

Shirley Brown

Brown #3

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To require centers of excellence at 1890 institutions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. _____

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. BROWN

Viz:

1 After section 7212, insert the following:

2 **SEC. 7213. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT 1890 INSTITU-**
3 **TIONS.**

4 Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
5 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended by
6 adding at the end the following:

7 “(d) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT 1890S INSTITU-
8 TIONS.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
10 tablish not less than 3 centers of excellence, each led
11 by an 1890 Institution (as defined in section 2 of

1 the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education
2 Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)), to focus on
3 1 or more of the areas described in paragraph (2).

4 “(2) AREAS OF FOCUS.—

5 “(A) STUDENT SUCCESS AND WORKFORCE
6 DEVELOPMENT.—A center of excellence estab-
7 lished under paragraph (1) may engage in ac-
8 tivities to ensure that students have the skills
9 and education needed to work in agriculture
10 and food industries, agriculture science, tech-
11 nology, engineering, mathematics, and related
12 fields of study.

13 “(B) NUTRITION, HEALTH, WELLNESS,
14 AND QUALITY OF LIFE.—A center of excellence
15 established under paragraph (1) may carry out
16 research, education, and extension programs
17 that increase access to healthy food, improve
18 nutrition, mitigate preventive disease, and de-
19 velop strategies to assist limited resource indi-
20 viduals in accessing health and nutrition re-
21 sources.

22 “(C) FARMING SYSTEMS, RURAL PROS-
23 PERITY, AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY.—A
24 center of excellence established under para-
25 graph (1) may share best practices with farm-

1 ers to improve agricultural production, proe-
2 essing, and marketing, reduce urban food
3 deserts, examine new uses for traditional and
4 nontraditional crops, animals, and natural re-
5 sources, and continue activities carried out by
6 the Center of Innovative and Sustainable Small
7 Farms, Ranches, and Forest Lands.

8 “(D) GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND DE-
9 FENSE.—A center of excellence established
10 under paragraph (1) may engage in inter-
11 national partnerships that strengthen agricul-
12 tural development in developing countries, part-
13 ner with international researchers regarding
14 new and emerging animal and plant pests and
15 diseases, engage in agricultural disaster recov-
16 ery, and continue activities carried out by the
17 Center for International Engagement.

18 “(E) NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY, AND
19 ENVIRONMENT.—A center of excellence estab-
20 lished under paragraph (1) may focus on pro-
21 tecting and managing domestic natural re-
22 sources for current and future production of
23 food and agricultural products.

24 “(F) EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—A cen-
25 ter of excellence established under paragraph

1 (1) may focus on the development of emerging
2 technologies to increase agricultural produc-
3 tivity, enhance small farm economic viability,
4 and improve rural communities by developing
5 genetic and sensor technologies for food and ag-
6 riculture and providing technology training to
7 farmers.

8 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement
10 Act of 2018, and every year thereafter, the Sec-
11 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
12 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
13 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
14 ate a report describing—

15 “(A) the resources invested in the centers
16 of excellence established under paragraph (1);
17 and

18 “(B) the work being done by those centers
19 of excellence.

20 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
21 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
23 2019 through 2023.”.