AMENDMENT NO._______  Calendar No._______

Purpose: To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to designate Tribal Promise Zones.


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 ________________

Viz:

1  At the end of subtitle E of title XII, insert the fol-
2  lowing:

3  SEC. 12512. PROMISE ZONES.

4  (a) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term "Tribal
5  Promise Zone" means an area that—

6  (1) is nominated by 1 or more Indian tribes (as
defined in section 4(13) of the Native American
Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of
1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103(13))) for designation as a
Tribal Promise Zone (in this section referred to as
a "nominated zone");
2

(2) has a continuous boundary; and
(3) the Secretary of Agriculture designates as a Tribal Promise Zone, after consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Education, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Transportation, and other agencies as appropriate.

(b) AUTHORIZATION AND NUMBER OF DESIGNATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall nominate a minimum number of nominated zones, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture in consultation with Indian tribes, to be designated as Tribal Promise Zones.

(c) PERIOD OF DESIGNATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall designate nominated zones as Tribal Promise Zones before January 1, 2020.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATES OF DESIGNATIONS.—The designation of any Tribal Promise Zone shall take effect—

(A) for purposes of priority consideration in Federal grant programs and initiatives
(other than this section), upon execution of the Tribal Promise Zone agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) for purposes of this section, on January 1 of the first calendar year beginning after the date of the execution of the Tribal Promise Zone agreement.

(3) TERMINATION OF DESIGNATIONS.—The designation of any Tribal Promise Zone shall end on the earlier of—

(A)(i) with respect to a Tribal Promise Zone not described in paragraph (4), the end of the 10-year period beginning on the date that such designation takes effect; or

(ii) with respect to a Tribal Promise Zone described in paragraph (4), the end of the 10-year period beginning on the date the area was designated as a Tribal Promise Zone before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(B) the date of the revocation of such designation.

(4) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN ZONES ALREADY DESIGNATED.—In the case of any area designated as a Tribal Promise Zone by the Secretary of Agriculture before the date of the enactment of this Act,
such area shall be deemed a Tribal Promise Zone
designated under this section (notwithstanding
whether any such designation has been revoked be-
fore the date of the enactment of this Act) and shall
reduce the number of Tribal Promise Zones remain-
ing to be designated under paragraph (1).
(d) LIMITATIONS ON DESIGNATIONS.—No area may
be designated under this section unless—
(1) the entities nominating the area have the
authority to nominate the area of designation under
this section;
(2) such entities provide written assurances sat-
isfactory to the Secretary of Agriculture that the
competitiveness plan described in the application
under subsection (e) for such area will be imple-
mented and that such entities will provide the Sec-
retary of Agriculture with such data regarding the
economic conditions of the area (before, during, and
after the area's period of designation as a Tribal
Promise Zone) as such Secretary may require; and
(3) the Secretary of Agriculture determines that
any information furnished is reasonably accurate.
(e) APPLICATION.—No area may be designated under
this section unless the application for such designation—
(1) demonstrates that the nominated zone satisfies the eligibility criteria described in subsection (a); and

(2) includes a competitiveness plan that—

(A) addresses the need of the nominated zone to attract investment and jobs and improve educational opportunities;

(B) leverages the nominated zone's economic strengths and outlines targeted investments to develop competitive advantages;

(C) demonstrates collaboration across a wide range of stakeholders;

(D) outlines a strategy that connects the nominated zone to drivers of regional economic growth; and

(E) proposes a strategy for focusing on increased access to high quality affordable housing and improved public safety.

(f) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From among the nominated zones eligible for designation under this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall designate Tribal Promise Zones on the basis of—
(A) the effectiveness of the competitiveness plan submitted under subsection (e) and the assurances made under subsection (d);

(B) unemployment rates, poverty rates, vacancy rates, crime rates, and such other factors as the Secretary of Agriculture may identify, including household income, labor force participation, and educational attainment; and

(C) other criteria as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) MINIMAL STANDARDS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may set minimal standards for the levels of unemployment and poverty that must be satisfied for designation as a Tribal Promise Zone.

(g) COMPETITIVE ENHANCEMENT IN FEDERAL AWARDS TO TRIBAL PROMISE ZONES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each Federal grant program, technical assistance, and capacity-building competitive funding application opportunity, made available under any appropriations law in effect for a year in which the designation of a Tribal Promise Zones is in effect, shall provide preference points or priority special consideration to each application which advances the specific objectives of a Tribal Promise Zones competitiveness plan described in subsection (e) if the project or activity to be funded in-
cludes specific and definable services or benefits that will be delivered to residents of a Tribal Economic Opportunity Area.