

''(i) intended to be produced and used within a plant; or

''(ii) intended as plant nutrients, trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant inoculants, soil amendments, or vitamin hormone products; or

''(B) plant biostimulants that—

''(i) have a low-risk profile in relation to humans and other organisms, as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

''(ii) are of biological origin or include chemical compounds that are synthetically derived, but structurally similar and func-

tionally identical to substances of biological origin.'';

(2) in subsection (hh)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''substances.'' and inserting ''substances'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''volatilization urease'' and inserting ''volatilization, or urease''; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) a plant biostimulant; or

''(5) a nutritional chemical.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(pp) PLANT BIOSTIMULANT.—The term 'plant biostimulant' means any substance or mixture of substances that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, or soil or other growth media, acts to support a plant's natural nutrition processes independently of the nutrient content

of that substance or mixture of substances, and that thereby improves—

''(1) nutrient availability, uptake, or use efficiency;

''(2) tolerance to abiotic stress; or

''(3) consequent growth, development, quality, or yield.

''(qq) NUTRITIONAL CHEMICAL.—The term 'nutritional chemical' means any substance or mixture of substances that interacts with plant nutrients in a manner that improves nutrient availability or aids the plant in acquiring or utilizing plant nutrients.

''(rr) VITAMIN HORMONE PRODUCT.—The term 'vitamin hormone product' means a product that—

''(1) consists of a mixture of plant hormones, plant nutrients, plant inoculants, soil amendments, trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant biostimulants, or vitamins that is intended for the improvement, maintenance, survival, health, and propagation of plants;

''(2) is nontoxic and nonpoisonous in the undiluted packaged concentrations of the product; and

''(3) is not intended for use on food crop sites and is labeled accordingly.

''(ss) PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'plant-incorporated protectant' means a pesticide that is—

''(A) intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating a pest; and

''(B) a substance or mixture of substances intended to be produced and used within a living plant, or in the produce thereof, and the genetic material necessary for its production.

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'plant-incorporated protectant' includes any inert ingredient (as defined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)).''.

(b) EXEMPTION FROM REGULATION.—Section 25 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) EXEMPTION OF PESTICIDES.—

''(1) EXEMPTION BY RULE.—The Administrator may exempt from the requirements of this Act by regulation any pesticide which the Administrator determines either—

''(A) to be adequately regulated by another Federal agency; or

"(B) to be of a character which is unnecessary to be subject to this Act in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.

"(2) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANTS.—

"(A) EXEMPTION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—On the issuance of guidance as described in subparagraph (B), plant-incorporated protectants resulting from endogenous genetic material found within or that could arise from the plant's gene pool are exempt from the requirements of this Act.

"(ii) EXCEPTION.—A specific plant-incorporated protectant arising from endogenous genetic material found within or that could arise from the plant's gene pool shall not be exempt from the requirements of this Act if the Administrator determines that such plant-incorporated protectant is of a character which is necessary to be subject to this Act in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.

"(B) GUIDANCE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Administrator shall issue guidance for the implementation of subparagraph (A).

"(ii) UPDATES.—The Administrator may update the guidance issued under clause (i) as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

"(C) ORDER.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator makes a determination described in subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to a plant-incorporated protectant, the Administrator shall issue an order explaining the basis for that determination, which may be issued directly to any person who owns, controls, or has custody of the plant-incorporated protectant or published in the Federal Register.

"(ii) EFFECT OF ORDER.—After receipt or publication of an order described in clause (i), the plant-incorporated protectant described in the order will no

longer be exempt from the requirements of this Act.

''(D) TOLERANCE EXEMPTION.—The residue of a plant-incorporated protectant that is exempt under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be exempt from the requirement for a tolerance under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) unless, and until such time as, the Administrator issues or publishes an order under subparagraph (C)(i).''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 17(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136o(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''(as defined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation))'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) that plant-incorporated protectant is exempt under section 25(b)(2) or part 174 of

title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''(as defined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation))''.

SEC. 10202. SOIL HEALTH STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to assess the types of, and practices using, plant biostimulants (as defined in section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136)) that best achieve the following:

(1) Increasing organic matter content.

(2) Reducing atmospheric volatilization.

(3) Promotion of nutrient management practices.

(4) Limiting or eliminating runoff or leaching of soil or nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, into groundwater or other water sources.

(5) Restoring beneficial bioactivity or healthy nutrients to the soil.

(6) Aiding in carbon sequestration, nutrient use efficiency, and other climate-related benefits.

(7) Supporting innovative approaches to improving agricultural sustainability, including the

adoption of performance-based outcome standards and criteria.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make publicly available and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the study.

SEC. 10203. FIFRA INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

Section 3(c)(11) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(c)(11)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking ''The Administrator shall'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall include the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy in all meetings of the interagency working group.'';

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (iv), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''every 180 days thereafter during the 5-year period beginning on that date'' and inserting ''each year thereafter''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) AVAILABILITY.—All reports required under this subparagraph shall be published on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency.''; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

''(E) CONSULTATION.—

''(i) WORKING GROUP WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—In carrying out the duties under this paragraph, the working group shall, as appropriate—

''(I) consult, including through public meetings, with representatives of interested industry stakeholders and nongovernmental organizations not less frequently than once each year; and

''(II) take into consideration factors, such as actual and potential dif-

ferences in interest between, and the views of, those stakeholders and organizations.

''(ii) ADMINISTRATOR WITH WORKING GROUP.—Before the Administrator implements any policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program regarding the application of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to the processes for the registration or registration review of a pesticide under this Act, the Administrator shall—

''(I) consult with the covered agencies on the policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program and take into consideration input received; and

''(II) publish the input received from the covered agencies in the docket with the corresponding policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program.''.

SEC. 10204. INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OUTSIDE OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.

Section 433(c)(1) of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7753(c)(1)) is amended by inserting ''or interstate

movement from areas outside of the continental United States,'' after ''United States,''.

SEC. 10205. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY PLANT HEALTH RESPONSE EFFORTS.

Subtitle D of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7771 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 443. USE OF FUNDS.

''The Secretary may use funds made available to carry out this title for the construction and operation of research laboratories, quarantine stations, and other buildings and facilities for special purposes.''.

SEC. 10206. AGRICULTURE QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION PROGRAM RESERVE FEE.

Section 2509(a)(1) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (21 U.S.C. 136a(a)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) to maintain a reasonable balance in the Department of Agriculture accounts described in paragraph (6).''.

SEC. 10207. REGISTRATION REVIEW.

(a) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—Section 3(g)(1)(A)(iii) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and

Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)(A)(iii)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''the registration review of'' and inserting ''the interim registration review decision of''; and

(2) in subclause (I), by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3(g)(1)(A) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(I) REQUIREMENTS.—Any covered interim registration review decision shall include, where applicable, measures to reduce the effects of the applicable pesticide on—

''(aa) species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

''(bb) any designated critical habitat.

"(II) CONSULTATION.—In developing measures described in subclause (I), the Administrator shall take into account the input received from the Secretary of Agriculture and other members of the interagency working group established under subsection (c)(11).

"(III) COVERED INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION.—In this subsection, the term 'covered interim registration review decision' means an interim registration review decision—

"(aa) that is associated with an initial registration review described in clause (iii);

"(bb) that is noticed in the Federal Register before October 1, 2031; and

"(cc) for which the Administrator has not, as of the date on which the decision is noticed in the Federal Register, made effects determinations or completed

any necessary consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)).''.

(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 711 of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (title VI of division HH of Public Law 117–328; 136 Stat. 6083) is repealed.

SEC. 10208. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.

Section 614(f) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7653(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2023.'' and inserting ''2026; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) $8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 10209. COORDINATION.

Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) COORDINATION.—

''(1) RISK MITIGATION MEASURES.—If any risk mitigation measures are required for any pesticide registered under this Act, the Administrator shall—

''(A) develop such measures in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture; and

''(B) conduct, and publish in the docket, with the corresponding action, an economic analysis determining the cost of implementation of such measures.

''(2) DATA AND INFORMATION.—

''(A) COORDINATION OF DATA AND INFORMATION.—With respect to the registration or registration review of a pesticide under this Act and for making a determination under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) with respect to any action that impacts the sale, distribution, or use of a pesticide, the Administrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy, so that the Administrator has, for the Administrator's use and consideration for such processes—

''(i) agronomic use data from—

"(I) the Department of Agriculture; and

"(II) industry; and

"(ii) any information relating to the availability and economic viability of alternatives to the applicable pesticide.

"(B) PUBLICATION.—In issuing any decision resulting from a process described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall publish—

"(i) a description of the use by the Administrator of any data or information provided by the Secretary of Agriculture under that subparagraph; and

"(ii) the determination of the Administrator on whether to use such data or information, including, if applicable, the reasons that the data or information was not used.

"(3) REASONABLE AND PRUDENT ACTIONS AND MEASURES.—With respect to the implementation of reasonable and prudent actions and measures relating to the use of a pesticide registered under this Act, the Administrator shall coordinate with the Sec-

retary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Commerce—

''(A) to review the development of any such actions and measures that are a result of consultations relating to actions under this Act;

''(B) to fully consider the risks and benefits of any such actions and measures in a manner consistent with practices established to evaluate the risks and benefits of a pesticide registered under this Act; and

''(C) to provide feedback to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce on decisions relating to any such actions and measures that may affect end users of a pesticide registered under this Act.

''(4) WAIVER.—The coordination requirements imposed by this subsection may be waived or modified for a specific action to the extent agreed upon by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the registrant, subject to the condition that such agreement is published by the Administrator in the docket for the corresponding action.''.

SEC. 10210. MULTIPLE CROP AND PESTICIDE USE SURVEY.

Section 10109 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4906) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

''(1) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and make publicly available, the survey described in subsection (a).

''(2) COMMERCIAL DATA.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy, shall obtain commercial data on pesticide use to inform the conduct of, and enhance the results of, the survey described in subsection (a).

''(3) RULEMAKING PROCEDURE.—The administration of this section shall be made without regard to chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Paperwork Reduction Act').''.

SEC. 10211. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title VI of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7651 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end following:

''SEC. 621. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.

''(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish an Office of Biotechnology Policy to provide for

the effective coordination of agricultural policies and activities within the Department related to biotechnology, while taking into account the effects of actions of other government agencies.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE; PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary shall establish in the Department an Office of Biotechnology Policy, which shall be responsible for—

''(1) facilitating the coordination of the development of Department policy on biotechnology, biomanufacturing, and related topics;

''(2) facilitating the coordination of activities and services of the Department, including research, extension, and education activities, regarding the development, regulation, availability, and use of biotechnology tools and products under—

''(A) the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.);

''(B) the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.);

''(C) the eighth paragraph of the matter under the heading 'BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY' in the Act of March 4, 1913 (commonly known as the 'Virus-Serum-Toxin Act') (21 U.S.C. 151 et seq.);

"(D) the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

"(E) the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

"(F) the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.); and

"(G) other applicable laws;

"(3) offering consultation to other agencies of the Department in fulfilling their responsibilities relating to biotechnology under—

"(A) the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.);

"(B) the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

"(C) the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–170; 110 Stat. 1489); and

"(D) other applicable laws; and

"(4) performing such other functions as may be required by law or prescribed by the Secretary.

"(c) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In support of its responsibilities under subsection (b), the Office of Biotechnology Policy shall provide leadership to ensure coordination of interagency activities between cross-Departmental agencies and offices and 1 or more of the following:

''(1) The Environmental Protection Agency.

''(2) The Food and Drug Administration.

''(3) Any other Federal or State agency.

''(d) OUTREACH.—The Office of Biotechnology Policy shall consult with biotechnology developers, academics, agricultural producers, and others that may be affected by biotechnology-related activities or actions of the Department or other Federal agencies, as necessary, in carrying out the responsibilities of the Office of Biotechnology Policy under this section.

''(e) DIRECTOR.—The Office of Biotechnology Policy shall be under the direction of a Director appointed by the Secretary, who shall report directly to the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–185; 112 Stat. 523) is amended—

(1) by striking the items relating to sections 401, 402, 403, 405, 409, 612, 617, 631, and 632;

(2) by striking the item relating to subtitle C of title VI;

(3) by inserting after the item relating to section 404 the following:

"Sec. 405. National food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance program.";

(4) by inserting after the item relating to section 408 the following:

"Sec. 410. Grants for youth organizations.
"Sec. 411. Agricultural biotechnology research and development for developing countries.
"Sec. 412. Specialty crop research initiative.
"Sec. 413. Food and agriculture service learning program.";

(5) by inserting after the item relating to section 616 the following:

"Sec. 617. Forestry products advanced utilization research."; and

(6) by inserting after the item relating to section 619 the following:

"Sec. 620. Senior Scientific Research Center.
"Sec. 621. Office of Biotechnology Policy.".

TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE

SEC. 11001. MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1505) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) The chairperson of the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee established under subsection (f)(1)(A), who shall serve as a non-voting ex officio member.''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (H) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by striking ''Four'' and inserting ''4''; and

(II) by striking ''including at least one specialty crop producer.'' and inserting the following: ''including at least—

''(i) 1 specialty crop producer; and

''(ii) beginning with the Board of Directors serving on or after May 1, 2027—

''(I) 1 producer that actively engages in livestock production and crop production of agricultural commodities; and

''(II) 1 underserved producer (as defined in section 508(a)(7)(A)) that is a beginning farmer or rancher.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''subpara-

graphs (E), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of paragraph (2), and the members of the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee established under subsection (f)(1)(A)'';

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) VACANCIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Board shall not impair the power of the Board to execute the functions of the Corporation, subject to the condition that there are at least 6 members of the Board in office.

''(2) QUORUM.—6 members of the Board in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Board.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(A) establish a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee (referred to in this subsection as the 'Committee'), to assist the Corporation in the research, establishment, and improvement of

policies or plans of insurance for specialty crops; and

''(B) appoint the initial members of the Committee in accordance with paragraph (2).

''(2) COMPOSITION.—

''(A) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the Committee shall be an individual with—

''(i) experience in crop insurance; and

''(ii) familiarity with the unique nature of the specialty crop industry.

''(B) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall consist of not more than 10 members, to be appointed in accordance with subsection (a)(3), including—

''(i) individuals with an understanding of the production methods, markets, and risks (including losses due to weather, trade damages, and supply chain disruptions) unique to specialty crop production;

''(ii) not fewer than 5 producers; and

''(iii) not fewer than 1 producer from each of the West, Midwest, South, and Northeast regions of the United States (as identified by the Bureau of the Census).

''(3) DUTIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall—

"(i) review available educational programs and make recommendations on how to enhance the effectiveness of those programs for specialty crop producers;

"(ii) advise the manager of the Corporation on issues relating to specialty crop insurance policies;

"(iii) provide, through the Chairperson of the Committee, input to the Board on decisions relating to specialty crop insurance policies;

"(iv) provide recommendations to the manager of the Corporation regarding the presentation of policies to the Board under section 508(a)(6); and

"(v) advise the manager of the Corporation on entering into partnerships to carry out subsections (d) and (e)(2)(B) of section 522.

"(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the duties under this paragraph, the Committee shall—

"(i) meet not less frequently than 2 times each year; and

"(ii) coordinate closely with the Specialty Crops Coordinator under section 507(g).".

(b) SPECIALTY CROPS COORDINATOR.—Section 507 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1507) is amended by striking subsection (g) and inserting the following:

"(g) SPECIALTY CROPS COORDINATOR.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall establish a management-level position, to be known as the 'Specialty Crops Coordinator'.

"(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Specialty Crops Coordinator shall have the primary responsibility for—

"(i) addressing the needs of specialty crop producers; and

"(ii) providing information and advice, in connection with the activities of the Corporation, to improve and expand the insurance program for specialty crops.

''(B) OTHER DUTIES.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Specialty Crops Coordinator shall—

''(i) act as a liaison of the Corporation with representatives of specialty crop producers and the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee; and

''(ii) assist the Corporation with the knowledge, expertise, and familiarity of specialty crop producers with risk management and production issues relating to specialty crops.''.

(c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEW AND SPECIALTY CROPS.—Section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(6)(A)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting '', in consultation with the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee,'' after ''Corporation''.

SEC. 11002. IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 506(m) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506(m)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Manager of the Corporation may require each policyholder to provide to the Manager, at such times and in such manner as the Manager may prescribe, the name of each individual or other entity that acquires or holds a substantial beneficial interest in such policyholder.

''(B) EXTENSION AVAILABLE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the Manager of the Corporation shall allow a policyholder that does not provide to the Manager any information required pursuant to subparagraph (A) at the time prescribed by the Manager to provide that information to the Manager at any time during the applicable crop year.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to a policyholder that an approved insurance provider determines—

''(I) would receive a disproportionate benefit under a crop insurance

program as a result of failing to provide to the Manager of the Corporation information required pursuant to subparagraph (A) at the time prescribed by the Manager; or

''(II) failed to provide such information to avoid an obligation or requirement under an applicable Federal or State law.''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''5 percent'' and inserting ''10 percent''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 506 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by striking ''section 508(j)(2)(A), the Corporation, subject to the provisions of section 508(j), may'' and inserting ''section 508(j), the Corporation may''; and

(2) in subsection (m) (as amended by subsection (a))—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''205(c)(2)(C)(iii)'' and inserting ''205(c)(2)(C)(iv)''; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (4) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and

(1), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order.

SEC. 11003. RESTORATION OF FINAL AGENCY DETERMINATIONS.

Section 506 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506) is amended by striking subsection (r) and inserting the following:

''(q) PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO CERTAIN INQUIRIES.—

''(1) EXCLUSIVE INTERPRETIVE AUTHORITY.—The Corporation shall have exclusive authority to interpret—

''(A) any regulation issued under this subtitle;

''(B) any plan of insurance authorized by this Act or reinsured by the Corporation; and

''(C) any policy, plan of insurance, contract provision, or procedure issued or approved pursuant to this Act.

''(2) REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION.—A participant in the Federal crop insurance program may request the Corporation to provide an interpretation under paragraph (1).

''(3) FINAL AGENCY DETERMINATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a request under paragraph (2), the Corporation shall provide a written interpretation, which shall be considered a final agency determination.

"(B) PUBLICATION.—The Corporation shall make publicly available each interpretation provided under subparagraph (A).

"(4) GENERAL APPLICABILITY AND BINDING EFFECT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Any determination made pursuant to paragraph (3) or, if made before the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, pursuant to any provision of this section then in effect, shall be generally applicable to and binding on all participants in the Federal crop insurance program, including producers, approved insurance providers, agents, loss adjusters, arbitrators, and the National Appeals Division.

"(B) NO JUDICIAL REVIEW.—There shall be no judicial review of any determination of the Corporation made—

"(i) pursuant to this subsection; or

"(ii) before the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026 pursuant to any provision of this section then in effect.".

SEC. 11004. COVERAGE OF REVENUE LOSSES.

Section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(1)) is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting "or a decline in the market price of the insured commodity, subject to the condition that the decline was not directly caused by the producer, as determined by the Secretary" before the period at the end.

SEC. 11005. YIELD DETERMINATIONS.

Section 508(g)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(g)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by inserting ", except no such adjustment shall be made in the case of an action taken by the Corporation under subparagraph (E)" before the period at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(E) FURTHER EXCLUSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, with respect to 1 or more of the crop years used to establish the actual production history of an agricultural commodity of the producer, the Corporation shall exclude any recorded or ap-

praised yield for any crop year in which the per planted acre yield of the agricultural commodity of the producer is adversely impacted due to the operation of the project described in row 4 in the table under section 7002(2) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1366).''.

SEC. 11006. CROP INSURANCE SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING AND VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.

(a) DEFINITION OF VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—Section 502(b)(14)(B) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)(14)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''5'' and inserting ''10''; and

(2) in clause (iii), by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''10-year''.

(b) INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE.—Section 508(e)(9) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)(9)) is amended by inserting ''or veteran farmer or rancher'' after ''beginning farmer or rancher'' each place it appears.

SEC. 11007. MARKETABILITY.

Section 508(h)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(h)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(iii)—

(A) by striking ''This subparagraph'' and inserting the following:

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), this subparagraph''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(II) EXCEPTION.—An approved insurance provider that submits a letter of support for a concept proposal or a policy or plan of insurance—

''(aa) shall not be considered the public for purposes of clause (ii);

''(bb) shall have access to data and other product development information submitted to the Board under this subsection; and

''(cc) shall be subject to the confidentiality requirements that are applicable to the Board under clauses (i) and (ii).'';

(2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) SUBMITTER.—With respect to a person authorized to make a submission under paragraph (1)(A), the Board—

"(i) shall provide that person with an opportunity to present the submission to the Board in person; and

"(ii) shall not require an approved insurance provider assisting that person with a policy to be included as a person or entity making the submission under this subsection.";

(3) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) MARKETABILITY DEADLINE.—Any new policy, plan of insurance, or other material approved by the Board under this subsection during a reinsurance year and after the Standard Reinsurance Agreement closing date of July 1 shall not be implemented for that reinsurance year unless, not later than 90 days before the sales closing date for that policy, plan of insurance, or other material, the Board makes available to the approved insurance providers all necessary handbooks, training

materials, and other resources associated with such policy, plan of insurance, or other materials, as determined by the Board.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) MARKETABILITY DETERMINATION.—Prior to the approval of a policy, plan of insurance, or other material submitted to the Board under this subsection (referred to in this subparagraph as a 'product'), any approved insurance provider that submits a letter of support for the product shall provide an assessment to the Board on the marketability of that product.''.

SEC. 11008. REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING COSTS.

Section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''shall not exceed—'' and inserting ''shall—'';

(B) in clause (i)—

(i) by inserting ''not exceed,'' before ''for the''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(C) in clause (ii)—

(i) by inserting ''not exceed,'' before ''for each'';

(ii) by striking ''and subsequent'' and inserting ''through 2026''; and

(iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) for each of the 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, be determined in accordance with subparagraph (F).''; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

''(F) REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR REINSURANCE YEAR 2027 AND SUBSEQUENT REINSURANCE YEARS.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E), for each of the 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, the rate established by the Board to reimburse approved insurance providers and agents for the administrative and operating costs of the providers and agents with respect to each policy made available under this Act shall be equal to

the rate applicable to the policy in effect for the 2026 reinsurance year.''.

SEC. 11009. QUALITY LOSS ADJUSTMENT COVERAGE.

Section 508(m)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(m)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Beginning with the 2027 calendar year and every 5 years thereafter, the Corporation shall contract with a qualified person to conduct a review, which shall be completed within 1 year of initiation, of the quality loss adjustment procedures of the Corporation.'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the subparagraph designation and all that follows through ''review'' and inserting the following:

''(B) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—Each review under subparagraph (A) shall include engagement from regionally diverse industry stakeholders for each agricultural commodity for which a quality loss adjustment is offered.

''(C) PROCEDURES.—Based on each review conducted under subparagraph (A)''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) REPORT.—On the completion of each review under subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

''(i) findings from that review;

''(ii) changes to the quality loss adjustment procedures;

''(iii) the stakeholder engagement for that review pursuant to subparagraph (B); and

''(iv) plans for establishing specific quality loss adjustment procedures for unique regions, as determined by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 11010. LIMITATION ON FARM PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 508B(f) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508b(f)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''beginning with the 2019 crop year'' and inserting ''for the 2019 through 2025 crop years''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1115 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9015) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) LIMITATION.—Beginning with the 2026 crop year, in the case of a farm for which a producer obtains coverage under the Stacked Income Protection Plan for upland cotton under section 508B of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508b) for a crop year, that farm shall not be eligible to receive payments for seed cotton for that crop year under—

''(1) price loss coverage under section 1116; or

''(2) agriculture risk coverage under section 1117.''.

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 508(c)(4)(C)(iv) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(c)(4)(C)(iv)) is amended, in the clause heading, by striking ''CROPS AND''.

SEC. 11011. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF COVERAGE PENALTY.

The Federal Crop Insurance Act is amended by inserting after section 508D (7 U.S.C. 1508d) the following:

''SEC. 508E. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF COVERAGE PENALTY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Risk Management Agency and the Corporation shall establish a pilot program (re-

ferred to in this section as the 'pilot program'), to be in effect beginning with the 2027 crop year, to evaluate the effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, planted during the late planting period (as defined in section 457.8 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)).

''(b) LOCATION.—The pilot program shall be conducted in not less than 4 counties located within or adjacent to the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District or the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District in the State of Texas.

''(c) DURATION.—The pilot program shall operate for a period of not less than 4 crop years.

''(d) EVALUATION.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation shall—

''(1) suspend any reduction to the insurance guarantee applied to an insurance policy for a crop that is planted during the late planting period;

''(2) gather and analyze data to determine if the number of days beyond the final plant date in which a crop was planted during the late planting period correlates with a decrease in crop yields; and

''(3) determine if planting a crop after the final plant date results in reduced usage of irrigation from the Ogallala Aquifer.

''(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—Of the amounts made available under section 522(e)(2)(A)(ii), the Corporation may use not more than $200,000 to enter into a partnership or cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization, State agency, or public university that is familiar with agricultural production in the area described in subsection (b) to conduct the research and evaluation required under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (d).

''(f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the last day of crop year 2031, the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

''(1) a summary of the results of the pilot program;

''(2) an analysis of the correlation between planting date and final yields; and

''(3) any changes to existing policies that the Corporation intends to make as a result of the information obtained during the pilot program.''.

SEC. 11012. PROGRAM COMPLIANCE AND INTEGRITY.

Section 515(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1515(b)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting ", RESPONSE, AND FINAL DETERMINATION" after "NOTIFICATION";

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking "shall notify in writing" and inserting "shall, through an initial finding in writing, notify (unless such notification is pursuant to the responsibilities to conduct reviews and make corrections)";

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through "Notice" and inserting the following:

"(2) REQUIRED TIMING.—

"(A) INITIAL FINDING.—Notice"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) RESPONSE.—During the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the Corporation notifies an approved insurance provider of an initial finding under paragraph (1), the approved insurance provider may appeal that initial finding in writing.

"(C) FINAL FINDING.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which an approved insur-

ance provider submits an appeal under subparagraph (B), the Corporation shall issue a final finding in writing to the approved insurance provider.

''(D) REQUEST FOR FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of a final finding of the Corporation under subparagraph (C), an approved insurance provider may request, in writing, a final administrative determination if the approved insurance provider has reason to believe that the final finding under subparagraph (C) is not in accordance with—

''(i) the applicable laws, regulations, custom, or practice of the crop insurance industry; or

''(ii) the approved policy and procedure of the Corporation.

''(E) FINAL DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the receipt of a request for a final administrative determination under subparagraph (D), the Corporation shall provide a final administrative determination, unless substantial new information, as determined by the

Corporation, is provided by the approved insurance provider.

''(F) APPEAL TO CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of a final administrative determination under subparagraph (E), an approved insurance provider may appeal that determination to the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals.''; and

(4) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO TIMELY NOTIFY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), failure of the Corporation to comply with the requirements under paragraph (2) shall relieve the approved insurance provider from the debt owed to the Corporation.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any matters referred to the Office of the Inspector General or the Department of Justice.''.

SEC. 11013. WHOLE FARM IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 522(c)(7)(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) ADDITIONAL REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this clause and annually thereafter, the Corporation shall—

''(I) review any limitations on insurable revenue (including the overall limitation and limitations specific to animals, animal products, greenhouses and nurseries, and aquaculture) to ensure that those limitations are adequate to cover the financial risks associated with the production of high-value agricultural products; and

''(II) submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that contains a summary of the review conducted under subclause (I) and a description of any expected changes to the policy for the following reinsurance year.''.

SEC. 11014. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(20) ORGANIC PRODUCERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding impediments faced by organic producers in participating in Federal crop insurance.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

''(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.

''(21) WINE GRAPES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure wine grapes (including wine grapes produced in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington) against losses due to wildfire smoke exposure.

"(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

"(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.

"(22) MUSHROOMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and de-

velopment, regarding a policy to insure mushrooms.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available, a report that describes—

''(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.

''(23) FROST, FREEZE, OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding an index-based policy to insure crops (including tomatoes, table grapes, wine grapes, juice grapes, peppers, sugarcane, strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches, blue-

berries, apples, cherries, and any other crop) against losses due to a frost, freeze, or cold weather event.

''(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Research and development under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) evaluate the effectiveness of risk management tools, such as the use of an index, with respect to low frequency and catastrophic loss weather events; and

''(ii) result in a policy that provides protection for at least 1 of the following:

''(I) Production loss.

''(II) Revenue loss.

''(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

''(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.

"(24) DOUBLE CROPPING AND ROTATIONAL CROPPING OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED OILSEED CROPS.—In this paragraph, the term 'covered oilseed crops' means rapeseed, canola, camelina, and other oilseed crops that—

"(i) require a period of cold temperature (vernalization) before the plants will produce flowers and seeds; and

"(ii) are planted and harvested on land that would otherwise be idle in a rotation pattern.

"(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, with respect to the inclusion of covered oilseed crops under double cropping and rotational cropping policies.

"(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The research and development carried out pursuant to subpara-

graph (B) shall be conducted in consultation with stakeholders to evaluate—

''(i) the factors impacting availability and cost of crop insurance when incorporating covered oilseed crops into double cropping and rotational cropping policies; and

''(ii) the potential risk management benefits associated with incorporating covered oilseed crops into double cropping and rotational cropping policies, including risk management benefits to soil health, biodiversity, and the profitability of farming operations.

''(D) EMPHASIS.—In awarding contracts under subparagraph (B), the Corporation may place emphasis on qualified persons and institutions that—

''(i) have previous research experience with covered oilseed crops; and

''(ii) have access to a facility with the capacity to do the applicable research.

''(E) REPORT.—Not later than 13 months after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to

the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available, a report that describes—

"(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (B); and

"(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.

"(25) STUDY ON SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE OPTION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out a study, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out a study, to determine the feasibility of modifying the supplemental coverage option described in section 508(c)(4)(C) to provide coverage for counties larger than 1,400 square miles—

"(i) at a level smaller than countywide; and

"(ii) at a level greater than individual coverage.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

''(i) the results of the study carried out under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.

''(26) BLUEBERRIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding—

''(i) improvements to existing policies (including the Actual Production History policy) to insure blueberries, including taking into consideration multiple crop types and values; and

''(ii) a policy to insure blueberries against revenue loss.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

''(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.

''(27) PECAN REVENUE ENHANCEMENTS.—

''(A) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, to explore options to mitigate the impacts of hurricanes, freezes, droughts, and other natural disasters (as determined by the Secretary) on the revenue guarantee under the Pecan Revenue policy by offering 1 or more of the following:

"(I) Options to exclude certain crop years from revenue history, in a manner similar to section 508(g)(4)(C).

"(II) Streamlined process and procedures to allow approved insurance providers to increase revenue guarantees on restoration of pecan production after a natural disaster.

"(III) Other policy and procedural changes that—

"(aa) mitigate the impact of low-revenue years; and

"(bb) retain actuarial soundness.

"(ii) POLICY CHANGES.—Notwithstanding section 508(g)(4)(C), the Corporation shall make a policy change described in subclause (I) or (III) of clause (i) available if the requirements of section 508(h) are met.

"(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and

Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

"(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.

"(28) STANDALONE POLICY FOR HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall conduct a study, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to conduct a study, to determine the feasibility of making available insurance against tropical storms and hurricanes, regardless of whether there exists an applicable underlying crop insurance policy.

"(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a

report that describes the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A).

''(29) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, relating to harvest incentives for policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue.

''(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1)(B) and (2) of section 508(a), not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall make available a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the requirements of section 508(h) are met.

''(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Ag-

riculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

"(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) any policy made available under this paragraph.

"(30) SEPARATE ENTERPRISE UNITS FOR FALLOW CROPPING SYSTEMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out a study, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out a study, to determine the feasibility of allowing separate enterprise units for fallow and continuous acreage of crops in counties.

"(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

"(i) the results of the study carried out under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.".

SEC. 11015. RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY FOR LAMB.

(a) DEFINITION OF LIVESTOCK PROTECTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.—In this section, the term "livestock protection and risk management program" includes—

(1) dairy margin coverage;

(2) livestock risk protection; and

(3) any other program designed to protect producers from market volatility, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study on modifications to existing livestock protection and risk management programs that may enhance risk management protection to domestic lamb producers.

(c) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall take into account various factors affecting risk management, including—

(1) market access;

(2) sources of feed;

(3) costs of, and fluctuation of costs of, feed;

(4) imports;

(5) consumer demand and trends;

(6) labor costs; and

(7) availability and accuracy of market data.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study conducted under this section.

SEC. 11016. REPORT ON STANDARD REINSURANCE AGREEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report on modifications to the Standard Reinsurance Agreement that are necessary to expand the availability of policies and plans of insurance that meet the risk management needs of agricultural producers, States, regions, and commodities.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) take into account the requirements under section 508(k)(8)(F) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)(F)) relating to budget

neutrality of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement; and

(2) include an analysis of—

(A) any benefit related to establishing—

(i) at least 1 additional reinsurance fund for States that have experienced consistently high loss ratios; and

(ii) at least 1 additional reinsurance fund to provide alternative risk sharing terms for approved insurance providers that sell insurance contracts offering area plan coverage;

(B) with respect to any funds reimbursed for administrative and operating costs under section 507(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1507(c)), the best method for ensuring that approved insurance providers obligate those funds for—

(i) the delivery of risk management tools to producers; and

(ii) agent workforce assistance for producers, in an amount that is not less than the historical percentage of such reimbursement; and

(C) with respect to each policy and plan of insurance, compensation amounts for agents that—

(i) are consistent with historical norms; and

(ii) provide a reasonable return, taking into account workload and the critical service across programs that the agents provide.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report under subsection (a), the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall consult with—

(1) representatives of producers—

(A) from each State and region; and

(B) with respect to each commodity;

(2) representatives of agents and approved insurance providers;

(3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS

Subtitle A—Livestock

SEC. 12101. ANIMAL IMPORTATION INSPECTIONS.

Section 10404(b) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8303(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''under paragraph (1)'' after ''regulations''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) CONDUCT OF INSPECTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may promulgate regulations under paragraph (1) that—

''(i) permit qualified veterinarians employed by or contracted with the Department of Agriculture to conduct inspections for the purpose of carrying out this section; and

''(ii) give priority to the conduct of inspections by those qualified veterinarians in regions that do not have veterinary medical officers of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service available.

''(B) QUALIFIED VETERINARIAN.—A qualified veterinarian under subparagraph (A) shall

have appropriate training and credentials, as determined by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 12102. ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT.

Section 10409A of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by striking ''including training'' and inserting the following: ''including—

''(i) training'';

(ii) in clause (i) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) improving animal disease traceability.''; and

(B) in subparagraph (I), by inserting '', including activities approved by the Secretary as of the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026'' before the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''$30,000,000'' and inserting ''$45,000,000''; and

(II) by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(i) by inserting ''the National Animal Health Laboratory Network under subsection (a) and'' after ''carry out'';

(ii) by striking ''10'' and inserting ''15'';

(iii) by striking ''paragraph (7)(B) of such subsection'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(7)(B)''; and

(iv) by striking ''the Program'' and inserting ''the National Animal Health Laboratory Network or the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program''; and

(3) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 12103. ENGAGEMENT WITH EXPORT MARKETS.

Section 10411 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8310) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) ENGAGEMENT WITH EXPORT MARKETS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may preemptively negotiate, to the extent practicable, regionalization, compartmentalization, and other trade agreements regarding outbreaks of known animal disease threats with the governments of countries with export markets for any animal, article, or associated means of conveyance from the United States.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed—

''(A) to limit the ability of the United States Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements; or

''(B) to require the United States Trade Representative to condition other trade agreements on the inclusion of language relating to outbreaks of known animal disease threats, as described in paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 12104. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCERS DURING A FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report on the readiness of the Department to support livestock producers and poultry growers facing economic losses in the event of an outbreak of a foreign animal disease.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the ability of the Department to protect producers and growers from significant economic losses as a result of an outbreak of a foreign animal disease—

(1) an assessment of—

(A) existing Federal programs to assist producers impacted by foreign animal disease outbreaks, including catastrophic risk management tools, producer indemnity, direct payments, biosecurity assistance, and herd buyouts; and

(B) the capacity of the Department to use those programs to provide benefits to producers

and growers that, as a result of an outbreak of a foreign animal disease—

(i) have to sell livestock and poultry at a reduced price;

(ii) have to quarantine, treat, destroy, or dispose of animals;

(iii) have to implement additional biosecurity measures; or

(iv) experience other significant economic losses as a result of catastrophic market conditions;

(2) a determination of gaps that exist in the ability of the Department to provide economic support for growers suffering losses; and

(3) recommendations of the Secretary for modifications to Federal law (including regulations) relating to protecting producers and growers from significant economic losses related to a foreign animal disease outbreak.

(c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of facilitating the preparation of the report required under subsection (a), the relevant Department officials described in paragraph (2) shall provide infor-

mation to the Secretary necessary for conducting the assessment described in subsection (b)(1).

(2) RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DESCRIBED.—The relevant Department officials referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

(A) The Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

(B) The Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services.

(C) The Under Secretary for Rural Development.

(D) The Under Secretary for Food Safety.

(E) The Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

(F) The Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

(G) Other officials, as specified by the Secretary.

SEC. 12105. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES.

The Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–191; 138 Stat. 2658) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the Center, the Secretary may—

''(1) establish additional dog training facilities, which shall have the same duties as the duties of the Center described in section 2(b); and

''(2) enter into a cooperative agreement with the department of agriculture of a State (or political subdivision thereof) to establish an off-site training program for the purpose of providing training and technical assistance in the training of dogs, as described in section 2(b).

''(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the need for establishing 1 or more additional training facilities under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall consider—

''(1) the location of international ports of entry;

''(2) the volume of international passengers and cargo; and

''(3) regional agricultural production trends and associated pest and disease threats.

''SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 12106. ALLOWED INTEREST OF LIVESTOCK AUCTION OWNERS IN MEATPACKING BUSINESSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise section 201.67 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to exempt the packers described in subsection (b) from the prohibition described in that section.

(b) PACKERS DESCRIBED.—A packer referred to in subsection (a) is a packer that—

(1) with respect to cattle or sheep, has a cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

(A) 2,000 animals per day; or

(B) 700,000 animals per year; and

(2) with respect to hogs, has a cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

(A) 10,000 animals per day; or

(B) 3,000,000 animals per year.

(c) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE.—In the case of a market agency that has an ownership interest in, finances, or participates in the management or operation of a packer to which the market agency sells consigned livestock, the market agency shall disclose on the account of sale the name of the packer and the nature of the relationship between the market agency and the packer.

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the Secretary to adopt or enforce rules or regulations under the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), relating to the protection of producers, competition, market integrity, or the prevention of conflicts of interest.

SEC. 12107. HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL POINT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES FOR SMALL AND VERY SMALL POULTRY AND MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.

(a) MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Federal Meat Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section 25 (21 U.S.C. 625) the following:

"SEC. 26. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS OF SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT.—In this section, the terms 'small establishment' and 'very small establishment' have the meanings given the terms 'smaller establishment' and 'very small establishment', respectively, in the final rule entitled 'Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems' (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).

''(b) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the

Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make publicly available—

''(1) a list of scientific studies, updated as necessary by the Secretary, for use by small establishments and very small establishments in developing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan, which list the Secretary shall update as necessary;

''(2) guidelines relating to best practices and techniques by small establishments and very small establishments in the production of fresh or further processed meat and meat food products; and

''(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans for small establishments and very small establishments, including model plans for—

''(A) slaughter-only establishments;

''(B) processing-only establishments; and

''(C) slaughter and processing establishments.

''(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity for public comment, providing information on the requirements that need to be met for small establishments and

very small establishments to develop a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this Act.

''(d) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential business information of any meat processing establishment, including a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan of a meat processing establishment.

''(e) NONBINDING GUIDANCE.—Any guidance, model plans, or scientific resources made publicly available by the Secretary under this section shall be clearly identified as nonbinding examples that are not endorsed, approved, or considered universally applicable by the Secretary.

''(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section limits the ability of the Secretary to issue additional guidance, model plans, or scientific resources before or after the deadlines required under this section, as determined necessary by the Secretary.''.

(b) POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Poultry Products Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section 14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:

''SEC. 14A. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS OF SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT.—In this section, the terms 'small establishment' and 'very small establishment'

have the meanings given the terms 'smaller establishment' and 'very small establishment', respectively, in the final rule entitled 'Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems' (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).

''(b) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make publicly available—

''(1) a list of scientific studies, updated as necessary by the Secretary, for use by small establishments and very small establishments in developing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan, which list the Secretary shall update as necessary;

''(2) guidelines relating to best practices and techniques used by small establishments and very small establishments in the production of fresh or further processed poultry products; and

''(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans for small establishments and very small establishments, including model plans for—

''(A) slaughter-only establishments;

''(B) processing-only establishments; and

''(C) slaughter and processing establishments.

''(e) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity for public comment, providing information on the requirements that need to be met for small establishments and very small establishments to develop a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this Act.

''(d) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential business information of any poultry processing establishment, including a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan of a poultry processing establishment.

''(e) NONBINDING GUIDANCE.—Any guidance, model plans, or scientific resources made publicly available by the Secretary under this section shall be clearly identified as nonbinding examples that are not endorsed, approved, or considered universally applicable by the Secretary.

''(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section limits the ability of the Secretary to issue additional guidance, model plans, or scientific resources before or after the deadlines required under this section, as determined necessary by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 12108. NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

The Animal Health Protection Act is amended by inserting after section 10409A (7 U.S.C. 8308a) the following:

"SEC. 10409B. NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain and administer the National Poultry Improvement Plan in accordance with parts 145, 146, and 147 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section).

"(b) GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall maintain a general conference committee in accordance with part 147 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section) and chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, to provide recommendations to the Secretary on the administration of the National Poultry Improvement Plan under subsection (a).

"(c) SUCCESSOR REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate successor regulations to the regulations described in subsections (a) and (b) as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this section.

"(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until expended.

''(e) GENERAL LIMITATION.—The expenses of the general conference committee under subsection (b) shall not be counted toward any general limitation on the expenses of advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture contained in any Act making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, whether enacted before, on, or after June 23, 1998, unless the appropriation Act specifically—

''(1) refers to this subsection; and

''(2) includes the general conference committee under subsection (b) within the general limitation.''.

SEC. 12109. U.S. SWINE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

The Animal Health Protection Act is amended by inserting after section 10409B (as added by section 12108) the following:

''SEC. 10409C. U.S. SWINE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a voluntary certification program for swine diseases, to be known as the 'U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan', to improve biosecurity, traceability, disease surveillance, and foreign animal disease preparedness of the swine industry.

''(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a Federal advisory committee in accordance with chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, to provide recommendations to the Secretary in the administration of the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan established under subsection (a).

''(c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan under subsection (a) and the Federal advisory committee under subsection (b) by finalizing the proposed rule entitled 'US Swine Health Improvement Plan' (89 Fed. Reg. 107045 (December 31, 2024)), taking into consideration the comments received.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $4,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until expended.

''(e) GENERAL LIMITATION.—The expenses of the Federal advisory committee under subsection (b) shall not be counted toward any general limitation on the expenses of advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture contained in any Act making appropriations for the Department of Agri-

culture, whether enacted before, on, or after June 23, 1998, unless the appropriation Act specifically—

''(1) refers to this subsection; and

''(2) includes the Federal advisory committee under subsection (b) within the general limitation.''.

SEC. 12110. INTERSTATE INTERNET SALES OF CERTAIN STATE-INSPECTED MEAT AND POULTRY.

(a) MEAT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 301 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting ''or for distribution pursuant to the second sentence of subsection (c)(2)'' before the period at the end; and

(B) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''For the purposes of this paragraph, any retail store, restaurant, or similar retail-type establishment may sell over the internet and ship by carrier in commerce (other than for export to a foreign country) any State-inspected meat or meat food product, provided that the State-inspected meat or meat food product is shipped directly to household consumers and in normal retail quantities.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 301 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661) is amended—

(A) by striking ''he'' each place it appears and inserting ''the Secretary'';

(B) by striking ''him'' each place it appears and inserting ''the Secretary''; and

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking ''subparagraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking ''paragraph (c)'' and inserting ''subsection''; and

(II) in the third sentence (as so redesignated), by striking ''subparagraph'' and inserting ''paragraph'';

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking ''paragraph (c)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection'';

(II) by striking ''subparagraph (1)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)''; and

(III) by striking ''this paragraph'' each place it appears and inserting ''this subsection''; and

(iv) in paragraph (4), by striking ''paragraph (c)'' and inserting ''subsection''.

(b) POULTRY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 454) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting ''or for distribution pursuant to the second sentence of subsection (c)(2)'' before the period at the end; and

(B) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''For the purposes of this paragraph, any retail store, restaurant, or similar retail-type establishment may sell over the internet and ship by carrier in commerce (other than for export to a foreign country) any State-inspected poultry product, provided that the State-inspected poultry product is shipped directly to household consumers and in normal retail quantities.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 5 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 454) is amended—

(A) by striking ''he'' each place it appears and inserting ''the Secretary'';

(B) by striking ''him'' each place it appears and inserting ''the Secretary'';

(C) in subsection (a)(3), in the third sentence, by striking ''subparagraph (4)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''; and

(D) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking ''subparagraph (2) of this paragraph (c)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)''; and

(II) in the fourth sentence, by striking ''subparagraph (a)(4) of this section'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(4)'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking ''paragraph (c)'' and inserting ''subsection''; and

(II) in the third sentence (as so redesignated), by striking ''subparagraph'' and inserting ''paragraph'';

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking ''subparagraph (1) of this paragraph (c)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)'';

(II) by striking ''paragraph (c)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection''; and

(III) by striking ''this paragraph'' each place it appears and inserting ''this subsection''; and

(iv) in paragraph (4), by striking ''paragraph (c)'' and inserting ''subsection''.

SEC. 12111. OUTREACH ON COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT.

(a) MEAT.—Section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 683) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

''(j) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to States that—

''(1) have a State meat inspection program pursuant to section 301; but

''(2) do not have a selected establishment.

''(k) REPORT.—Not later than September 30 of each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Agriculture and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that describes the outreach activities carried out under subsection (j) and the results of that outreach.''.

(b) POULTRY.—Section 31 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to States that—

''(1) have a State poultry product inspection program pursuant to section 5; but

''(2) do not have a selected establishment.

''(j) REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in the report required under subsection (k) of section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 683) a description of the outreach activities carried out under subsection (i) and the results of that outreach.''.

SEC. 12112. LIVESTOCK AND MEAT MARKETING STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of the Chief Economist, shall offer to enter into a contract with an independent, nonpartisan research institute, a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), or a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as defined in that section) with expertise in economic analyses of the livestock and meat industry to carry out a study that—

(1) is similar in scope to the study funded under the heading ''SALARIES AND EXPENSES'' under the heading ''GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION'' under the heading ''AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS'' under title I of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Public Law 108–7; 117 Stat. 22); and

(2) analyzes production trends and marketing practices used in the livestock and meat industries, including the extent to which different marketing practices are used and the possible effects of the use of those marketing practices on industry participants, including consumers.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to

the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available on the website of the Department, a report containing the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $3,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Subtitle B—National Security

SEC. 12201. DEFINITIONS; ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508) is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through ''located in one'' in paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

''In this Act:

''(1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—The term 'agricultural land' means any land located in 1'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking ''(2) the term 'foreign government' means any government other than the

Federal Government'' and inserting the following:

''(2) FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.—The term 'foreign government' means any government other than the United States Government'';

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands'' and inserting ''a party to a Compact of Free Association with the United States''; and

(ii) in clause (iii), by inserting ''(8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.)'' before the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(C) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''(3) the term'' and inserting the following:

''(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term'';

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking ''(4) the term'' and inserting the following:

''(4) PERSON.—The term'';

(5) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking ''(5) the term'' and inserting the following:

''(5) SECRETARY.—The term''; and

(6) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking ''the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands'' and inserting ''any party to a Compact of Free Association with the United States''; and

(B) by striking ''(6) the term'' and inserting the following:

''(6) STATE.—The term''.

(b) ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 is amended—

(A) by redesignating sections 2, 3, and 4 (7 U.S.C. 3501, 3502, 3503) as sections 3, 4, and 5, respectively; and

(B) by redesignating section 9 (7 U.S.C. 3508) as section 2 and moving the section so as

to appear after section 1 (7 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 95–460).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 is amended—

(i) in section 5 (as redesignated by paragraph (1)(A))—

(I) by striking ''section 2'' and inserting ''section 3''; and

(II) by striking ''person who'' and inserting ''person that''; and

(ii) in section 6 (7 U.S.C. 3505)—

(I) by striking ''beginning after the effective date of section 2''; and

(II) by striking ''section 2 during such'' and inserting ''section 3 during that''.

(B) AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT.—Section 8c(5)(K)(i) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608c(5)(K)(i)) is amended, in the undesignated matter following subclause (II), by striking ''such term under section 9(3) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508(3))'' and in-

serting ''the term in section 2 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978''.

(3) REPEAL.—Section 10 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 95–460) is repealed.

SEC. 12202. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (as redesignated by section 12201(b)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking ''acquired or transferred'' and inserting ''acquired, transferred, or leased'';

(B) in paragraph (6), by inserting ''or lease'' after ''purchase'';

(C) in paragraph (7), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses appropriately; and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (9) as subparagraphs (A) through (I), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately;

(2) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through ''Such report'' in the second sentence of subsection (a) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) ACQUISITIONS OR TRANSFERS OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND INTERESTS BY FOREIGN PERSONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A foreign person that acquires or transfers any interest in agricultural land, or that enters into a leasing agreement the period of which is longer than 5 years with respect to agricultural land, shall submit to the Secretary a report describing the acquisition, transfer, or lease, as applicable, not later than 90 days after the date of the acquisition, transfer, or lease.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A report under paragraph (1)'';

(3) by striking subsection (b);

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking the third sentence;

(B) in the second sentence—

(i) by striking ''subsection (b) of this section'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A)

through (F), (H), and (I) of subsection (a)(2)''; and

(ii) by striking ''Such report'' and inserting the following:

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A report under paragraph (1)''; and

(C) by striking the subsection designation and all that follows through ''who subsequently'' in the first sentence and inserting the following:

''(b) CHANGE IN FOREIGN PERSON STATUS OF INTEREST HOLDERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A person that holds or acquires any interest in agricultural land at a time when the person is not a foreign person, and that subsequently'';

(5) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking the third sentence;

(B) in the second sentence—

(i) by striking ''subsection (b) of this section'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) through (F), (H), and (I) of subsection (a)(2)''; and

(ii) by striking ''Such report'' and inserting the following:

''(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A report under paragraphs (1) and (2)'';

(C) by striking the subsection designation and all that follows through ''security interest,'' in the first sentence and inserting the following: ''(c) CONVERSION OF LAND.—

''(1) CONVERSION OF LAND TO AGRICULTURAL USE.—A foreign person that holds or acquires any interest''; and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so designated) the following:

''(2) CONVERSION OF LAND OUT OF AGRICULTURAL USE.—A foreign person that holds or acquires any interest in agricultural land that subsequently ceases to be agricultural land shall submit a report to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the date on which that land ceases to be agricultural land.'';

(6) in subsection (e)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''each person who'' and inserting ''each person that'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(C) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking ''who is required by subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section'' and inserting ''that is required under subsection (a), (b), or (c)''; and

(ii) by striking ''(e) With respect'' and inserting the following:

''(d) ADDITIONAL REPORTS BY FOREIGN PERSONS OTHER THAN INDIVIDUALS OR GOVERNMENTS.—With respect''; and

(7) in subsection (f)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''any person who'' and inserting ''each person that'';

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''principle place'' and inserting ''principal place'';

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(D) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking ''subsection (e) of the section'' and inserting ''subsection (d)''; and

(ii) by striking ''(f) With respect'' and inserting the following:

''(e) PERSONS HOLDING CERTAIN INTERESTS.—With respect''.

SEC. 12203. CIVIL PENALTIES.

Section 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (as redesignated by section 12201(b)(1)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 4. CIVIL PENALTIES.

''(a) ASSESSMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall assess against a person a civil penalty if the Secretary determines that the person has committed a violation of this Act by—

''(A) failing to submit a report required under section 3 in accordance with that section;

''(B) knowingly submitting a report under section 3 that—

''(i) does not contain all information required to appear in the report; or

''(ii) contains information that is misleading or false; or

''(C) failing to update any report submitted under section 3 that presents information that is no longer accurate.

''(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of a civil penalty assessed under paragraph (1) shall be such amount as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Act, subject to the conditions that—

''(A) the amount determined for a violation described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of paragraph (1) shall not exceed 25 percent of the fair market value, on the date of the assessment, of the interest in agricultural land with respect to which the applicable violation occurred; and

''(B) the amount determined for a violation described in paragraph (1)(B) shall be not less than 5 percent, but not more than 25 percent, of the fair market value, on the date of the assessment, of the interest in agricultural land with respect to which the applicable violation occurred.

''(b) COLLECTION.—A civil penalty assessed under subsection (a) shall be recoverable in a civil action brought by the Attorney General of the United States in a United States district court of competent jurisdiction.

''(c) AVAILABILITY.—A civil penalty collected under this section shall be available to the Secretary, and remain

available until expended, for the purpose of enforcing this Act.

''(d) LIENS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—On assessing a civil penalty under subsection (a), the Secretary may place a lien on the agricultural land with respect to which the violation that is the subject of the penalty occurred.

''(2) RELEASE.—A lien placed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be released only on payment of the applicable civil penalty.

''(e) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—The Secretary shall include in the report required under section 9(a), and make publicly available, the following information:

''(1) The name of each person that paid to the Secretary a civil penalty assessed under subsection (a).

''(2) The amount of each civil penalty assessed under subsection (a), including, if applicable, any such penalty assessed after completion of an appeal of the penalty.

''(3) The reason for each civil penalty assessed under subsection (a), including whether the penalty was for a violation described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) of that subsection.''.

SEC. 12204. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.

Section 5 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (as redesignated and amended by section 12201(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through ''compliance'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 5. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may take such actions as the Secretary considers necessary to promote and monitor compliance''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) AUDIT.—The Secretary shall conduct an annual compliance audit of not less than 10 percent of the reports submitted under section 3 for the year covered by the audit to ensure the completeness and accuracy of those reports.

''(c) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall provide annual training to State- and county-level personnel relating to identifying agricultural land for which—

''(1) a report is required to be submitted under section 3; but

''(2) no report has been submitted by the applicable foreign person.

''(d) OUTREACH.—Using existing resources and efforts, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary

shall carry out a nationwide outreach program for landlords, owners, operators, persons, producers, and tenants (as those terms are defined in section 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026)) of agricultural land, county property appraiser offices, land appraisal companies, and real estate auction companies to increase public awareness and provide education regarding the reporting requirements under this Act.''.

SEC. 12205. PUBLIC INSPECTION.

Section 7 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3506) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 7. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF REPORTING DATA.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Secretary shall—

''(1) establish a streamlined process for electronic submission and retention of reports submitted under section 3; and

''(2) publish in the internet database established under section 742 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (7 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 118–42), human-readable and machine-readable data sets that—

''(A) contain a description of—

''(i) the purchase or lease price paid, or any other consideration given, for each interest in agricultural land for which a report is submitted under section 3;

''(ii) updated estimated values of each interest in agricultural land described in subparagraph (A), as that information is made available to the Secretary, based on the most recently assessed value of the agricultural land or another comparable method determined by the Secretary;

''(iii) with respect to any agricultural land for which a report is submitted under section 3, updated descriptions of each foreign person that holds an interest in the agricultural land, as that information is made available to the Secretary, categorized as a majority owner or a minority owner of the agricultural land; and

''(iv) any other relevant information, as determined by the Secretary, relating to reporting requirements under this Act, based on each report submitted to the Secretary under section 3; and

''(B) as soon as practicable after 30 days after the date of receipt of a report under section 3, be updated with the data from that report.

''(b) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure the protection of personally identifiable information contained in reports submitted under section 3.''.

SEC. 12206. SECRETARIAL REPORTS.

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (as amended by section 12201(b)(1)) is amended by inserting after section 8 (7 U.S.C. 3507) the following:

''SEC. 9. SECRETARIAL REPORTS.

''(a) REPORT ON DATA COLLECTED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available, a report describing, with respect to the year covered by the report—

''(A) a description of—

''(i) the number of acres of agricultural land owned, leased, or managed by foreign persons, organized by State; and

"(ii) for each State, the percentage of land owned or managed by foreign persons compared to the total acreage of the State;

"(B) the activities carried out by the Secretary pursuant to this Act;

"(C) the intended and unintended misrepresentation of foreign landownership in any annual reports prepared by the Secretary describing foreign holdings of agricultural land due to inaccurate reporting of foreign holdings of agricultural land; and

"(D) any specific activities carried out by the Secretary to monitor erroneous reporting required under this Act that would result in—

"(i) a violation of this Act; or

"(ii) the assessment of a civil penalty under section 4, including the information described in subsection (e) of that section.

"(2) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall ensure the protection of personally identifiable information contained in the report pursuant to subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).

"(b) INTERAGENCY REPORT ON FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN AGRICULTURE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, and

not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary, jointly with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the head of any other appropriate Federal agency, shall—

''(1) conduct an analysis of foreign influence in the United States agricultural sector; and

''(2) submit to Congress a report, which may be included with the report submitted under subsection (a), that includes a summary, with respect to the year covered by the report, of—

''(A) foreign investments in the United States agricultural sector;

''(B) trends relating to the purchase of agricultural land in the United States by foreign-owned shell corporations;

''(C) the risks and benefits, as determined by the Secretary, that are associated with foreign ownership or leasing of agricultural land in rural areas (as defined in section 520 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490));

''(D) the risks to the agricultural sector of the United States posed by foreign purchases of United States businesses engaged in agriculture;

"(E) the potential for foreign investment to undermine United States agricultural production and agricultural supply chains;

"(F) the greatest international threats of increased foreign control of, and investment in, the United States agricultural sector; and

"(G) agriculture-related espionage and theft techniques used by foreign governments, including any attempts to target United States agricultural intellectual property, innovation, research and development, cost or pricing data, or internal strategy documents.

"(c) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Secretary shall, in coordination with any other Federal agency as determined by the Secretary, submit to Congress a report describing—

"(1) the progress of the Secretary in implementing the amendments made to this Act by the Agricultural Act of 2026;

"(2) the feasibility of establishing a mechanism for quantifying the threats posed by foreign persons to United States food security, biosecurity, food

safety, environmental protection, and national defense; and

''(3) the feasibility of establishing a rigorous discovery and review process to review transactions that may be transactions described in section 721(a)(4)(B) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(4)(B)) for referral to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.''.

SEC. 12207. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6922) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through ''section, the'' and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEFENSE.—The''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) FOOD AND AGRICULTURE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR.—The term 'food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector' means any physical infrastructure, energy production, or land

associated with the production, including the storage, manufacturing, and processing, of crops, livestock, poultry, or forestry, as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).'';

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(i) by striking ''(as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003))''; and

(ii) by striking ''124h(j))'' and inserting ''124h(j)))'';

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (12), (13), and (16), respectively;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

''(6) be responsible for leveraging the capabilities of the intelligence community and research conducted by the National Laboratories relating to in-

telligence to ensure that the Secretary is fully informed of threats by foreign actors to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector;

''(7) advise the Secretary on foreign efforts—

''(A) to steal knowledge and technology from the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector; and

''(B) to develop or implement biological warfare attacks, cyber or clandestine operations, or other means of sabotaging and disrupting the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector;

''(8) prepare, conduct, and facilitate intelligence briefings for the Secretary and appropriate officials of the Department;

''(9) serve as the Federal Senior Intelligence Coordinator of the Department, and as the liaison between the Secretary and the intelligence community, with the authority to request intelligence collection and analysis on matters relating to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector;

''(10) collaborate with the intelligence community to downgrade intelligence assessments for broader dissemination within the Department;

''(11) facilitate the sharing with the intelligence community of information acquired by the Department regarding foreign activities relating to agriculture;''; and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (13) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(14) coordinate with the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency to monitor compliance with the reporting requirements of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.);

''(15) refer to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States any transactions that raise potential national security concerns; and'';

(3) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) by striking ''(as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003))''; and

(B) by striking ''124h(j)) that have'' and inserting ''124h(j))) that have''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) DETAILEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may detail employees of the Department to, and accept employees detailed from, the intelligence community and

other relevant departments and agencies, as necessary, to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Homeland Security.

''(2) OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—

''(A) FROM DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary may detail employees from across the Department to the Office of Homeland Security.

''(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Office of Homeland Security may accept an employee detailed under paragraph (1) or subparagraph (A) without reimbursement.''.

Subtitle C—Fertilizer

SEC. 12301. CROP INPUT ECONOMIST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 224B. CROP INPUT ECONOMIST.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish for the Department, in the Office of the Chief Economist, the full-time position of Crop Input Economist to coordinate across the Department the development of reports on, including assessments of, the domestic and international crop input market.

''(b) DUTIES.—The Crop Input Economist shall—

''(1) serve as a liaison between the Department, other Federal agencies, and Congress with respect to the crop input market;

''(2) make available to the public on the website of the Department routine reports on, with respect to the crop input market—

''(A) supply and demand conditions;

''(B) pricing indicators;

''(C) trade flows; and

''(D) any other market trends;

''(3) assess any volatility, disruption, or supply chain risk in the crop input market;

''(4) with respect to such volatility, disruption, or risk, assess any implication for producers and food security in the United States;

''(5) improve the collection, quality, transparency, and accessibility of data on the crop input market, including through coordination with other Federal agencies;

''(6) coordinate research on improving transparency, resilience, and competitiveness with respect to the supply chain for crop inputs;

''(7) provide to the Secretary any recommendations related to the results of such research;

''(8) support research evaluating any connection between—

''(A) the availability, affordability, and efficiency of crop inputs; and

''(B) agricultural productivity, food security, and conservation outcomes; and

''(9) submit to Congress and provide publicly, at such time and in such manner as is determined by the Secretary, reports containing the information described in this subsection.

''(c) DESIGNATION; VACANCIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall designate an individual as the Crop Input Economist.

''(2) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the position of Crop Input Economist shall be filled as soon as practicable.''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue such rules as are necessary to implement the amendments made by this section.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by redesig-

nating section 225 (7 U.S.C. 6925) (relating to the Food Access Liaison) as section 224A.

(2) Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry out the amendments made to this title by the Agricultural Act of 2026.''.

SEC. 12302. FERTILIZER RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Economic Research Service, shall publish on the website of the Department a report on the United States fertilizer industry, including—

(1) a description of the impacts on the fertilizer industry that influence the prices that agricultural producers receive for their agricultural products at the location of the farm;

(2) a description of the current size and value, and the size and value over the previous 25 years, of the United States fertilizer market, including—

(A) any trends over the previous 25 years; and

(B) such sizes and values by each type of fertilizer;

(3) a description of any patterns in pricing of fertilizer over the previous 25 years;

(4) a description of the importation of fertilizer into the United States, including—

(A) a list of types of fertilizer that are imported into the United States, including the quantity of each type of fertilizer imported;

(B) a list of foreign companies and domestic companies that import into the United States fertilizer, including the quantity of fertilizer imported by each company;

(C) a list of the countries from which fertilizer is imported into the United States; and

(D) a description of the impacts that antidumping duties and countervailing duties have on prices of fertilizer paid at the retail level;

(5) an overview of the manufacturing level, distribution channels, and retail level of the fertilizer supply chain, including transportation, logistics, and supply chain disruptions from natural disasters;

(6) a study of the concentration of the United States fertilizer industry in United States fertilizer companies, including an evaluation of the extent to

which concentration has had any anticompetitive impacts;

(7) a description of the prices, crop-use efficiencies, and crop yields of emerging fertilizers and fertilizer technologies, including biological fertilizers and other recently developed tools, compared to conventional fertilizers and fertilizer technologies;

(8) an assessment of the regulatory environment governing fertilizer production, distribution, and usage, including a description of areas in which regulatory burden is hampering domestic production, distribution, and usage of fertilizer;

(9) a description of the extent to which current public price reporting of fertilizer is transparent for market participants and the extent to which further public price reporting is needed to achieve transparency for market participants, including—

(A) an evaluation of the potential for the Secretary to establish a fertilizer reporting mechanism in which the fertilizer industry is required to report fertilizer prices at multiple levels of the supply chain on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis; and

(B) a recommendation to Congress on whether a reporting mechanism described in subparagraph (A) should be established; and

(10) a description of the projected growth of the United States fertilizer market and the anticipated economic and political risks to fertilizer production as a result of that growth.

(b) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—The report published under subsection (a) shall not include any confidential business information.

SEC. 12303. FERTILIZER MANDATORY REPORTING.

Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) (as amended by section 4306) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 210C. FERTILIZER MANDATORY REPORTING.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AFFILIATE.—The term 'affiliate' means, with respect to a manufacturer or wholesaler (excluding a cooperative), a person that directly or indirectly owns, controls, or holds, with voting power, not less than 5 percent of the outstanding voting securities of the manufacturer or wholesaler (excluding a cooperative).

''(2) COOPERATIVE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'cooperative' means—

"(i) an association of agricultural producers acting pursuant to—

"(I) the Act entitled 'An Act to authorize association of producers of agricultural products' (commonly known as the 'Capper-Volstead Act') (7 U.S.C. 291 et seq.);

"(II) the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937; or

"(III) the Act of July 2, 1926 (commonly known as the 'Cooperative Marketing Act') (7 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

"(ii) a farmers' cooperative organization described in subsection (b)(1) of section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under subsection (a) of that section; and

"(iii) an association of agricultural producers otherwise operating on a cooperative basis for the benefit of its members.

"(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'cooperative' includes any entity not less than 25 percent of which is owned by a cooperative, as defined in subparagraph (A).

"(3) MARKETED.—The term 'marketed' means the sale or other disposition in commerce of—

"(A) nitrogen, phosphorous, or potassium for use as fertilizer; or

"(B) a fertilizer product.

"(4) RETAILER.—The term 'retailer' means a person or entity that primarily sells fertilizer products at retail.

"(5) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

"(6) WHOLESALER.—The term 'wholesaler' means any person or entity, not including a cooperative, engaged in the business of buying and selling fertilizer or fertilizer products for resale or distribution.

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program of fertilizer and fertilizer product price information reporting that will—

''(1) provide timely, accurate, and reliable market information that can be readily understood by farmers and market participants;

''(2) facilitate more informed marketing decisions; and

''(3) promote competition in the fertilizer and fertilizer products industry.

''(c) GENERAL REPORTING PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO MANUFACTURERS, WHOLESALERS, AND THE SECRETARY.—Whenever the prices or quantities of fertilizer or fertilizer products are required to be reported or published under this section, the prices or quantities shall be categorized so as to clearly delineate—

''(1) the prices or quantities, as applicable, of the fertilizer or fertilizer product marketed in the United States by a domestic manufacturer or wholesaler or an affiliate of a domestic manufacturer or wholesaler; and

''(2) the prices or quantities, as applicable, of the fertilizer or fertilizer product marketed in the United States by a foreign manufacturer or wholesaler or an affiliate of a foreign manufacturer or wholesaler.

''(d) WEEKLY REPORTING.—

''(1) NITROGEN, PHOSPHOROUS, AND POTASSIUM.—The corporate officers or officially designated representatives of each manufacturer or wholesaler of nitrogen, phosphorous, or potassium for use as fertilizer shall report to the Secretary at least weekly—

''(A) the prices, as marketed, for nitrogen, phosphorous, or potassium, as applicable; and

''(B) the quantities of nitrogen, phosphorous, or potassium, as applicable, manufactured and marketed, as applicable.

''(2) FERTILIZER PRODUCTS.—The corporate officers or officially designated representatives of each manufacturer or wholesaler of a fertilizer product shall report to the Secretary at least weekly—

''(A) the prices for the fertilizer product; and

''(B) the quantity of the fertilizer product manufactured or marketed, as applicable.

''(3) MANDATORY REPORTING EXEMPTION FOR COOPERATIVES AND NON-MANUFACTURER RETAILERS; VOLUNTARY REPORTING.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) exempt all cooperatives and retailers (except for retailers that are also manufactur-

ers) from any mandatory price reporting under this section; and

"(B) provide a mechanism for cooperatives and retailers to voluntarily and confidentially report the prices and quantities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraphs (1) and (2)—

"(i) directly to the Secretary; or

"(ii) through the program established under subsection (e).

"(4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make the information reported to the Secretary under this subsection available to the public—

"(A) not less frequently than weekly; and

"(B) in a manner that ensures the information is published—

"(i) on a national basis; and

"(ii) on a regional or statewide basis, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(5) COMPETITIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS.—The Secretary may conduct a competitive effects analysis of the information reported to the Secretary under this subsection.

"(e) FERTILIZER RETAIL SURVEY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program within Market News of the Agricultural Marketing Service—

''(A) to conduct not less frequently than weekly surveys of retail fertilizer prices;

''(B) to obtain commercially available estimates of the retail prices described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) to provide State or regional estimates or benchmarks and formulas to allow estimation of local prices.

''(2) MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING ACTIVITIES.—The program established under paragraph (1) shall supplement, and not supplant, existing input price collection activities of the Secretary.

''(f) SUMMARY OF DATA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, directly or through 1 or more cooperative agreements with 1 or more affiliated agricultural research programs, not less frequently than weekly summarize and make available on a dashboard or other resource easily accessible to farmers and market participants—

''(A) the information reported to the Secretary under subsection (d); and

"(B) the retail survey prices and commercially available estimates obtained under subsection (e).

"(2) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall aggregate the information and data in a manner that prevents confidential business information and the identity of persons, including parties to a contract, from being disclosed publicly.

"(3) DISCLOSURE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), no officer, employee, or agent of the United States shall, without the consent of the manufacturer, wholesaler, or other person concerned, divulge or make known in any manner any facts or information regarding the business of the manufacturer, wholesaler, or other person that was acquired through reporting required under subsection (d).

"(B) EXCEPTION.—Information obtained by the Secretary under subsection (d) may be disclosed—

"(i) to agents or employees of the Department of Agriculture in the course of their official duties under this subtitle;

"(ii) as directed by the Secretary or the Attorney General, for enforcement purposes; or

"(iii) by a court of competent jurisdiction.

"(C) DISCLOSURE UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no facts or information obtained under this subtitle shall be disclosed in accordance with section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

"(g) REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 2 years, the Secretary shall review the information required to be reported to the Secretary by manufacturers and wholesalers under this section.

"(h) OUTDATED INFORMATION.—If the Secretary determines under a review under subsection (g) that information required to be reported under this section no longer accurately reflects the methods by which nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium for use as fertilizer or fertilizer products are valued and priced by manufacturers and wholesalers, the Secretary shall, after public notice

and an opportunity for comment, promulgate regulations to specify additional information that shall be reported under this section.

''(i) APPLICATION OF ANTITRUST LAWS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section modifies, impairs, or supersedes the operation of any of the antitrust laws.

''(2) DEFINITION OF ANTITRUST LAWS.—In this subsection, the term 'antitrust laws'—

''(A) has the meaning given the term in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12); and

''(B) includes section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45) to the extent that such section applies to unfair methods of competition.

''(j) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations—

''(1) to define the term 'manufacturer' and further define the term 'retailer' for purposes of this section; and

''(2) to consider the development of a map depicting regional fertilizer prices and quantities.''.

Subtitle D—United States Grain Standards Reauthorization

SEC. 12401. PRIORITIZING IMPROVEMENTS TO GRAIN GRADING TECHNOLOGY.

Section 2(b) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 74(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3)(F), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) that the Secretary shall prioritize the adoption of improved grain grading technology to provide for the efficient, accurate, and consistent grading of grain.''.

SEC. 12402. ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) MANNER OF INSPECTION OF DOMESTIC GRAIN AT EXPORT PORT LOCATIONS.—The Secretary may provide that grain that is not export grain and is loaded into or unloaded out of a rail car, barge, truck, or other container at an export port location shall be inspected in the manner provided in this

subsection or subsection (f), as the Secretary determines will best meet the objectives of this Act.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7A(c)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79a(c)(2)) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting ''or official agency'' after ''State agency''.

SEC. 12403. INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(j) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(j)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''trust'' before ''fund'' each place it appears;

(2) in paragraph (3), in the second sentence, by striking ''Secretary shall be credited to the fund'' and inserting ''Secretary, and the interest earned from the investment of those penalties, shall be credited to the trust fund created in paragraph (1)''; and

(3) in paragraph (5), in the first sentence, by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2033''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 7(g)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(g)(2)) is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting ''trust'' before ''fund''.

(2) Section 7A(l) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79a(l)) is amended by in-

serting ''trust'' before ''fund created in section 7(j)'' each place it appears.

(3) Section 7B(a) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79b(a)) is amended, in the third sentence, by inserting ''trust'' before ''fund''.

(4) Section 16(j) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87e(j)) is amended by inserting ''trust'' before ''fund''.

(5) Section 17A(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87f–1(e)) is amended, in the third sentence, by inserting ''trust'' before ''fund''.

SEC. 12404. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY COSTS.

Section 7D of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79d) is amended—

(1) by inserting '', equipment, and development of technology'' after ''activities''; and

(2) by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2033''.

SEC. 12405. GENERAL AUTHORITIES.

Section 16(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87e(e)) is amended by inserting ''State agencies delegated authority under sections 7 and 7A, and official agencies,'' after ''Department of Agriculture,''.

SEC. 12406. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 17B(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87f–2(e)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) DATA.—The Secretary''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) TECHNOLOGY ANALYSIS.—The Secretary shall, to the extent determined appropriate by the Secretary, in consultation with State agencies delegated authority under sections 7 and 7A, official agencies, and the grain industries described in the second sentence of section 21(a), publish—

''(A) an analysis of any existing deficiencies in the technology evaluation process; and

''(B) recommendations—

''(i) to advance the efficiency, accuracy, and consistency of grain grading; and

''(ii) to minimize costs imposed on the Federal Government and the grain export industry.''.

SEC. 12407. IMPROVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS EFFICIENCY AND CONTINUITY.

Section 21 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87j) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) NOMINATIONS; APPOINTMENT.—

''(A) NOMINATIONS.—Before the terms of the current members of the advisory committee expire, the Secretary shall solicit nominations for individuals to be appointed to the advisory committee.

''(B) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the end of the period of soliciting nominations under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall announce the new members that the Secretary has appointed to the advisory committee.

''(C) CONTINUITY OF SERVICE.—The current members of the advisory committee may continue to serve until such time as new members are nominated and appointed by the Secretary.'';

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (5) (as added by subparagraph (A))—

(i) in the fourth sentence, by striking ''No member'' and inserting the following:

''(4) TERM LIMIT.—No member'';

(ii) in the third sentence, by striking ''Members'' and inserting the following:

''(3) TERM LENGTH.—Members'';

(iii) in the second sentence, by striking ''The advisory'' and inserting the following:

''(2) COMPOSITION.—The advisory'';

(iv) in the first sentence, by inserting ''(referred to in this section as the 'advisory committee')'' before the period at the end; and

(v) by striking ''(a) Not later'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later''; and

(C) in paragraph (4) (as so designated), by striking ''terms'' and inserting ''terms unless the member is continuing to serve in accordance with paragraph (5)(C)''; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2033''.

SEC. 12408. REAUTHORIZATION OF OTHER EXPIRING PROVISIONS.

(a) WEIGHING FEES AND DUTIES.—Section 7A(l)(4) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79a(l)(4)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2033''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 19(a) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87h(a)) is amended by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2033''.

Subtitle E—Year-Round E15 and RFS Reform

SEC. 12501. YEAR-ROUND E15 AND RFS REFORM.

(a) ETHANOL WAIVER.—

(1) EXISTING WAIVERS.—Section 211(f)(4) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(f)(4)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(4) The Administrator, upon'' and inserting the following:

''(4) WAIVERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, on'';

(B) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated)—

(i) in the first sentence—

(I) by striking ''of this subsection'' each place it appears; and

(II) by striking ''if he determines'' and inserting ''if the Administrator determines''; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking ''The Administrator'' and inserting the following:

''(B) FINAL ACTION.—The Administrator''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) REID VAPOR PRESSURE.—A fuel or fuel additive may be introduced into commerce if—

''(i)(I) the Administrator determines that the fuel or fuel additive is substantially similar to a fuel or fuel additive utilized in the certification of any model year vehicle pursuant to paragraph (1)(A); or

''(II) the fuel or fuel additive has been granted a waiver under subparagraph (A) and meets all of the conditions of that waiver other than any limitation of the waiver with respect to the Reid Vapor Pressure of the fuel or fuel additive; and

"(ii) the fuel or fuel additive meets all other applicable Reid Vapor Pressure requirements under subsection (h).".

(2) REID VAPOR PRESSURE LIMITATION.—Section 211(h) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(h)) is amended—

(A) by striking "vapor pressure" each place it appears and inserting "Vapor Pressure";

(B) in paragraph (4), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "10 percent" and inserting "10 to 15 percent"; and

(C) in paragraph (5)(A)—

(i) by striking "Upon notification, accompanied by" and inserting "On receipt of a notification that is submitted after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, and is accompanied by appropriate";

(ii) by striking "10 percent" and inserting "10 to 15 percent"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following: "Upon the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, any State for which the notification from the Governor of a

State was submitted after January 1, 2022, and before the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026 and to which the Administrator applied the Reid Vapor Pressure limitation established by paragraph (1) shall instead have the Reid Vapor Pressure limitation established by paragraph (4) apply to all fuel blends containing gasoline and 10 to 15 percent denatured anhydrous ethanol that are sold, offered for sale, dispensed, supplied, offered for supply, transported, or introduced into commerce in the area during the high ozone season.''.

(b) TERMINATION OF PETITIONS; ADJUSTED OBLIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 211(o)(9) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(9)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''A small'' and inserting ''Subject to clause (iv), a small''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) TERMINATION OF EXEMPTION AND PETITIONS.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in calendar year 2028, the Administrator may not apply or enforce any extension of an exemption granted pursuant to a petition under this subparagraph or otherwise continue to enforce the exemption under subparagraph (A) with respect to any small refinery.

"(II) LIMITATION ON PETITIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

"(aa) no small refinery may petition for an extension under this subparagraph with respect to any calendar year after calendar year 2027;

"(bb) the Administrator may not consider any petition for an extension under this subparagraph, with respect to any calendar year, that is submitted after July 1, 2028; and

''(cc) to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall, not later than October 1, 2028, act on all outstanding petitions.'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) SMALL REFINERY CERTAINTY.—

''(i) REDUCTION OF COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.—Beginning in calendar year 2028 and for each calendar year thereafter, the Administrator shall reduce the compliance requirements under paragraph (2) for a calendar year for each small refinery that received an exemption under subparagraph (A)(i) by a volume equal to the lesser of—

''(I) the greatest actual annual production volume of transportation fuel by the small refinery during any of calendar years 2023 through 2025 for which the small refinery—

"(aa) petitioned for an extension of an exemption under subparagraph (B) by June 1, 2026; and

"(bb) met the requirements of paragraph (1)(K); and

"(II) the actual annual production volume of transportation fuel produced by the small refinery during the calendar year during which the Administrator is applying the reduction under this clause.

"(ii) APPLICATION OF OBLIGATIONS FOR EXCEEDANCES.—If the actual annual production volume of transportation fuel by a small refinery exceeds the volume described in clause (i)(I) in a calendar year, the amount of the actual annual production volume that exceeds the amount described in that clause shall be subject to the obligations under paragraph (2).

"(iii) NO SUBSEQUENT REDESIGNATION.—If, in calendar year 2028 or any calendar year thereafter, a refinery no longer meets the requirements of para-

graph (1)(K) to be a small refinery, the Administrator may not apply the reduction under clause (i) in whole or in part during the calendar year in which the refinery no longer meets those requirements or any subsequent calendar year.

''(iv) REALLOCATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(B)(ii) and except as provided in subclause (II), in calendar year 2028 and each calendar year thereafter, when determining compliance obligations for parties subject to paragraph (2) implementing the applicable volumes determined under that paragraph, the Administrator shall reallocate all volumes of transportation fuel for which small refineries were not obligated as a result of the application of clause (i) for that calendar year, less a volume of transportation fuel equivalent to an obligation of renewable fuel that the Administrator determines has, in total, an energy content equal to the energy

content of 500,000,000 gallons of conventional biofuel, based on a projection of the volume of transportation fuel that the Administrator expects to be exempt as a result of the application of that clause for that calendar year.

''(II) VOLUME ADJUSTMENT.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(B)(ii), in calendar year 2028 and each calendar year thereafter, the Administrator shall reconcile the projection made under subclause (I) with the actual annual volume of transportation fuel that is exempt as a result of the application of clause (i) for the applicable calendar year by adding or subtracting a corresponding reallocated volume of transportation fuel in a subsequent calendar year.''.

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section affects any remedy available to a small refinery (as defined in paragraph (1) of section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o))) with respect to petitions

for extensions of exemptions under paragraph (9) of that section and, for purposes of the application of those extensions and the review of the denial of those petitions, paragraph (9) of that section shall be applied as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) GENERATION OF CREDITS BY SMALL REFINERIES UNDER THE RENEWABLE FUEL PROGRAM.—Section 211(o)(9) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(9)) (as amended by subsection (b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) CREDITS GENERATED FOR 2016–2018 COMPLIANCE YEARS.—

''(i) RULE.—For any small refinery described in clause (ii) or (iii), the credits described in the respective clause shall be—

''(I) returned to the small refinery and, notwithstanding paragraph (5)(C), deemed eligible for future compliance years; or

''(II) applied as a credit in the EPA Moderated Transaction System (EMTS) account of the small refinery.

"(ii) COMPLIANCE YEARS 2016 AND 2017.—Clause (i) applies with respect to any small refinery that—

"(I) retired credits generated for compliance years 2016 or 2017; and

"(II) submitted a petition under subparagraph (B)(i) for that compliance year that remained outstanding as of December 1, 2022.

"(iii) COMPLIANCE YEAR 2018.—In addition to small refineries described in clause (ii), clause (i) applies with respect to any small refinery—

"(I) that submitted a petition under subparagraph (B)(i) for compliance year 2018 by September 1, 2019;

"(II) that retired credits generated for compliance year 2018 as part of the compliance demonstration of the small refinery for compliance year 2018 by March 31, 2019; and

"(III) for which—

"(aa) the petition remained outstanding as of December 1, 2022; or

"(bb) the Administrator denied the petition as of July 1, 2022, and has not returned the retired credits as of December 1, 2022.".

(d) FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, after a period of notice and public comment, finalize a rule modifying the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) (commonly known as the "Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976") relating to the sale and distribution of gasoline-ethanol blends that contain greater than 10 volume percent ethanol and less than or equal to 15 volume percent ethanol.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In finalizing the rule required under paragraph (1), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall modify

the E15 fuel dispenser labeling requirements and the underground storage tank regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to compatibility with gasoline-ethanol blends.

Subtitle F—Other Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 12601. PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER.

Section 12502(b)(8)(A) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127(8)(A)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 12602. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Health Protection Act is amended by inserting after section 10404 (7 U.S.C. 8303) the following:

''SEC. 10404A. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COMPENSATION.—The term 'compensation' means any act, consideration, or thing of value received by a person directly, including cash or noncash benefits, cost-avoidance, obtaining positive or avoiding negative publicity, an exchange of services, or maintaining a license issued under any local, State, or Federal government authority.

''(2) IMPORT TRANSPORTER.—The term 'import transporter' means any person or entity who—

''(A) receives an imported dog from any importer, dealer, research facility, exhibitor, operator of an auction sale, or department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or of any State or local government; and

''(B) receives compensation for moving that imported dog in commerce.

''(3) IMPORTER.—The term 'importer' means any person who transports or causes the transportation of a dog into the United States from a foreign country.

''(4) TRANSFER.—The term 'transfer' means a change of ownership or control of an imported dog to another person, including by sale, adoption, exchange, or donation.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no person shall import a dog into the United States unless, prior to transport to the United States, the Secretary receives electronic documentation demonstrating, as determined by the Secretary, that the dog—

''(A) is in good health;

"(B) has received all necessary vaccinations and internal and external parasite treatment and demonstrated negative test results, as required by the Secretary and evidenced by a certificate that—

"(i) is issued by a licensed veterinarian accredited by a competent veterinary authority recognized by the Secretary; and

"(ii) is endorsed by that authority in a manner representing that the veterinarian issuing the certificate was authorized to do so;

"(C) is officially identified by a permanent method approved by the Secretary; and

"(D) if intended for transfer—

"(i) is at least 6 months old; and

"(ii) is accompanied by an import permit issued by the Secretary under this Act.

"(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, by regulation, shall provide an exception to any requirement under this Act in any case in which a dog is imported—

"(A) as a personal pet of United States origin returning to the United States;

"(B) as a United States military working dog or contracted working dog supporting a military mission or tasking; or

"(C) for purposes of transfer for—

"(i) research purposes;

"(ii) veterinary treatment, paid for by the importer, subject to the condition that the dog—

"(I) is taken directly to a veterinary facility for treatment with appropriate quarantine until the dog meets the criteria described in paragraph (1); and

"(II) is then exported to its country of origin; or

"(iii) in the case of a dog that is less than 6 months old, lawful importation into the State of Hawaii from the British Isles, Australia, Guam, or New Zealand, in compliance with the regulations of the State of Hawaii and the other requirements of this section, if the dog is not transported out of the State of Hawaii for transfer at less than 6 months of age.

''(c) IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2026, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Transportation, shall promulgate such regulations as the Secretary determines to be necessary to implement and enforce this section, including regulations that—

''(1) facilitate electronic submission and interagency sharing of all documentation required under subsection (b)(1) prior to the arrival of a dog into the United States;

''(2) establish any necessary post-arrival verification processes for imported dogs;

''(3) ensure the denial of entry into the United States of any dog that fails to meet the requirements of subsection (b)(1);

''(4) require each importer, import transporter, intermediate handler, or carrier receiving a certificate described in subsection (b)(1)(B) to submit a copy of the certificate to the Secretary;

''(5) require the Secretary to maintain the information submitted under paragraph (4) in a centralized database and, on request by a State veteri-

narian, promptly share the information with the State veterinarian not later than 3 days after such request is received by the Secretary;

''(6) require the Secretary to annually submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that describes the aggregated data maintained under paragraph (5), including information on the country of origin and purpose of the import; and

''(7) determine and establish such fees for the verification of documentation and issuance of permits with respect to dog importation as are necessary to fund the implementation and enforcement of this section.

''(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (c)(7) limits the availability of funding made available under section 10417 to carry out this section.

''(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have the authority granted under section 10414 to enforce this section.

''(2) PENALTIES.—An importer or import transporter that fails to comply with this section shall—

''(A) be subject to penalties under section 10414; and

''(B) provide, as the Secretary may determine, at the expense of the importer or import transporter, for—

''(i) the care (including appropriate veterinary care), forfeiture, quarantine, and removal from the United States of each applicable dog; and

''(ii) the return of each applicable dog to its place of export, with due care for the welfare of each applicable dog.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 18 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) is repealed.

(c) TRANSITION PERIOD.—Until the date on which final regulations are issued under section 10404A(c) of the Animal Health Protection Act (as added by subsection (a)), the importation of live dogs shall be regulated in accordance with the regulations promulgated under section 18 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), but only to the extent that those regulations are not in conflict with section 10404A of that Act.

SEC. 12603. DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION INITIATIVES.

Section 12513(i) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 1632d(i)) is amended by striking ''$20,000,000'' and inserting ''$36,000,000''.

SEC. 12604. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING FOR COOKED KING CRAB AND TANNER CRAB AND COOKED AND CANNED SALMON.

Section 281 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting ''(excluding wild fish described in clause (ii) or (iii) of paragraph (7)(B))'' after ''an item described in subparagraph (A)''; and

(2) in paragraph (7)(B)—

(A) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by striking ''includes a fillet'' and inserting the following: ''includes—

''(i) a fillet''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) cooked (including by frying, broiling, grilling, boiling, steaming, baking, and roasting)—

''(I) salmon;

''(II) whole king crab and tanner crab; and

''(III) king crab and tanner crab sections; and

''(iii) canned salmon.''.

SEC. 12605. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SEAFOOD.

Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) (as amended by section 12301(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 224C. OFFICE OF SEAFOOD.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Office of Seafood to improve coordination within the Department, and with other Federal, State, local, and nongovernmental entities, relating to the domestic harvesting, processing, and consumption of wild and farmed seafood in the United States.

''(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office of Seafood shall—

''(1) coordinate seafood policies and activities within the Department and with other Federal agencies, including the Department of Commerce, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative;

''(2) provide strategic analysis, planning, communication, and coordination of Department and interagency activities for wild and farmed seafood;

''(3) coordinate efforts to provide economic analysis to advise the Secretary and the Chief Economist regarding the development, availability, pro-

motion, and use of seafood produced in the United States in Department programs and policies;

''(4) coordinate with the Foreign Agricultural Service and the Economic Research Service to integrate analysis of wild and farmed seafood products into existing analyses of the agricultural exports of the United States, including analysis on the competitiveness of United States wild and farmed seafood producers in global markets;

''(5) identify opportunities to provide integrated access for United States wild and farmed seafood producers to Department programs; and

''(6) perform such other functions as may be required by law or prescribed by the Secretary.

''(c) OUTREACH.—The Office of Seafood shall consult with wild and farmed seafood harvesters and producers that may be affected by policies or actions of the Department, as necessary, in carrying out the responsibilities described in subsection (b), which may include providing technical assistance regarding access to applicable Department programs.''.

SEC. 12606. STUDY AND REPORT ON EXPANDING SEAFOOD PROCESSING CAPACITY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation

with the Secretary of Commerce and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall conduct a study to evaluate methods to facilitate more domestic processing of United States-caught seafood in coastal communities, including—

(1) an identification of coastal communities in which—

(A) commercial fishing is a significant economic driver;

(B) current processing infrastructure is not sufficient to meet the needs of the seafood industry; and

(C) there exists a need and a voiced community desire for the creation of new, or the rehabilitation of existing, seafood processing infrastructure to allow the coastal community to process caught seafood and provide seafood to local, national, and international markets; and

(2) an extensive evaluation of all potential Federal and State programs for facilitating the expanded processing of seafood, including recommendations to improve the access of seafood producers to those programs.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to

Congress, and make publicly available, a report describing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 12607. INNOVATIVE FEED ENHANCEMENT.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(tt)(1) The term 'zootechnical animal food substance' means a substance that—

''(A) is added to the food or drinking water of animals;

''(B) is intended to—

''(i) affect the byproducts of the digestive process of an animal;

''(ii) reduce the presence of foodborne pathogens of human health significance in an animal intended to be used for food; or

''(iii) affect the structure or function of the body of the animal, other than by providing nutritive value, by altering the animal's gastrointestinal microbiome; and

''(C) achieves its intended effect by acting solely within the gastrointestinal tract of the animal.

''(2) Such term does not include a substance that—

''(A) is intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in an animal;

''(B) is a hormone;

''(C) is an active moiety in an animal drug, which, prior to the filing of a petition under section 409 was approved under section 512, conditionally approved under section 571, indexed under section 572, or for which substantial clinical investigations have been instituted and for which the existence of such investigations has been made public;

''(D) is an ionophore; or

''(E) is otherwise excluded from the definition based on criteria established by the Secretary through notice and comment rulemaking.

''(3) A zootechnical animal food substance shall be deemed to be a food additive within the meaning of paragraph (s) and its introduction into interstate commerce shall be in accordance with a regulation issued under section 409. A zootechnical animal food substance shall not be considered a drug under paragraph (g)(1)(C) solely because the substance has an intended effect described in subparagraph (1).''.

(b) FOOD ADDITIVES.—Section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 348) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) In the case of a zootechnical animal food substance, such petition shall, in addition to any explanatory or supporting data, contain—

''(A) all relevant data bearing on the effect the zootechnical animal food substance is intended to have and the quantity of such substance required to produce the intended effect; and

''(B) full reports of investigations made with respect to the intended use of such substance, including full information as to the methods and controls used in conducting such investigations.'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

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

''(A)(i) by order establish a regulation (whether or not in accord with that proposed by the petitioner) prescribing—

''(I) with respect to one or more proposed uses of the food additive involved, the conditions under which such additive may be safely used (including specifications as to the particular food or classes of food in or on which such additive may be used, the maximum quantity which may be used or permitted to remain in or on such food, the manner in which such additive may be added to or used in or on such food, and any directions or other labeling or packaging requirements for such additive as the Secretary determines necessary to assure the safety of such use); and

''(II) in the case of a zootechnical animal food substance, the conditions under which such substance may be used to achieve the intended effect; and

''(ii) notify the petitioner of such order and the reasons for such action; or''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) in the case of a zootechnical animal food substance, fails to establish that the proposed use of the substance, under the conditions of use to be specified in the regulation, will achieve the intended effect.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(l) ZOOTECHNICAL ANIMAL FOOD SUBSTANCES.—The labeling of a zootechnical animal food substance—

''(1) shall include the statement: 'Not for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in animals.'; and

''(2) may include statements regarding the intended effect of the substance on the structure or function of the body of animals, as set forth in section 201(tt)(1).''.

(c) MISBRANDED FOOD.—Section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(z) If it is a zootechnical animal food substance and the labeling of the food does not include the statement required by section 409(l)(1).''.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to require the use of any zootechnical food substance or food additive (as those terms are defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended by subsection (a)).

SEC. 12608. CATTLE FEVER TICK ERADICATION PROGRAM REVIEW AND REPORT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term ''covered institution'' means—

(A) a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); and

(B) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as defined in that section (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

(2) PROGRAM.—The term ''Program'' means the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in coordination with the Texas Animal Health Commission.

(b) PROGRAM REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall offer

to enter into a contract with a covered institution under which the covered institution shall conduct a review of the Program.

(c) REVIEW ELEMENTS.—The review conducted pursuant to subsection (b) shall include an evaluation of—

(1) the effectiveness of the Program with respect to preventing and reducing the spread of tick-borne illnesses in cattle, including a review of places from which the cattle fever tick has been eradicated and the resulting economic impact;

(2) with respect to cattle producers—

(A) the benefits of the Program; and

(B) the burden of compliance with the Program;

(3) the treatment protocols developed and implemented under the Program; and

(4) the Federal and State funds allocated to support the Program for the most recent fiscal year, including the funds allocated to each research project associated with the Program.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary and a covered institution enter into a contract under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) the results of the review conducted under that contract; and

(2) recommendations for improvements to the Program, including recommendations for reducing the burden on cattle producers of compliance with the Program.

(e) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made available for the agricultural and food policy research centers under section 1419A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155) to carry out this section.

SEC. 12609. QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term ''agency action'' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''qualified renewable biomass'' means—

(i) forest product manufacturing bioenergy feedstock, including from—

(I) forest product manufacturing residuals, including spent pulping liq-

uors, pulping by-products, bark, woody manufacturing residuals, paper recycling residuals, wastewater and process water treatment plant residuals, and anaerobic digester biogas;

(II) harvest residue, including portions of harvested trees that are too small or of too poor quality to be utilized for wood products or paper products;

(III) downed wood from extreme weather events and natural disasters, nonhazardous landscape or right-of-way trimmings and municipal trimmings, and plant material removed for purposes of invasive or noxious plant species control;

(IV) biowaste, including landfill gas; and

(V) nonchemically treated used wood products, such as crates or pallets; and

(ii) forest biomass derived from residues created as a by-product of timber harvesting—

(I) including treetops, tree limbs, and bark; but

(II) excluding stumps, roots, and round wood suitable for industrial purposes.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''qualified renewable biomass'' does not include paper of a type that is commonly recycled.

(b) CONSIDERATION AS RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE.—With respect to any agency action of the Department related to qualified renewable biomass, the Secretary shall—

(1) consider qualified renewable biomass to be a renewable energy source; and

(2) assign the qualified renewable biomass a greenhouse gas emission rate and a carbon intensity of not greater than zero if the use of the qualified renewable biomass as fuel does not cause the conversion of forests to nonforest use.

(c) PETITIONS.—Not later than 1 year after receiving a petition requesting a change to a rule, policy, or program of the Department in order to comply with the requirements of subsection (b), the Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary to comply with such requirements with respect to such rule, policy, or program.

(d) GUIDANCE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish guidance for purposes of carrying out subsections (b) and (c).

(2) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may periodically update the guidance established under paragraph (1) as the Secretary determines necessary.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) the Secretary of Energy; and

(C) any other relevant entities, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 12610. PROMOTING PRECISION AGRICULTURE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVANCED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''advanced wireless communications technology'' means advanced technology that contributes to mobile (5G or beyond) networks, next-generation Wi-Fi networks, or other future networks using other technologies, regardless of whether the network is operating on an exclusive licensed, shared licensed, or unlicensed frequency band.

(2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term ''artificial intelligence'' has the meaning given the term in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. note prec. 4061).

(3) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term ''foreign adversary'' means any foreign government or foreign nongovernment person engaged in a long-term pattern or serious instances of conduct significantly adverse to the national security of the United States, or security and safety of United States persons.

(4) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term ''precision agriculture'' means managing, tracking, or reducing crop or livestock production inputs, including seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, time, and such other inputs as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality.

(5) PRECISION AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT.—The term ''precision agriculture equipment'' means any equipment or technology that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or livestock production, including—

(A) global positioning system-based or geospatial mapping;

(B) satellite or aerial imagery;

(C) yield monitors;

(D) soil mapping;

(E) sensors for gathering data on crop, soil, and livestock conditions;

(F) Internet of Things and technology that relies on edge and cloud computing;

(G) data management software and advanced analytics;

(H) network connectivity products and solutions, including public and private wireless networks;

(I) global positioning system guidance, auto-steer systems, autonomous fleeting, and other machine-to-machine operations;

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

(K) any other technology that leads to a reduction in, or improves efficiency of, crop and livestock production inputs, which may include—

(i) seed;

(ii) feed;

(iii) fertilizer;

(iv) chemicals;

(v) water;

(vi) time;

(vii) fuel;

(viii) emissions; and

(ix) such other inputs as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(6) TRUSTED.—The term ''trusted'' means, with respect to a provider of advanced communications service or a supplier of communications equipment or service, that the Secretary has determined that the provider or supplier is not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the influence of, a foreign adversary.

(7) VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term ''voluntary consensus standards development organization'' means an organization that develops standards in a process that meets the principles for the development of voluntary consensus standards (as defined in the document of the Office of Management and Budget entitled ''Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards

and in Conformity Assessment Activities'' (OMB Circular A–119)).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to enhance the participation of precision agriculture in the United States; and

(2) to promote United States leadership in voluntary consensus standards development organizations that set standards for precision agriculture.

(c) INTERCONNECTIVITY STANDARDS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Federal Communications Commission, shall—

(A) develop voluntary, consensus-based, private sector-led interconnectivity standards, guidelines, and best practices for precision agriculture that will promote economies of scale and ease the burden of the adoption of precision agriculture; and

(B) in carrying out subparagraph (A)—

(i) coordinate with relevant public and trusted private sector stakeholders and other relevant industry organizations, in-

cluding voluntary consensus standards development organizations; and

(ii) consult with sector-specific agencies, other appropriate agencies, and State and local governments.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary, in carrying out paragraph (1), shall, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Federal Communications Commission, consider—

(A) the evolving demands of precision agriculture;

(B) the connectivity needs of precision agriculture equipment;

(C) the cybersecurity challenges facing precision agriculture, including cybersecurity threats for agriculture producers and agriculture supply chains;

(D) the impact of advanced wireless communications technology on precision agriculture; and

(E) the impact of artificial intelligence on precision agriculture.

(d) GAO ASSESSMENT OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE STANDARDS.—

(1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the Secretary develops standards under subsection (c), and every 2 years thereafter for the following 8 years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that assesses those standards, including the extent to which those standards, as applicable—

(A) are voluntary;

(B) were developed in coordination with relevant industry organizations, including voluntary consensus standards development organizations; and

(C) have successfully encouraged the adoption of precision agriculture.

(2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that summarizes the findings of each study conducted under paragraph (1).

SEC. 12611. FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUTREACH.

Section 2501(c)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(c)(2)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 12612. IMPROVEMENTS TO UNITED STATES DROUGHT MONITOR.

Section 12512(d)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 12613. WHOLE MILK UNDER THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM.

Section 9(a)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''Act—'' and inserting ''Act and breakfasts served by schools participating in the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)—'';

(2) in subparagraph (C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''or the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)'' after ''Act''; and

(3) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''section 210.10'' and inserting ''sections 210.10 and 220.8''.

SEC. 12614. COMMISSION ON RURAL MATERNAL HEALTH.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the ''Commission on Rural Maternal Health'' (referred to in this section as the ''Commission'').

(b) DUTIES.—

(1) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study on issues impacting rural maternal health, including—

(A) access to and availability of maternal healthcare providers in rural areas, including the prevalence and impact of maternity care deserts;

(B) impediments to access to appropriate maternal care services in rural areas;

(C) factors that contribute to maternal mortality, pregnancy-related mortality, severe maternal morbidity, and adverse maternal health outcomes across the full continuum of care, including the prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum periods;

(D) disparities in maternal health outcomes among rural populations; and

(E) solutions, best practices, and evidence-based interventions, including State programs and community-based education and outreach efforts, to reduce maternal mortality and maternal morbidity rates in rural areas.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2031, the Commission shall submit to the President, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study required by paragraph (1), including such recommendations as the Commission considers appropriate.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of 10 members, as follows:

(A) 3 members appointed by the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(B) 3 members appointed by the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(C) 2 members appointed by the Ranking Member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(D) 2 members appointed by the Ranking Member of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—All members of the Commission shall be appointed not more than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(ii) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(4) CO-CHAIRS.—The Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives shall appoint 2 of the members of the Commission to serve as Co-Chairs.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commis-

sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(e) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section.

(f) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the report under subsection (b)(2).