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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To address the impact of climate change on agriculture, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. PINGREE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To address the impact of climate change on agriculture, and for other purposes.

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

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

TITLE I—NATIONAL GOALS

- Sec. 101. National goals.
- Sec. 102. Action plan.

#### TITLE II—RESEARCH

- Sec. 201. Research, extension, and education purpose.
- Sec. 202. Regional hubs for risk adaptation and mitigation to climate change.
- Sec. 203. Sustainable agriculture research and education resilience initiative.
- Sec. 204. Long-Term Agroecosystem Research Network.
- Sec. 205. Public breed and cultivar research.
- Sec. 206. ARS Climate Scientist Career Development Program.
- Sec. 207. Agricultural Climate Adaptation and Mitigation through AFRI.
- Sec. 208. Specialty crop research initiative.
- Sec. 209. Integrated pest management.
- Sec. 210. Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program.

#### TITLE III—SOIL HEALTH

- Sec. 301. Crop insurance.
- Sec. 302. Environmental quality incentives program.
- Sec. 303. Conservation stewardship program.
- Sec. 304. State assistance for soil health.
- Sec. 305. Funding and administration.
- Sec. 306. Conservation compliance.
- Sec. 307. National and regional agroforestry centers.

#### TITLE IV—FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND FARM VIABILITY

- Sec. 401. Local Agriculture Market Program.
- Sec. 402. National organic certification cost-share program.
- Sec. 403. Farmland Protection Policy Act.
- Sec. 404. Agricultural conservation easement program.

#### TITLE V—PASTURE-BASED LIVESTOCK

- Sec. 501. Animal raising claims.
- Sec. 502. Processing resilience grant program.
- Sec. 503. Conservation of private grazing land.
- Sec. 504. Conservation reserve program.
- Sec. 505. Alternative manure management program.

#### TITLE VI—ON-FARM RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Sec. 601. Rural Energy For America Program.
- Sec. 602. Agrivoltaic systems.
- Sec. 603. AgSTAR program.

#### TITLE VII—FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

##### Subtitle A—Food Date Labeling

- Sec. 701. Definitions.
- Sec. 702. Quality dates and discard dates.
- Sec. 703. Misbranding.
- Sec. 704. Regulations.
- Sec. 705. Delayed applicability.

##### Subtitle B—Other Provisions

- Sec. 711. Composting as conservation practice.
- Sec. 712. Amendments to Federal Food Donation Act.
- Sec. 713. Grants for composting and anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy projects.
- Sec. 714. School food waste reduction grant program.
- Sec. 715. Support for national media campaigns to decrease incidence of food waste.
- Sec. 716. Food waste research program.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.**

2 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-  
3 retary of Agriculture.

4 **TITLE I—NATIONAL GOALS**

5 **SEC. 101. NATIONAL GOALS.**

6 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the goals established  
7 under this title is to prevent climate change from exceed-  
8 ing 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming above preindustrial lev-  
9 els through a national greenhouse gas emission reduction  
10 effort.

11 (b) NATIONAL GOALS.—The national goals for the  
12 agricultural sector shall be to achieve—

13 (1) not less than a 50 percent reduction in net  
14 greenhouse gas emissions, as compared to those lev-  
15 els during calendar year 2010, by not later than De-  
16 cember 31, 2030; and

17 (2) net zero emissions by not later than Decem-  
18 ber 31, 2040.

19 (c) SUBGOALS.—To achieve the national goals de-  
20 scribed in subsection (b), there are established the fol-  
21 lowing subgoals:

1           (1) RESEARCH.—The total Federal investment  
2           in public food and agriculture research and exten-  
3           sion should—

4                   (A) at a minimum, as compared to that  
5           total Federal investment for fiscal year 2023—

6                           (i) triple by not later than December  
7                           31, 2030; and

8                           (ii) quadruple by not later than De-  
9                           cember 31, 2040; and

10                   (B) strongly focus on climate change adap-  
11           tation and mitigation, soil health and carbon se-  
12           questration, nutrient and manure management  
13           to curb nitrous oxide and methane emissions,  
14           agroforestry, advanced grazing management  
15           and crop-livestock integration, perennial pro-  
16           duction systems, on-farm and food system en-  
17           ergy efficiency and renewable energy produc-  
18           tion, farmland preservation and viability, food  
19           waste reduction, and any other related areas, as  
20           determined by the Secretary.

21           (2) SOIL HEALTH.—The United States  
22           should—

23                   (A) immediately become a member of the  
24           Partners Forum and the Consortium of the 4  
25           per 1000 Initiative, hosted by the Consultative

1 Group for International Agricultural Research,  
2 with the aim of increasing total soil carbon  
3 stocks by 0.4 percent annually to reduce carbon  
4 in the atmosphere, restore soil health and pro-  
5 ductivity, and thereby improve food security;

6 (B) sufficiently expand adoption of soil  
7 health systems and practices (including diverse  
8 crop rotations, cover cropping, and conservation  
9 tillage), perennial crop and grass-based live-  
10 stock production systems, agroforestry,  
11 composting, advanced nutrient budgeting and  
12 biologically based nutrient management, ad-  
13 vanced grazing management (including  
14 silvopasture and management-intensive rota-  
15 tional grazing), and integrated crop-livestock  
16 systems—

17 (i) to reduce nitrous oxide emissions  
18 from agricultural soils, as compared to  
19 those levels during calendar year 2023—

20 (I) by 25 percent by not later  
21 than December 31, 2030; and

22 (II) by 75 percent by not later  
23 than December 31, 2040;

24 (ii) to increase soil carbon stocks by  
25 0.4 percent annually on at least 50 percent

1 of agricultural land by not later than De-  
2 cember 31, 2030; and

3 (iii) to meet or exceed the threshold  
4 described in clause (ii) on all agricultural  
5 land by not later than December 31, 2040;

6 (C) expand implementation of regionally  
7 appropriate cover crops and other continual liv-  
8 ing cover so that—

9 (i) at least 50 percent of cropland  
10 acres include 1 or more cover crops or  
11 other continual living cover in the rotations  
12 of the cropland acres by not later than De-  
13 cember 31, 2030;

14 (ii) at least 75 percent of cropland  
15 acres include 1 or more cover crops or  
16 other continual living cover in the rotations  
17 of the cropland acres by not later than De-  
18 cember 31, 2040;

19 (iii) cropland acres are covered by  
20 crops (including forages and hay crops),  
21 cover crops, or residue for an average of  
22 75 percent of each calendar year by not  
23 later than December 31, 2030; and

24 (iv) cropland acres are covered by  
25 crops (including forages and hay crops),

1 cover crops, or residue for an average of  
2 85 percent of each calendar year by not  
3 later than December 31, 2040; and

4 (D) encourage conversion of at least—

5 (i) 15 percent of annual grain crop  
6 acres, as in use on the date of enactment  
7 of this Act, to agroforestry, perennial graz-  
8 ing, perennial grain crops, or other peren-  
9 nial production systems by not later than  
10 December 31, 2030; and

11 (ii) 30 percent of annual grain crop  
12 acres, as in use on the date of enactment  
13 of this Act, to agroforestry, perennial graz-  
14 ing, perennial grain crops, or other peren-  
15 nial production systems by not later than  
16 December 31, 2040.

17 (3) FARMLAND PRESERVATION.—

18 (A) 2030 GOAL.—The rate of conversion of  
19 agricultural land to development, and the rate  
20 of conversion of grassland to cropping, should  
21 be reduced by at least 80 percent, as compared  
22 to those rates for calendar year 2023 by not  
23 later than December 31, 2030.

1 (B) 2040 GOAL.—There should be no con-  
2 version of agricultural land to development, or  
3 grassland to cropping, by December 31, 2040.

4 (4) PASTURE-BASED LIVESTOCK.—The live-  
5 stock sector should—

6 (A) establish advanced grazing manage-  
7 ment, including management-intensive rota-  
8 tional grazing, on at least—

9 (i) 50 percent of all grazing land by  
10 not later than December 31, 2030; and

11 (ii) 100 percent of all grazing land by  
12 not later than December 31, 2040;

13 (B)(i) reduce greenhouse gas emissions re-  
14 lated to feeding of ruminants by at least—

15 (I)  $\frac{1}{3}$  by not later than December 31,  
16 2030; and

17 (II)  $\frac{1}{2}$  by not later than December  
18 31, 2040; and

19 (ii) accomplish the reductions described in  
20 clause (i) by—

21 (I) reducing nongrazing feeding of  
22 ruminants;

23 (II) growing feed grains and forages  
24 with soil health and nutrient management



1 practices that minimize net greenhouse gas  
2 emissions from cropland; and

3 (III) designing livestock feed mixtures  
4 and supplements to mitigate enteric meth-  
5 ane emissions;

6 (C) re-integrate livestock and crop produc-  
7 tion systems at farm, local, and regional levels  
8 to facilitate environmentally sound management  
9 and field application of manure and reduce the  
10 need for long-term manure storage by increas-  
11 ing acreage on individual farms under crop-live-  
12 stock integrated management by at least—

13 (i) 100 percent as compared to cal-  
14 endar year 2017 levels by not later than  
15 December 31, 2030; and

16 (ii) 300 percent as compared to cal-  
17 endar year 2017 levels by not later than  
18 December 31, 2040; and

19 (D) reduce greenhouse gas emissions re-  
20 sulting from manure management by—

21 (i) immediately ceasing building any  
22 new or expanded waste lagoons for con-  
23 fined animal feeding operations; and

24 (ii) converting—

1 (I) by not later than December  
2 31, 2030, at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of wet manure  
3 handling and storage to non-digester  
4 dairy or livestock methane manage-  
5 ment methods (as defined in section  
6 1240T(a) of the Food Security Act of  
7 1985); and

8 (II) by not later than December  
9 31, 2040, at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of wet manure  
10 handling and storage to non-digester  
11 dairy or livestock methane manage-  
12 ment methods (as so defined).

13 (5) ON-FARM RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The agri-  
14 cultural sector should—

15 (A) implement energy audits and energy  
16 efficiency improvements on at least—

17 (i) 50 percent of farms by not later  
18 than December 31, 2030; and

19 (ii) 100 percent of farms by not later  
20 than December 31, 2040;

21 (B) expand on-farm clean renewable en-  
22 ergy production to a level that is at least—

23 (i) double the 2017 level by not later  
24 than December 31, 2030; and

1 (ii) triple the 2017 level by not later  
2 than December 31, 2040; and

3 (C) install and manage on-farm renewable  
4 energy infrastructure in a manner that does  
5 not—

6 (i) compromise the climate resilience  
7 and greenhouse gas mitigation goals of this  
8 Act; or

9 (ii) adversely impact farmland, soil,  
10 and water resources, or food production.

11 (6) FOOD LOSS AND WASTE.—Consistent with  
12 the Food Waste Challenge launched by the Depart-  
13 ment of Agriculture and the Environmental Protec-  
14 tion Agency in June 2013, and the national food  
15 loss and waste goal announced in September 2015,  
16 the food and agricultural sector should commit to—

17 (A) at least a 50 percent reduction in food  
18 loss and waste by not later than December 31,  
19 2030;

20 (B) at least a 75 percent reduction in food  
21 loss and waste by not later than December 31,  
22 2040; and

23 (C) in a manner consistent with the Food  
24 Recovery Hierarchy established by the Environ-  
25 mental Protection Agency, diverting from land-

1 fills through composting and other means at  
2 least—

3 (i) 50 percent of unavoidable food  
4 waste and food processing byproducts by  
5 not later than December 31, 2030; and

6 (ii) 90 percent of unavoidable food  
7 waste and food processing byproducts by  
8 not later than December 31, 2040.

9 **SEC. 102. ACTION PLAN.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

11 (1) develop a plan (referred to in this section as  
12 the “plan”), which may involve actions to be taken  
13 by other Federal agencies, to make significant and  
14 rapid progress to achieve the national goals de-  
15 scribed in section 101; and

16 (2) make the plan available for public comment  
17 for a period of not less than 90 days.

18 (b) ACTIONS.—Actions under the plan shall—

19 (1) include issuing regulations, providing incen-  
20 tives, carrying out research and development pro-  
21 grams, and any other actions the Secretary deter-  
22 mines are necessary to achieve the national goals de-  
23 scribed in section 101; and

24 (2) be designed—

1 (A) to fully implement the provisions of  
2 this Act and the amendments made by this Act;

3 (B) to provide benefits for farmers and  
4 ranchers, rural communities, small businesses,  
5 and consumers;

6 (C) to improve public health, resilience,  
7 and environmental outcomes, especially for  
8 rural and low-income households, communities  
9 of color, Tribal and indigenous communities,  
10 and communities that are disproportionately  
11 vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, air  
12 and water pollution, and other resource deg-  
13 radation; and

14 (D) to prioritize investments that reduce  
15 emissions of greenhouse gases and sequester  
16 carbon while simultaneously helping to solve  
17 other pressing agro-environmental resource con-  
18 cerns, increase farming and ranching opportuni-  
19 ties, create quality jobs, improve farmworker  
20 working conditions and living standards, and  
21 make communities more resilient to the effects  
22 of climate change.

23 (e) FINAL PLAN.—Not later than 18 months after  
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

1           (1) finalize the plan, taking into account any  
2           public comments received on the plan;

3           (2) begin implementation of the plan; and

4           (3) submit the plan to Congress.

5           (d) UPDATES.—Beginning 2 years after the date on  
6           which the Secretary submits the plan to Congress under  
7           subsection (c)(3), and not less frequently than biennially  
8           thereafter, the Secretary shall—

9           (1) review and revise the plan to ensure that  
10          the plan is sufficient to achieve the national goals  
11          described in section 101; and

12          (2) submit the revised plan to Congress.

13          (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after  
14          the date on which the Secretary submits the plan to Con-  
15          gress under subsection (c)(3), and annually thereafter, the  
16          Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly  
17          available, an annual report that describes, for the period  
18          covered by the report—

19          (1) actions taken pursuant to the plan and the  
20          effects of those actions;

21          (2) the conclusion of the most recent review of  
22          the plan conducted under subsection (d), if applica-  
23          ble; and

24          (3) a summary of any revisions made to the  
25          plan under that subsection.

1                   **TITLE II—RESEARCH**

2   **SEC. 201. RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION PUR-**  
3                   **POSE.**

4           Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research,  
5   Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
6   3101) is amended—

7           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as  
8   paragraphs (9) and (11), respectively;

9           (2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-  
10   lowing:

11           “(8) accelerate the ability of agriculture and the  
12   food system of the United States to first achieve net-  
13   zero carbon emissions and then be carbon negative  
14   by removing additional carbon dioxide from the at-  
15   mosphere;”;

16           (3) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated), by  
17   striking “and” at the end;

18           (4) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as so re-  
19   designated) the following:

20           “(10) develop food systems that are healthful,  
21   sustainable, equitable, and resilient to extreme  
22   weather, other impacts of climate change, and other  
23   potential intersecting global and national disrupt-  
24   tions; and”;

1           (5) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated), in  
2           subparagraph (B), by inserting “and delivering to  
3           agricultural producers” after “improving”.

4   **SEC. 202. REGIONAL HUBS FOR RISK ADAPTATION AND**  
5                           **MITIGATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

6           Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and  
7   Education Reform Act of 1998 is amended by inserting  
8   before section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624) the following:

9   **“SEC. 401. REGIONAL HUBS FOR RISK ADAPTATION AND**  
10                           **MITIGATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

11           “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
12   lish a national network of regional hubs for risk adapta-  
13   tion and mitigation to climate change to provide to farm-  
14   ers, ranchers, forest landowners, and other agricultural  
15   and natural resource managers—

16           “(1) science-based, region-specific, cost-effec-  
17   tive, and practical information and program support  
18   for science-informed decisionmaking in light of the  
19   increased costs, opportunities, risks, and  
20   vulnerabilities associated with a changing climate;  
21   and

22           “(2) access to assistance to implement that de-  
23   cisionmaking.

24           “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—An entity shall be eligible to be  
25   selected as a regional hub under subsection (a) if the enti-



1 ty is any office of the Agricultural Research Service, the  
2 Forest Service, or any other agency of the Department  
3 of Agriculture that the Secretary determines to be appro-  
4 priate.

5 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The network established  
7 under subsection (a) shall be designated and admin-  
8 istered jointly by the Agricultural Research Service  
9 and the Forest Service, in partnership with other  
10 Federal agencies, including the following:

11 “(A) Within the Department of Agri-  
12 culture, the following agencies:

13 “(i) The Natural Resources Conserva-  
14 tion Service.

15 “(ii) The Farm Service Agency.

16 “(iii) The Risk Management Agency.

17 “(iv) The Animal and Plant Health  
18 Inspection Service.

19 “(v) The National Institute of Food  
20 and Agriculture.

21 “(B) The Department of the Interior.

22 “(C) The Department of Energy.

23 “(D) The Environmental Protection Agen-  
24 cy.

25 “(E) The United States Geological Survey.

1           “(F) National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
2           Administration.

3           “(G) National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
4           ministration.

5           “(H) Such other Federal agencies as the  
6           Secretary determines to be appropriate.

7           “(2) PARTNERS.—The regional hubs estab-  
8           lished under subsection (a) shall work in close part-  
9           nership with other stakeholders and partners, includ-  
10          ing—

11           “(A) colleges and universities (as defined  
12           in section 1404 of the Food and Agriculture  
13           Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

14           “(B) cooperative extension services (as de-  
15           fined in that section);

16           “(C) State agricultural experiment stations  
17           (as defined in that section);

18           “(D) private entities;

19           “(E) State, local, and regional govern-  
20           ments;

21           “(F) Indian Tribes;

22           “(G) agriculture and commodity organiza-  
23           tions;

24           “(H) nonprofit and community-based orga-  
25           nizations; and

1                   “(I) other partners, as determined by the  
2                   Secretary.

3           “(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—A regional hub established  
4 under subsection (a) shall—

5                   “(1) offer tools, strategic management options,  
6                   and technical support to farmers, ranchers, and for-  
7                   est landowners to help those farmers, ranchers, and  
8                   forest landowners mitigate and adapt to climate  
9                   change;

10                   “(2) direct farmers, ranchers, and forest land-  
11                   owners to Federal agencies that can provide pro-  
12                   gram support to enable those farmers, ranchers, and  
13                   forest landowners to implement science-informed  
14                   management practices that address climate change;

15                   “(3) determine how climate and weather projec-  
16                   tions will impact the agricultural and forestry sec-  
17                   tors;

18                   “(4) provide periodic regional assessments of  
19                   risk and vulnerability in the agricultural and for-  
20                   estry sectors—

21                   “(A) to help farmers, ranchers, and forest  
22                   landowners better understand the potential di-  
23                   rect and indirect impacts of climate change;  
24                   and

1           “(B) to inform the United States Global  
2           Change Research Program established under  
3           section 103 of the Global Change Research Act  
4           of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2933);

5           “(5) provide to farmers, ranchers, forest land-  
6           owners, and rural communities outreach, education,  
7           and extension on science-based risk management  
8           through partnerships with the land-grant colleges  
9           and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the  
10          Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)),  
11          cooperative extension services (as defined in that  
12          section), and other entities;

13          “(6) work with any cooperative extension serv-  
14          ices (as defined in section 1404 of the Food and Ag-  
15          riculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), conservation  
16          districts, and nongovernmental organizations in-  
17          volved in farmer outreach in the region served by the  
18          hub to assist producers in developing business plans  
19          and conservation plans that take into account  
20          emerging climate risk science with respect to crop,  
21          production, and conservation system changes that  
22          will help producers adapt to a changing climate; and

23          “(7) establish, in partnership with programs  
24          and projects carried out under subtitle B of title  
25          XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and

1 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.), addi-  
2 tional partnerships with farmers and nonprofit and  
3 community-based organizations to conduct applied  
4 on-farm research on climate change.

5 “(e) PRIORITIES.—A regional hub established under  
6 subsection (a) shall prioritize synthesis and dissemination  
7 of research and data collection activities in the following  
8 areas:

9 “(1) Improved measurement and monitoring  
10 of—

11 “(A) soil organic carbon sequestration; and

12 “(B) total net greenhouse gas impacts of  
13 different farming systems and practices.

14 “(2) Lifecycle analysis for total net greenhouse  
15 gas emissions related to—

16 “(A) alternative cropping systems;

17 “(B) alternative livestock production sys-  
18 tems;

19 “(C) integrated cropping-livestock systems;

20 “(D) alternative biofuel crop production  
21 systems and biofuel end uses;

22 “(E) alternative agroforestry practices and  
23 systems; and

24 “(F) alternative forestry management sys-  
25 tems.

1 “(3) Research and education on—

2 “(A) optimal soil health management sys-  
3 tems and practices;

4 “(B) advanced biological nutrient manage-  
5 ment based on optimal soil health practices;

6 “(C) enhanced synergies between crop  
7 roots and soil biota;

8 “(D) linkages between soil, plant, animal,  
9 and human health;

10 “(E) adaption and mitigation needs of  
11 stakeholders;

12 “(F) new crops or new varieties to help  
13 producers be profitable while implementing soil  
14 heath management systems and adapting to a  
15 changing climate;

16 “(G) social and economic barriers to stake-  
17 holder adoption of new practices that improve  
18 adaptation, mitigation, and soil sequestration;  
19 and

20 “(H) evaluation and assessment of climate-  
21 related decision tools of the Department of Ag-  
22 riculture.

23 “(4) Grazing-based livestock management sys-  
24 tems to optimize the net greenhouse gas footprint,  
25 including—

1 “(A) grazing land carbon sequestration;

2 “(B) reduction of nitrous oxide emissions  
3 from manure deposited on grazing land; and

4 “(C) mitigation of enteric methane.

5 “(5) Perennial production systems that seques-  
6 ter carbon, enhance soil health, and increase resil-  
7 ience, including—

8 “(A) perennial forages;

9 “(B) perennial grains; and

10 “(C) agroforestry.

11 “(f) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—Each regional hub es-  
12 tablished under subsection (a)—

13 “(1) shall solicit input from stakeholders on  
14 pressing needs, important issues, and outreach strat-  
15 egies through a variety of mechanisms, including re-  
16 gional stakeholder committees; and

17 “(2) may partner with stakeholders in con-  
18 ducting research and developing tools.

19 “(g) RISK MANAGEMENT.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint  
21 a team of individuals representing the regional hubs  
22 established under subsection (a), partners with those  
23 regional hubs, and the Risk Management Agency to  
24 develop recommendations to better account for—

25 “(A) climate risk in actuarial tables; and





1           “(7) increase resilience in the context of a  
2           changing climate and related economic, social, and  
3           environmental shocks.”; and

4           (2) in subsection (b)—

5           (A) in paragraph (2)—

6           (i) by striking “integrated crop man-  
7           agement” and inserting “integrated crop  
8           and livestock management system or prac-  
9           tice”; and

10           (ii) by inserting “resilience,” after  
11           “profitability,”; and

12           (B) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-  
13           ing the following:

14           “(3) The term ‘resilience’ means, with respect  
15           to an agricultural management system, the ability of  
16           that system to absorb and recover from climate and  
17           other disturbances, such that the system is not im-  
18           pacted by severe shocks.”.

19           (b) ELIGIBILITY OF TRIBAL COLLEGES TO ENTER  
20 INTO RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROJECT AGREE-  
21 MENTS.—Section 1621(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-  
22 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5811(b)) is  
23 amended by striking “or Federal or State” and inserting  
24 “1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Eq-  
25 uity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7

1 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382)), or Federal,  
2 State, or Tribal”.

3 (c) AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE  
4 INITIATIVE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1627 of the Food,  
6 Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7  
7 U.S.C. 5821) is amended—

8 (A) in the section heading, by striking  
9 **“INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS”**  
10 and inserting **“AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD**  
11 **SYSTEM RESILIENCE INITIATIVE”**;

12 (B) by striking subsection (a) and insert-  
13 ing the following:

14 **“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—**

15 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**In close conjunction with  
16 programs and projects established under sections  
17 1621 and 1623, the Secretary shall establish a re-  
18 search, education, extension, and outreach initiative  
19 to increase the resilience and climate change mitiga-  
20 tion potential of agriculture and the food system in  
21 the context of a changing climate and related eco-  
22 nomic, social, and environmental shocks, which may  
23 include—

24 **“(A) farmer and rancher research and**  
25 **demonstration grants; and**

1           “(B) the use of an interdisciplinary ap-  
2           proach wherever appropriate.

3           “(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the initiative  
4           established under paragraph (1) shall be—

5           “(A) to equip farmers to prepare, adapt,  
6           and transform the farming systems of the farm-  
7           ers when confronted by shocks and stresses to  
8           the agricultural production and livelihoods of  
9           the farmers;

10          “(B) to support local and regional food  
11          systems that support resilience and enhance  
12          local access to and control over productive re-  
13          sources;

14          “(C) to encourage producers to adopt prac-  
15          tices and systems that provide living cover year-  
16          round throughout the farm, including through  
17          the use of cover crops and perennial plants in  
18          diversified combinations, and that are designed  
19          to support crop, livestock, and crop-livestock in-  
20          tegrated systems that—

21                 “(i) minimize or abate adverse climate  
22                 and environmental impacts;

23                 “(ii) increase soil carbon sequestration  
24                 and storage;

1                   “(iii) reduce soil erosion and loss of  
2                   water and nutrients;

3                   “(iv) enhance soil quality and the effi-  
4                   cient use of on-farm and off-farm inputs;

5                   “(v) reduce dependency on fossil fuels;  
6                   and

7                   “(vi) maintain or increase profitability  
8                   and long-term productivity;

9                   “(D) to develop knowledge and information  
10                  and conduct outreach on living cover systems  
11                  and practices, including greater use of  
12                  perennials, and integrated crop and livestock  
13                  management systems and practices to increase  
14                  resilience and assist agricultural producers in  
15                  the adoption of those systems and practices;

16                  “(E) to facilitate the adoption of year-  
17                  round living cover and perennial production sys-  
18                  tems supporting whole-farm integrated crop  
19                  and livestock management systems and prac-  
20                  tices through demonstration projects on indi-  
21                  vidual farms, including small and limited re-  
22                  source farms, throughout the United States;  
23                  and

1           “(F) to evaluate and recommend appro-  
2           priate policies and programs to improve food  
3           and agricultural system resilience.”; and

4           (C) by striking subsections (b), (c), and (d)  
5           and inserting the following:

6           “(b) FUNDING.—

7           “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of  
8           the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary  
9           shall use to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for  
10          fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter.

11          “(2) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—There is au-  
12          thorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
13          through the National Institute of Food and Agri-  
14          culture \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013  
15          through 2028.”.

16          (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The chapter  
17          heading of chapter 2 of subtitle B of title XVI of the  
18          Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of  
19          1990 (7 U.S.C. 5821) is amended to read as follows:  
20          “**AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEM**  
21          **RESILIENCE INITIATIVE**”.

22          (d) TECHNICAL GUIDES AND BOOKS.—Section 1628  
23          of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of  
24          1990 (7 U.S.C. 5831) is amended—

1 (1) by inserting “and outreach resources and”  
2 after “educational” each place it appears;

3 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “Not later  
4 than two years after the date of the enactment of  
5 this Act, the Secretary” and inserting “The Sec-  
6 retary”;

7 (3) in subsection (b), by striking the second  
8 sentence;

9 (4) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and  
11 (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

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

14 “(3) adapting to and mitigating the effects of  
15 climate change;”;

16 (5) in subsection (e), by striking “Soil Con-  
17 servation” and inserting “Natural Resources Con-  
18 servation”; and

19 (6) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “2023” and  
20 inserting “2028”.

21 (e) NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.—Section 1629  
22 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of  
23 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (g)—

1 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “Soil  
2 Conservation Service and the Agricultural Sta-  
3 bilization and Conservation Service” and insert-  
4 ing “Natural Resources Conservation Service  
5 and the Farm Service Agency”;

6 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and  
7 (11) as paragraphs (11) and (12), respectively;  
8 and

9 (C) by inserting after paragraph (9) the  
10 following;

11 “(10) develop and provide information con-  
12 cerning climate change adaptation and mitigation  
13 developed under this subtitle and other research and  
14 education programs of the Department;”;

15 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “Soil Con-  
16 servation Service” and inserting “Natural Resources  
17 Conservation Service”; and

18 (3) in subsection (i), by inserting “, and  
19 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through  
20 2028” before the period at the end.

21 **SEC. 204. LONG-TERM AGROECOSYSTEM RESEARCH NET-**  
22 **WORK.**

23 Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and  
24 Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.)

1 is amended by inserting after section 401 (as added by  
2 section 202) the following:

3 **“SEC. 402. LONG-TERM AGROECOSYSTEM RESEARCH NET-**  
4 **WORK.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

6 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting  
7 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Re-  
8 search Service, shall provide for the establishment  
9 and maintenance of a network of research sites oper-  
10 ated by the Agricultural Research Service for re-  
11 search on the sustainability of agricultural systems  
12 in the United States, to be known as the ‘Long-  
13 Term Agroecosystem Research Network’ (referred to  
14 in this section as the ‘Network’).

15 “(2) GOALS.—The Network shall have the fol-  
16 lowing goals:

17 “(A) To understand and enhance the sus-  
18 tainability of agriculture.

19 “(B) To integrate research projects with  
20 common standardized measurements on mul-  
21 tiple agroecosystems and land uses, including  
22 cropland, rangeland, and pastureland.

23 “(C) To develop new farming systems,  
24 practices, and technologies to address agricul-  
25 tural challenges and opportunities, including



1 challenges and opportunities posed by climate  
2 change.

3 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities of the  
4 Network shall include—

5 “(1) research conducted for a minimum of 30  
6 years to develop novel scientific insights at regional  
7 and national scales and evaluate the applicability of  
8 and adaptation to local conditions;

9 “(2) the establishment and maintenance of mul-  
10 tiple sites or research centers that capture the diver-  
11 sity of agricultural production systems that function  
12 as a network; and

13 “(3) the coordination, management, and anal-  
14 ysis of large-scale data collection relating to the sus-  
15 tainability of agricultural systems and the provision  
16 of infrastructure to research sites to allow for ana-  
17 lyzing and disseminating that data.

18 “(c) COORDINATION OF RESEARCH.—The Secretary  
19 shall, in carrying out subsection (a)—

20 “(1) coordinate long-term agroecological re-  
21 search to improve understanding within the Depart-  
22 ment of how agroecosystems function at the field,  
23 regional, and national scales;

1           “(2) designate research sites for inclusion in  
2 the Network that are representative of major agri-  
3 cultural regions;

4           “(3) ensure that each research site included in  
5 the Network conducts experiments with common  
6 standardized goals and methods—

7           “(A) to increase agricultural productivity  
8 and profitability;

9           “(B) to enhance agricultural resilience and  
10 the capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate  
11 change;

12           “(C) to boost the provision of ecosystem  
13 services from agricultural landscapes; and

14           “(D) to improve opportunities for rural  
15 communities;

16           “(4) make data collected at research sites in-  
17 cluded in the Network open to researchers and the  
18 public whenever practicable, and integrate data  
19 across the network and partner sites;

20           “(5) provide infrastructure to research sites in-  
21 cluded in the Network for data collection, common  
22 measurements, and data streams that complement  
23 other national networks, such as the National Eco-  
24 logical Observatory Network and the Long-Term Ec-  
25 ological Research network;

1           “(6) coordinate with Department of Agriculture  
2           Climate Hubs to share research findings and data  
3           insights; and

4           “(7) collaborate with Department of Agriculture  
5           Climate Hubs to translate research findings into  
6           educational, outreach, and technical assistance mate-  
7           rials for agricultural producers.

8           “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
9           is authorized to be appropriated to carry out activities of  
10          the Network under this section \$50,000,000 for each of  
11          fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

12       **SEC. 205. PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR RESEARCH.**

13          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Competitive, Special, and Fa-  
14          cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157) is amended—

15               (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the  
16          following:

17               “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18                       “(A) CONVENTIONAL BREEDING.—The  
19                       term ‘conventional breeding’ means the develop-  
20                       ment of a new variety of an organism through  
21                       controlled mating and selection without the use  
22                       of transgenic methods.

23                       “(B) CULTIVAR.—The term ‘cultivar’  
24                       means a variety of a species of plant that has  
25                       been intentionally selected for use in cultivation

1           because of the improved characteristics of that  
2           variety of the species.

3           “(C) PUBLIC ANIMAL BREED.—The term  
4           ‘public animal breed’ means an animal breed  
5           that is the commercially available end product  
6           of a publicly funded breeding program that has  
7           been sufficiently tested to demonstrate im-  
8           proved characteristics and stable performance.

9           “(D) PUBLIC CULTIVAR.—The term ‘public  
10          cultivar’ means a cultivar—

11           “(i) that is the commercially available  
12           end product of a publicly funded breeding  
13           program that has been sufficiently tested  
14           to demonstrate improved characteristics  
15           and stable performance; and

16           “(ii) with respect to which, if intellec-  
17           tual property rights are asserted, the intel-  
18           lectual property rights are in the form of  
19           plant patents or plant variety protection  
20           and not utility patents.

21          “(E) PUBLIC CULTIVAR OR ANIMAL  
22          BREED.—The term ‘public cultivar or animal  
23          breed’ means—

24           “(i) a public animal breed; and

25           “(ii) a public cultivar.”; and

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

2 “(1) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR DEVELOPMENT  
3 FUNDING.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the total amount of  
5 grants made under the provisions of law described in  
6 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure that not  
7 less than \$75,000,000 for each fiscal year is used  
8 for competitive research grants that support the de-  
9 velopment of public cultivars and animal breeds.

10 “(2) APPLICABLE PROGRAMS.—The provisions  
11 of law referred to in paragraph (1) are—

12 “(A) subsections (a) and (b);

13 “(B) section 1672B(e) of the Food, Agri-  
14 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990  
15 (7 U.S.C. 5925b(e));

16 “(C) sections 1619 through 1624 of that  
17 Act (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.);

18 “(D) any relevant competitive grant pro-  
19 gram authorized by section 406 of the Agricul-  
20 tural Research, Extension, and Education Re-  
21 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626), as deter-  
22 mined by the Secretary; and

23 “(E) section 412 of that Act (7 U.S.C.  
24 7632).

1           “(3) PRIORITY.—In making grants under para-  
2           graph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to high-  
3           potential research projects that lead to the release of  
4           regionally adapted public cultivars and animal  
5           breeds that assist producers in mitigating and  
6           adapting to climate change, including—

7                   “(A) regionally adapted public cultivars  
8                   and animal breeds;

9                   “(B) public cultivars and animal breeds  
10                  bred for environmental resilience, including re-  
11                  silience to changing climates, mitigating green-  
12                  house gas emissions, and sequestering carbon;

13                  “(C) public animal breeds adapted to graz-  
14                  ing and overwintering as appropriate for the  
15                  applicable production region;

16                  “(D) public cultivars and animal breeds  
17                  bred to enhance the nutritional and health out-  
18                  comes of local and Native American, Alaska  
19                  Native, and Native Hawaiian populations;

20                  “(E) public cultivars and animal breeds of  
21                  indigenous and place-based importance that are  
22                  endangered; and

23                  “(F) public cultivars and animal breeds  
24                  with beneficial and compatible characteristics

1 and behaviors for dual-use renewable energy-ag-  
2 ricultural systems.

3 “(4) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall ensure  
4 that—

5 “(A) the terms and renewal process for  
6 any competitive grants made under subsection  
7 (b) in accordance with paragraph (1) facilitates  
8 the development and commercialization of pub-  
9 lic cultivars and animal breeds through long-  
10 term grants not less than 5 years in length; and

11 “(B) Tribal consultation occurs to ensure  
12 public cultivar or animal breed development  
13 does not infringe on the abilities of Tribes to  
14 maintain culturally sensitive animal breeds and  
15 cultivars.

16 “(5) REQUIREMENT FOR DOMESTIC PRODUC-  
17 TION.—No person that receives title to a plant pat-  
18 ent or plant variety protection relating to any public  
19 cultivar or animal breed developed using funds re-  
20 ceived under this subsection, and no assignee of any  
21 such person, shall grant to any person the exclusive  
22 right to use or sell that public cultivar or animal  
23 breed unless that person agrees that any cultivars or  
24 animals embodying the public cultivar or animal  
25 breed or produced through the use of the public

1 cultivar or animal breed will be produced substan-  
2 tially in the United States.

3 “(6) REPORT.—Not later than October 1 of  
4 each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a  
5 report that provides information on all public  
6 cultivar and animal breeding research funded by the  
7 Department of Agriculture, including—

8 “(A) a list of public cultivars and animal  
9 breeds developed and released in a commercially  
10 available form;

11 “(B) areas of high-priority research;

12 “(C) identified research gaps relating to  
13 public cultivar and animal breed development;  
14 and

15 “(D) an assessment of the state of com-  
16 mercialization for public cultivars and animal  
17 breeds.”.

18 (b) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR RESEARCH AC-  
19 TIVITIES COORDINATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 251 of the Depart-  
21 ment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7  
22 U.S.C. 6971) is amended—

23 (A) in subsection (e), by adding at the end  
24 the following:



1           “(7) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR RESEARCH  
2           ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary  
4           shall appoint a coordinator within the Office of  
5           the Chief Scientist that reports to the Under  
6           Secretary to coordinate research activities at  
7           the Department relating to the breeding of pub-  
8           lic cultivars and animal breeds (as defined in  
9           paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of the Competi-  
10          tive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act  
11          (7 U.S.C. 3157(a))).

12          “(B) DUTIES OF COORDINATOR.—The co-  
13          ordinator appointed under subparagraph (A)  
14          shall—

15                 “(i) coordinate plant and animal  
16                 breeding research activities funded by the  
17                 Department relating to the development of  
18                 public cultivars and animal breeds;

19                 “(ii)(I) carry out ongoing analysis and  
20                 track activities for any Federal research  
21                 funding supporting plant and animal  
22                 breeding (including any public cultivars  
23                 and animal breeds developed with Federal  
24                 funds); and

1           “(II) ensure that the analysis and ac-  
2           tivities are made available to the public not  
3           later than 60 days after the last day of  
4           each fiscal year;

5           “(iii) develop a strategic plan that es-  
6           tablishes targets for public cultivar and  
7           animal breed research investments across  
8           the Department to ensure that a diverse  
9           range of crop and animal needs are being  
10          met in a timely and transparent manner,  
11          with a strong focus on delivery of resource-  
12          efficient, stress-tolerant, regionally adapted  
13          public cultivar and animal breeds that—

14                 “(I) help build agricultural resil-  
15                 ience to climate change; and

16                 “(II) support on-farm carbon se-  
17                 questration and greenhouse gas miti-  
18                 gation, nutritional quality, and other  
19                 farmer-identified priority agronomic  
20                 and market traits;

21                 “(iv) convene a working group to  
22                 carry out the coordination functions de-  
23                 scribed in this subparagraph comprised of  
24                 individuals who are responsible for the  
25                 management, administration, or analysis of

1 public cultivar and animal breeding pro-  
2 grams within the Department from—

3 “(I) the National Institute of  
4 Food and Agriculture;

5 “(II) the Agricultural Research  
6 Service; and

7 “(III) the Economic Research  
8 Service;

9 “(v) in order to maximize delivery of  
10 public cultivars and animal breeds, pro-  
11 mote collaboration among—

12 “(I) the coordinator;

13 “(II) the working group convened  
14 under clause (iv);

15 “(III) the advisory council estab-  
16 lished under section 1634 of the  
17 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and  
18 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5843);

19 “(IV) genetic resource conserva-  
20 tion centers;

21 “(V) land-grant colleges and uni-  
22 versities (as defined in section 1404 of  
23 the National Agricultural Research,  
24 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of  
25 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

1           “(VI) Hispanic-serving institu-  
2           tions (as defined in section 502(a) of  
3           the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
4           U.S.C. 1101a(a));

5           “(VII) Native American-serving  
6           nontribal institutions (as defined in  
7           section 371(e) of the Higher Edu-  
8           cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
9           1067q(e));

10           “(VIII) Tribal Colleges and Uni-  
11           versities (as defined in section 316(b)  
12           of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
13           (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))) and federally  
14           recognized Tribes extension programs;

15           “(IX) nongovernmental organiza-  
16           tions with interest or expertise in pub-  
17           lic breeding; and

18           “(X) public and private plant and  
19           animal breeders, including small-scale  
20           organic breeders;

21           “(vi) convene regular stakeholder lis-  
22           tening sessions to provide input on na-  
23           tional and regional priorities for public  
24           cultivar and animal breed research activi-  
25           ties across the Department; and

1                   “(vii) evaluate and make rec-  
2                   ommendations to the Under Secretary on  
3                   training and resource needs to meet future  
4                   breeding challenges.”; and

5                   (B) in subsection (f)(1)(D)(i), by striking  
6                   “(7 U.S.C. 450i(b))” and inserting “(7 U.S.C.  
7                   3157(b))”.

8                   (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
9                   296(b)(6)(B) of the Department of Agriculture Re-  
10                  organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)(6)(B))  
11                  is amended by striking “Scientist; and” and insert-  
12                  ing “Scientist (including the public breed and  
13                  cultivar research activities coordinator under sub-  
14                  section (e)(7) of that section); and”.

15                  (c) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR DEVELOP-  
16                  MENT.—Subtitle H of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture,  
17                  Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921 et  
18                  seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

19                  **“SEC. 1681. PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR DEVELOPMENT.**

20                  “(a) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting  
21                  through the Administrator of the Agricultural Research  
22                  Service (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’) and  
23                  in conjunction with the Director of the National Genetic  
24                  Resources Program appointed under section 1633, shall  
25                  support the development of public breeds and cultivars (as

1 defined in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of the Competi-  
2 tive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C.  
3 3157(a))) by Federal researchers.

4 “(b) PRIORITY.—In supporting research under sub-  
5 section (a) using funds made available pursuant to sub-  
6 section (d), the Secretary shall give priority to high-poten-  
7 tial research projects that lead to the release of regionally  
8 adapted public breeds and cultivars that assist producers  
9 in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

10 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than October 1 of each  
11 year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that  
12 provides information on all public breed and cultivar re-  
13 search funded by the Agricultural Research Service and  
14 the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, includ-  
15 ing—

16 “(1) a list of public breeds and cultivars devel-  
17 oped and released in a commercially available form;

18 “(2) areas of high-priority research;

19 “(3) identified research gaps relating to public  
20 breed and cultivar development, including newly  
21 emerging needs stemming from climate change; and

22 “(4) an assessment of the state of commer-  
23 cialization for breeds and cultivars that have been  
24 developed.

1           “(d) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to the  
2 Secretary for a fiscal year, not less than \$50,000,000 shall  
3 be made available to carry out this section.”.

4   **SEC. 206. ARS CLIMATE SCIENTIST CAREER DEVELOPMENT**  
5                           **PROGRAM.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in accord-  
7 ance with section 922 of the Federal Agriculture Improve-  
8 ment and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2279c), carry  
9 out an internship program within the Agricultural Re-  
10 search Service for graduate students pursuing a degree  
11 or conducting research relating to climate change and ag-  
12 riculture.

13           (b) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-  
14 it Corporation, the Secretary may use to carry out the pro-  
15 gram described in subsection (a) not more than  
16 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

17   **SEC. 207. AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITI-**  
18                           **GATION THROUGH AFRI.**

19           Subsection (b)(2) of the Competitive, Special, and  
20 Facilities Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)(2)) is amended by  
21 adding at the end the following:

22                           “(G) AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE ADAPTA-  
23                           TION AND MITIGATION.—Agricultural climate  
24                           adaptation and mitigation, including—

1 “(i) strategies for agricultural adapta-  
2 tion to climate change and drought, includ-  
3 ing strategies for small and medium-sized  
4 farms and ranches;

5 “(ii) on-farm mitigation strategies and  
6 solutions, including infrastructure, equip-  
7 ment, and ecosystems-based strategies;

8 “(iii) economic and social costs and  
9 benefits of adopting conservation practices  
10 to mitigate and adapt to climate change;

11 “(iv) ecosystem services co-benefits of  
12 reducing net greenhouse gas emissions and  
13 adapting to climate change;

14 “(v) new technologies, methods, and  
15 models to measure and predict greenhouse  
16 gas emissions and soil carbon sequestra-  
17 tion; and

18 “(vi) the intersection of agricultural  
19 production, soil health, climate change, and  
20 human health.”.

21 **SEC. 208. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

22 Section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,  
23 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is  
24 amended—

25 (1) in subsection (b)—



1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
2 by inserting “, diverse multi-crop production  
3 systems,” after “specific crops”;

4 (B) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), by striking  
5 “pesticide application systems” and inserting  
6 “ecologically based pest management, pesticide  
7 application systems,”;

8 (C) in paragraph (4)(E), by striking “and”  
9 at the end;

10 (D) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-  
11 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

12 (E) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(6) efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate  
14 change, including—

15 “(A) on-farm mitigation strategies and so-  
16 lutions, including agricultural ecosystems-based  
17 strategies;

18 “(B) conservation practices and tech-  
19 nologies designed to improve soil health, includ-  
20 ing practices and technologies that sequester  
21 carbon in soil; and

22 “(C) breeding research and cultivar devel-  
23 opment to help adapt to climate change.”; and

24 (2) in subsection (g)(3)(A), by striking “equal  
25 to not less than the amount of the grant” and in-

1           serting “in an amount that is equal to not less than  
2           25 percent of the funds provided through the  
3           grant”.

4   **SEC. 209. INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT.**

5           Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,  
6 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626) is  
7 amended—

8           (1) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and  
9           (f) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively;

10           (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
11           lowing:

12           “(d) **EMPHASIS ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE.**—The Sec-  
13 retary shall ensure that grants made under this section  
14 are, where appropriate, consistent with the development  
15 of food and agricultural systems that improve climate re-  
16 silience.

17           “(e) **ECOLOGICALLY BASED PEST MANAGEMENT.**—  
18 The Secretary shall ensure that grants made under this  
19 section to support pest management prioritize ecologically  
20 based approaches that—

21           “(1) are effective, affordable, and environ-  
22           mentally sound;

23           “(2) maintain agricultural productivity and  
24           healthy communities; and

25           “(3) improve climate resilience.”; and

1           (3) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated), by  
2           striking “2023” and inserting “2028”.

3   **SEC. 210. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**  
4                           **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

5           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 310B(i)(2) of the  
6 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
7 1932(i)(2)) is amended—

8           (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
9           by inserting “, including a beginning farmer or  
10           rancher and a veteran farmer or rancher (as those  
11           terms are defined in section 2501(a) of the Food,  
12           Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7  
13           U.S.C. 2279(a))) and a socially disadvantaged farm-  
14           er or rancher (as defined in section 355(e)),” after  
15           “producers”;

16           (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at  
17           the end;

18           (3) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-  
19           paragraph (E);

20           (4) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-  
21           lowing:

22                           “(D) increase on-farm resilience to extreme  
23           weather by enhancing soil health and adopting  
24           other conservation practices;”;

1           (5) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated),  
2           by striking the period at the end and inserting “;  
3           and”; and

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

5                   “(F) improve farm viability and strengthen  
6           local, regional, and national supply chains.”.

7           (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 310B(i)(3) of the  
8           Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
9           1932(i)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

10                   “(C) ELIGIBILITY FOR AND USE OF OTHER  
11           FUNDS.—A national nonprofit agricultural as-  
12           sistance institution that receives a grant or en-  
13           ters into a cooperative agreement under this  
14           subsection—

15                           “(i) may not, as a result of that grant  
16                           or cooperative agreement, be treated as in-  
17                           eligible for a grant under any other Fed-  
18                           eral program; and

19                           “(ii) may utilize, in accordance with  
20                           applicable law, other public and private  
21                           funds made available to the institution to  
22                           expand the resources and outreach of the  
23                           program established under this sub-  
24                           section.”.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
2 310B(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)) is amended by striking paragraph  
4 (4) and inserting the following:

5 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
6 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
7 this subsection—

8 “(A) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and

9 “(B) \$8,500,000 for each of fiscal years  
10 2024 through 2028.”.

## 11 **TITLE III—SOIL HEALTH**

### 12 **SEC. 301. CROP INSURANCE.**

13 (a) VOLUNTARY GOOD FARMING PRACTICES.—Sec-  
14 tion 508(a)(3)(A)(iii) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act  
15 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(3)(A)(iii)) is amended—

16 (1) by striking “including scientifically” and in-  
17 serting the following: “including—

18 “(I) scientifically”;

19 (2) in subclause (I) (as so designated), by strik-  
20 ing the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

22 “(II) conservation practices and  
23 enhancements that are approved by—

24 “(aa) the Natural Resources  
25 Conservation Service; or

1                                   “(bb) an agricultural expert,  
2                                   as determined by the Secretary.”.

3           (b) RISK-REDUCTION-BASED DISCOUNTS.—Section  
4 508(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.  
5 1508(d)) is amended—

6                   (1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-  
7                   graph (5); and

8                   (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
9                   lowing:

10                   “(4) RISK-REDUCTION BASED DISCOUNT.—

11                                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning  
12                                   with the 2024 reinsurance year, the Corpora-  
13                                   tion may provide a risk-reduction based pre-  
14                                   mium discount for a producer of an agricultural  
15                                   commodity who uses risk-reduction farming  
16                                   practices, as determined by the Corporation in  
17                                   accordance with subparagraph (B).

18                                   “(B) RISK-REDUCTION FARMING PRAC-  
19                                   TICES.— For purposes of subparagraph (A), a  
20                                   risk-reduction farming practice may include any  
21                                   of the following:

22   “(i) The use of a cover crop.

23   “(ii) A resource-conserving crop rota-  
24   tion.

1 “(iii) Management-intensive rotational  
2 grazing.

3 “(iv) A compost or biochar applica-  
4 tion.

5 “(v) An agroforestry or other peren-  
6 nial production system.

7 “(vi) Other risk-reducing and soil  
8 health-promoting farming practices, as de-  
9 termined by the Corporation.”.

10 (c) CROP PRODUCTION ON NATIVE SOD APPLICA-  
11 BILITY.—

12 (1) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN STATES.—Sec-  
13 tion 508(o) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7  
14 U.S.C. 1508(o)) is amended by striking paragraph  
15 (3).

16 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
17 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the first day  
18 of the first reinsurance year that begins after the  
19 date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of  
20 this Act.

21 **SEC. 302. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-**  
22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) PURPOSES.—Section 1240 of the Food Security  
24 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa) is amended—

1           (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
2           striking “and environmental quality” and inserting  
3           “environmental quality, and climate change adapta-  
4           tion and mitigation”;

5           (2) in paragraph (1)—

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

8           (B) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and”  
9           at the end; and

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

11          “(D) greenhouse gas emissions reduction  
12          and carbon sequestration;”;

13          (3) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “seques-  
14          tering carbon, increasing drought resilience, reduc-  
15          ing greenhouse gas emissions, and” before “con-  
16          serving energy”; and

17          (4) in paragraph (4), by inserting “climate  
18          change and” before “increasing weather volatility”.

19          (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240A of the Food Secu-  
20          rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1) is amended—

21          (1) in paragraph (6)(B)—

22          (A) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the  
23          end;

24          (B) by redesignating clause (vi) as clause  
25          (vii); and



1 (C) by inserting after clause (v) the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(vi) greenhouse gas emissions reduc-  
4 tion planning; and”;

5 (2) in paragraph (7), in the matter preceding  
6 subparagraph (A), by striking “natural resource  
7 concern or problem” and inserting “resource con-  
8 cern”;

9 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (9) and (10)  
10 as paragraphs (10) and (11), respectively; and

11 (4) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-  
12 lowing:

13 “(9) RESOURCE CONCERN.—The term ‘resource  
14 concern’ means a natural resource condition of the  
15 soil, water, air, plant, animal, or energy resource  
16 base that impairs the sustainability or intended used  
17 of the resource.”.

18 (c) ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF EN-  
19 VIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM.—

20 (1) PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(7)(A) of the  
21 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-  
22 2(d)(7)(A)) is amended—

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

1 (B) in clause (iv), by striking the period at  
2 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

4 “(v) increases carbon sequestration or  
5 reduces greenhouse gas emissions.”.

6 (2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section  
7 1240B(f)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
8 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(f)(1)) is amended—

9 (A) by striking “2023” and inserting  
10 “2031”; and

11 (B) by striking “including grazing manage-  
12 ment” and inserting “of which not less than  $\frac{2}{3}$   
13 shall be targeted at practices relating to grazing  
14 management”.

15 (3) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES  
16 RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section  
17 1240B(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
18 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)) is amended—

19 (A) by striking paragraph (3); and

20 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and  
21 (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

22 (4) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—  
23 Section 1240B(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
24 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)) is amended—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
2 “, which may include climate change adap-  
3 tation and mitigation,” after “priority re-  
4 source concerns”; and

5 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
6 “, which may include climate change adap-  
7 tation and mitigation” before the period at  
8 the end; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

11 (I) in subclause (I), by striking  
12 “or” at the end;

13 (II) in subclause (II), by striking  
14 the period at the end and inserting “;  
15 or”; and

16 (III) by adding at the end the  
17 following:

18 “(III) funding, through annual  
19 payments, for a suite of incentive  
20 practices that are appropriate for the  
21 region and land use and that best en-  
22 hance soil health and carbon seques-  
23 tration and reduce greenhouse gas  
24 emissions, as determined by the Sec-  
25 retary.”;

1 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and  
2 inserting the following:

3 “(B) TERM.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A contract under  
5 this subsection shall have a term of not  
6 less than 5, and not more than 10, years.

7 “(ii) GRADUATION OPTION.—The Sec-  
8 retary may reduce the term for a contract  
9 under this subsection if the producer en-  
10 ters into a conservation stewardship con-  
11 tract under section 1240K with respect to  
12 the eligible land that is subject to the con-  
13 tract under this subsection.”; and

14 (iii) in subparagraph (C)—

15 (I) in clause (i), by striking  
16 “and” at the end;

17 (II) in clause (ii), by striking the  
18 period at the end and inserting “;  
19 and”;

20 (III) by adding at the end the  
21 following:

22 “(iii) give priority to applications that  
23 cover eligible land that, on expiration of a  
24 contract under this subsection, may be en-

1                   rolled in a conservation stewardship con-  
2                   tract under section 1240K.”.

3           (d) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PLAN.—  
4 Section 1240E(a)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
5 U.S.C. 3839aa–5(a)(3)) is amended by inserting “, and  
6 a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan” after “if appli-  
7 cable”.

8           (e) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—Section 1240G of  
9 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is  
10 amended by striking “Not including payments” and all  
11 that follows through “2023” and inserting “A person or  
12 legal entity (including a joint venture and a general part-  
13 nership) may not receive, directly or indirectly, cost-share  
14 or incentive payments under this subchapter that, in ag-  
15 gregate, exceed \$450,000 for all contracts entered into  
16 under this subchapter by the person or legal entity during  
17 any 5-fiscal-year period”.

18           (f) CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS.—

19                   (1) AIR QUALITY CONCERNS FROM AGRICUL-  
20                   TURAL OPERATIONS.—Section 1240H(b) of the  
21                   Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(b))  
22                   is amended—

23                                   (A) in paragraph (1)—

24   (i) by striking “practices to address”  
25                                   in the first sentence and all that follows

1 through “The funds” in the second sen-  
2 tence and inserting the following: “prac-  
3 tices—

4 “(i) to address air quality concerns  
5 from agricultural operations; and

6 “(ii) to meet Federal, State, and  
7 local—

8 “(I) regulatory requirements; and

9 “(II) goals with respect to green-  
10 house gas emissions reductions.

11 “(B) BASIS OF AVAILABILITY AND USE.—

12 Funds for payments under subparagraph (A)”;

13 and

14 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)  
15 (as so designated), by striking “The Sec-  
16 retary” and inserting the following:

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking  
19 “\$37,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2019  
20 through 2031” and inserting “\$37,500,000 for  
21 each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, and  
22 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024  
23 through 2031”.

1           (2) ON-FARM CONSERVATION INNOVATION  
2           TRIALS.—Section 1240H(c) of the Food Security  
3           Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(c)) is amended—  
4           (A) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)—  
5                 (i) in subclause (II), by inserting “on-  
6                 farm nutrient recycling,” after “plans,”;  
7                 (ii) in subclause (VI), by striking  
8                 “and” at the end; and  
9                 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
10            lowing:  
11                 “(VII) perennial production sys-  
12                 tems, including agroforestry and pe-  
13                 rennial forages and grain crops; and”;  
14                 and  
15            (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-  
16            ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2019  
17            through 2031” and inserting “2019 through  
18            2023, \$50,000,000 of the funds made available  
19            to carry out this subchapter for each of fiscal  
20            years 2024 and 2025, and \$100,000,000 of the  
21            funds made available to carry out this sub-  
22            chapter for each of fiscal years 2026 through  
23            2031”.

1 **SEC. 303. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240I of the Food Secu-  
3 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “en-  
6 hancements,” after “practices,”; and

7 (B) in subparagraph (B)(v), by inserting  
8 “and climate change” before the period at the  
9 end;

10 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “main-  
11 tained, actively” after “implemented,”;

12 (3) in paragraph (5), in the matter preceding  
13 subparagraph (A), by striking “natural resource  
14 concern or problem” and inserting “resource con-  
15 cern”;

16 (4) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-  
17 graph (8); and

18 (5) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 “(7) RESOURCE CONCERN.—The term ‘resource  
21 concern’ means a natural resource condition of the  
22 soil, water, air, plant, animal, or energy resource  
23 base that impairs the sustainability or intended used  
24 of the resource.”.

25 (b) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.—Sec-  
26 tion 1240J(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16



1 U.S.C. 3839aa–22(a)) is amended by striking paragraphs  
2 (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

3 “(1) by maintaining, actively managing, and,  
4 where practicable, improving existing conservation  
5 activities; and

6 “(2) by undertaking additional conservation ac-  
7 tivities.”.

8 (c) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—

9 (1) SUBMISSION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—Sec-  
10 tion 1240K(a)(2)(B) of the Food Security Act of  
11 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–23(a)(2)(B)) is amended  
12 by striking “improving, maintaining, and managing”  
13 and inserting “maintaining, actively managing, and,  
14 where practicable, improving”.

15 (2) EVALUATION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—Sec-  
16 tion 1240K(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
17 U.S.C. 3839aa–23(b)) is amended—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking clause  
19 (iii) and inserting the following:

20 “(iii) other criteria consistent with an  
21 equal weighting of the factors described in  
22 clauses (i) and (ii), as determined by the  
23 Secretary, including criteria the Secretary  
24 determines are necessary to ensure that—

1                   “(I) the program effectively tar-  
2                   gets improvements to soil health, in-  
3                   creases in carbon sequestration, and  
4                   reductions in greenhouse gas emis-  
5                   sions; and

6                   “(II) other national, State, and  
7                   local priority resource concerns are ef-  
8                   fectively addressed.”; and

9                   (B) by striking paragraph (3).

10                   (3) CONTRACT RENEWAL.—Section 1240K(e)  
11                   of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
12                   3839aa–23(e)) is amended—

13                   (A) in paragraph (3)—

14                   (i) by striking subparagraph (B);

15                   (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
16                   “; or” at the end and inserting “, if appli-  
17                   cable.”; and

18                   (iii) by striking “period—” in the  
19                   matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all  
20                   that follows through “to meet” in subpara-  
21                   graph (A) and inserting “period, to meet”;

22                   (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
23                   through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),  
24                   respectively, and indenting appropriately;

1 (C) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
2 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “The Sec-  
3 retary” and inserting the following:

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

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

6 “(2) RANKING AND PAYMENTS.—In deter-  
7 mining whether to accept an application for contract  
8 renewal under this subsection, and when calculating  
9 payments for those renewed contracts, the Secretary  
10 shall consider the full conservation benefits across  
11 the entire applicable agricultural operation, includ-  
12 ing—

13 “(A) the number of priority resource con-  
14 cerns with respect to which the producer is ex-  
15 pected to meet or exceed the stewardship  
16 threshold by the end of the contract period; and

17 “(B) the active management and mainte-  
18 nance of ongoing conservation activities, includ-  
19 ing—

20 “(i) the conservation activities adopt-  
21 ed during a prior contract period; and

22 “(ii) the new or improved conservation  
23 activities to be adopted if a contract is re-  
24 newed.”.

25 (d) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

1           (1) CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITI-  
2           GATION.—Section 1240L(a)(2) of the Food Security  
3           Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(a)(2)) is amend-  
4           ed by inserting “(which may include climate change  
5           adaptation and mitigation)” after “priority resource  
6           concerns”.

7           (2) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAY-  
8           MENTS.—Section 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act  
9           of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

10           (A) in paragraph (1)—

11           (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
12           “on 1 or more types of eligible land cov-  
13           ered by the contract” after “activities”;  
14           and

15           (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
16           “improving, maintaining, and managing”  
17           and inserting “maintaining, actively man-  
18           aging, and improving”;

19           (B) in paragraph (2)—

20           (i) by striking subparagraph (B) and  
21           inserting the following:

22           “(B) Income forgone by the producer, in-  
23           cluding amounts that reflect—

24           “(i) increased economic risk; and

25           “(ii) loss in revenue due to—

1 “(I) production changes;

2 “(II) anticipated reductions in  
3 yield;

4 “(III) transitioning to an or-  
5 ganic, resource-conserving cropping or  
6 grazing, or perennial production sys-  
7 tem; or

8 “(IV) acreage converted to con-  
9 servation uses.”; and

10 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting

11 “, actively managed, and, where applicable,  
12 improved” after “maintained”; and

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

14 “(6) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVI-  
15 TIES RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION SYS-  
16 TEMS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
18 provide payments under this subsection for con-  
19 servation activities relating to—

20 “(i) organic production; and

21 “(ii) transitioning to organic produc-  
22 tion.

23 “(B) CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—Con-  
24 servation activities described in subparagraph  
25 (A) may include—

1 “(i) generally available and specifically  
2 tailored conservation activities; and

3 “(ii) individual conservation activities  
4 and bundles of conservation activities.

5 “(7) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—The amount of an  
6 annual payment under the program shall be not less  
7 than \$2,000.”.

8 (3) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS.—Section  
9 1240L(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
10 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—

11 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
12 “, PERENNIAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS,” after  
13 “ROTATIONS”;

14 (B) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) by redesignating subparagraph (C)  
16 as subparagraph (D); and

17 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph  
18 (B) the following:

19 “(C) PERENNIAL PRODUCTION SYSTEM.—  
20 The term ‘perennial production system’  
21 means—

22 “(i) the use of cropland for agro-  
23 forestry, including alley cropping,  
24 silvopasture, and related production prac-  
25 tices, as determined by the Secretary;

1           “(ii) the use of woodland for agro-  
2 forestry, including forest farming, multi-  
3 story cropping, and related production  
4 practices, as determined by the Secretary;  
5 and

6           “(iii) the use of cropland for perennial  
7 forages or perennial grain crops.”;

8           (C) in paragraph (2)—

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

11           (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
12 the period at the end and inserting “; or”;  
13 and

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

16           “(C) a perennial production system.”; and

17           (D) in paragraph (3), by striking “or ad-  
18 vanced grazing management” and inserting “,  
19 advanced grazing management, or a perennial  
20 production system”.

21           (4) PAYMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVA-  
22 TION PLAN.—Section 1240L(e)(1) of the Food Secu-  
23 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(e)(1)) is  
24 amended—

1 (A) by striking the period at the end and  
2 inserting the following: “; and

3 “(B) with respect to an organic production  
4 system—

5 “(i) is integrated with an organic sys-  
6 tem plan approved under the national or-  
7 ganic program established under the Or-  
8 ganic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7  
9 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.); or

10 “(ii) allows a producer to transition to  
11 organic production systems and pursue  
12 certification under that Act.”; and

13 (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
14 (B) (as added by subparagraph (A)), by strik-  
15 ing “plan that meets” and inserting the fol-  
16 lowing: “plan that—

17 “(A) meets”.

18 (5) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f)  
19 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
20 3839aa–24(f)) is amended—

21 (A) by inserting “(including a joint venture  
22 and a general partnership)” after “A person or  
23 legal entity”; and



1 (B) by striking “fiscal years 2019 through  
2 2023” and inserting “any consecutive 5-fiscal-  
3 year period”.

4 (6) SPECIALTY CROP AND ORGANIC PRO-  
5 DUCERS.—Section 1240L(g) of the Food Security  
6 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(g)) is amended  
7 by inserting “, and producers transitioning to or-  
8 ganic production systems,” after “organic pro-  
9 ducers”.

10 (7) SOIL HEALTH.—Section 1240L(k) of the  
11 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–  
12 24(k)) is amended by striking the period at the end  
13 and inserting the following: “, including by—

14 “(1) conducting outreach to encourage the use  
15 of contracts to improve soil health and sequester  
16 carbon in the soil; and

17 “(2) offering payments for soil testing to pro-  
18 vide producers and the Secretary with information  
19 on the soil health and carbon sequestration impacts  
20 of conservation activities.”.

21 (e) ON-FARM CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP INNO-  
22 VATION GRANTS.—Subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle  
23 D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
24 3839aa–21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the  
25 following:

1 **“SEC. 1240L-2. ON-FARM CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP IN-**  
2 **NOVATION GRANTS.**

3 “(a) DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURAL PROFES-  
4 SIONAL.—In this section, the term ‘agricultural profes-  
5 sional’ means a university researcher or educator, includ-  
6 ing an extension agent or specialist, Federal agency field  
7 staff, an agricultural consultant, State and local agency  
8 staff, Tribal agency staff, a Federally-Recognized Tribes  
9 Extension Program agent, and nonprofit organization  
10 staff assisting farmers and ranchers at the local level.

11 “(b) GRANTS.—Using funds made available to carry  
12 out this subchapter, the Secretary shall provide competi-  
13 tive grants to carry out on-farm conservation innovation  
14 projects on eligible land of program participants for the  
15 purpose of stimulating innovative approaches on farms  
16 and ranches to leverage Federal investment in conserva-  
17 tion stewardship, in conjunction with agricultural produc-  
18 tion or forest resource management, through the program.

19 “(c) PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary shall provide  
20 grants under this section—

21 “(1) directly to agricultural operations, or  
22 groups of agricultural operations, participating in  
23 the program; or

24 “(2) through partnerships between agricultural  
25 professionals and small groups of agricultural oper-  
26 ations participating in the program.

1           “(d) USE.—An entity that receives a grant under this  
2 section directly or through a partnership in accordance  
3 with subsection (c) shall carry out an on-farm conserva-  
4 tion innovation project that—

5           “(1) facilitates on-farm research and dem-  
6 onstration or pilot testing of new technologies or in-  
7 novative conservation systems and practices that aim  
8 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonize  
9 agriculture;

10           “(2) facilitates on-farm research and dem-  
11 onstration or pilot testing of practices and systems  
12 with a proven high impact for greenhouse gas emis-  
13 sions reduction and decarbonization and low national  
14 or regional adoption rates; or

15           “(3) helps to prepare program participants for  
16 participation in environmental services markets that  
17 have as a primary goal greenhouse gas emissions re-  
18 duction or decarbonization of agriculture.

19           “(e) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

20           “(1) AGREEMENTS.—

21           “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this  
22 section, the Secretary shall enter into agree-  
23 ments with agricultural operations (directly or  
24 through governmental or nongovernmental or-  
25 ganizations involved in a partnership with 1 or

1 more agricultural operations) on whose land an  
2 on-farm conservation innovation project is being  
3 carried out under this section to provide pay-  
4 ments to the agricultural operations to assist  
5 with adopting and evaluating new or innovative  
6 conservation approaches to achieve conservation  
7 benefits.

8 “(B) AMOUNT.—Payments provided under  
9 subparagraph (A) shall reflect the direct costs  
10 of the research and demonstration and com-  
11 pensation for foregone income, as appropriate  
12 to address the increased economic risk or lower  
13 economic return potentially associated with the  
14 applicable innovative conservation approach.

15 “(2) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME REQUIRE-  
16 MENTS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Adjusted gross income  
18 requirements under section 1001D(b)(1)  
19 shall—

20 “(i) apply to producers receiving pay-  
21 ments under this subsection; and

22 “(ii) be enforced by the Secretary.

23 “(B) REPORTING.—A governmental or  
24 nongovernmental organization participating in  
25 an on-farm conservation innovation project

1 under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-  
2 retary an annual report describing the amount  
3 of payments that the organization made to each  
4 agricultural operation under this subsection.

5 “(3) RESEARCH, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND  
6 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Secretary may  
7 provide to a partnership described in paragraph  
8 (1)(A) not more than \$50,000 for each on-farm con-  
9 servation innovation project for research, technical  
10 assistance, and administrative expenses.

11 “(4) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An agreement  
12 entered into under paragraph (1)(A) shall be for a  
13 period determined by the Secretary that is—

14 “(A) not less than 2 years; and

15 “(B) if appropriate, more than 2 years, in-  
16 cluding if the longer period is appropriate to  
17 support—

18 “(i) adaptive management over mul-  
19 tiple crop years; and

20 “(ii) adequate data collection and  
21 analysis by an agricultural operation or  
22 partnership to report the natural resource  
23 and agricultural production benefits of the  
24 new or innovative conservation approaches  
25 to the Secretary.”.

1 **SEC. 304. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

2 Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-  
3 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amended  
4 by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 1240S. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

6 “(a) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—  
7 Using funds made available under subsection (k), the Sec-  
8 retary shall make grants to States or Tribal governments  
9 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to be used by  
10 State departments of agriculture or appropriate Tribal au-  
11 thorities to develop and implement plans to improve soil  
12 health on agricultural land.

13 “(b) APPLICATION.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State department of ag-  
15 riculture or Tribal government requesting a grant  
16 under this section shall prepare and submit for ap-  
17 proval by the Secretary an application at such time,  
18 in such a manner, and containing such information  
19 as the Secretary shall require, including an assur-  
20 ance that grant funds received under this section  
21 shall supplement the expenditure of State or Tribal  
22 funds in support of soil health, rather than replace  
23 State or Tribal funds for those purposes.

24 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A State or Tribal gov-  
25 ernment may request funds under this section—

1           “(A) to develop or modify a State or Tribal  
2 soil health plan; or

3           “(B) to implement a State or Tribal soil  
4 health plan approved by the Secretary under  
5 this section, including through—

6                   “(i) technical assistance;

7                   “(ii) financial assistance;

8                   “(iii) on-farm research and dem-  
9 onstration;

10                   “(iv) education, outreach, and train-  
11 ing;

12                   “(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

13                   “(vi) such other activities as the Sec-  
14 retary determines to be appropriate.

15           “(3) PLAN COMPONENTS.—Prior to approving a  
16 State or Tribal soil health plan, the Secretary shall  
17 ensure that the plan, at a minimum—

18                   “(A) is broadly consistent with the soil  
19 health principles of the Natural Resources Con-  
20 servation Service; and

21                   “(B) identifies effective strategies for in-  
22 creasing adoption of regionally appropriate soil  
23 health practices and systems on privately owned  
24 agricultural land under the jurisdiction of the  
25 applicable State or Tribal government.

1           “(4) ELIGIBILITY.—A State or Tribal govern-  
2           ment may—

3                   “(A) apply for a grant for the purposes de-  
4                   scribed in paragraph (2)(A) at any time; and

5                   “(B) apply for a grant for the purposes de-  
6                   scribed in paragraph (2)(B) on approval by the  
7                   Secretary of a soil health plan for the State or  
8                   Tribal government.

9           “(c) TRIBAL OPTION.—At the sole discretion of a  
10          Tribal government, an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization  
11          shall have the option of being incorporated into a State  
12          application rather than submitting an application for the  
13          Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

14          “(d) GRANT AMOUNT.—

15                   “(1) MAXIMUM.—The maximum grant any 1  
16                   State or Tribal government may receive under this  
17                   section for a fiscal year shall be—

18                           “(A) in the case of a grant for the pur-  
19                           poses described in subsection (b)(2)(A),  
20                           \$1,000,000; and

21                           “(B) in the case of a grant for the pur-  
22                           poses described in subsection (b)(2)(B),  
23                           \$5,000,000.

24          “(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—



1           “(A) GRANTS TO STATES.—The amount of  
2           a grant to a State under this section shall not  
3           exceed—

4                   “(i) 75 percent of the cost of devel-  
5                   oping or modifying a soil health plan; or

6                   “(ii) 50 percent of the cost of imple-  
7                   menting the soil health plan.

8           “(B) GRANTS TO TRIBES.—The amount of  
9           a grant to a Tribal government under this sec-  
10          tion shall not exceed—

11                   “(i) 90 percent of the cost of devel-  
12                   oping or modifying a soil health plan; or

13                   “(ii) 75 percent of the cost of imple-  
14                   menting the soil health plan.

15          “(3) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—A grant made  
16          under this section shall be made on the condition  
17          that the non-Federal share of expenditures under  
18          paragraph (2) be provided by non-Federal sources.

19          “(e) GRANT TERM.—A grant under this section shall  
20          be for 1 year and may be renewed annually, at the discre-  
21          tion of the Secretary.

22          “(f) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to  
23          States or Tribal governments with a climate action plan  
24          that includes soil health, as determined by the Secretary.

25          “(g) PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND EVALUATION.—

1           “(1) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—Each applica-  
2           tion under subsection (b) shall include performance  
3           measures to be used to evaluate the results of the  
4           assistance received under this section.

5           “(2) REVIEW.—Each applicable State depart-  
6           ment of agriculture or Tribal authority shall submit  
7           to the Secretary a review and evaluation of the  
8           progress of the State department of agriculture or  
9           Tribal authority, using the performance measures  
10          under paragraph (1), at such intervals as the Sec-  
11          retary shall establish.

12          “(h) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Sec-  
13          retary, after reasonable notice to a State or Tribal govern-  
14          ment, determines that there has been a failure by the  
15          State or Tribal government to comply with the terms of  
16          a grant made under this section, the Secretary may dis-  
17          qualify, for 1 or more years, the State or Tribal govern-  
18          ment from receipt of future grants under this section.

19          “(i) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—For each year that a  
20          State or Tribal government receives a grant under this  
21          section, the State or Tribal government shall—

22                 “(1) conduct an audit of the expenditures of  
23                 grant funds by the State or Tribal government; and

1           “(2) not later than 30 days after the completion  
2 of the audit under paragraph (1), submit to the Sec-  
3 retary a copy of the audit.

4           “(j) ADMINISTRATION.—

5           “(1) DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary may not  
6 use more than 3 percent of the funds made available  
7 to carry out this section for a fiscal year for admin-  
8 istrative expenses.

9           “(2) STATES AND TRIBES.—A State or Tribal  
10 government receiving a grant under this section may  
11 not use more than 7 percent of the funds received  
12 under the grant for a fiscal year for administrative  
13 expenses.

14           “(k) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity  
15 Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to make grants  
16 under this section—

17           “(1) \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024  
18 and 2025;

19           “(2) \$80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
20 and 2027; and

21           “(3) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and  
22 each fiscal year thereafter.”.

23 **SEC. 305. FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION.**

24           (a) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—

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

4           (A) in paragraph (1)—

5               (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
6               “, and \$17,000,000 for the period of fiscal  
7               years 2024 through 2028,” after “2023”;  
8               and

9               (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
10              “and \$70,000,000 for the period of fiscal  
11              years 2024 through 2028, including not  
12              more than \$5,000,000 to provide outreach  
13              and technical assistance,” after “technical  
14              assistance,”;

15          (B) in paragraph (2)—

16              (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
17              “and” at the end;

18              (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
19              “2031.” and inserting “2023; and”; and

20              (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
21              lowing:

22              “(G) \$700,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
23              2024 through 2031.”; and

24          (C) in paragraph (3)—

25              (i) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (I) in clause (iv), by striking  
2 “and” at the end;

3 (II) in clause (v), by striking  
4 “each of fiscal years 2023 through  
5 2031” and inserting “fiscal year  
6 2023”; and

7 (III) by adding at the end the  
8 following:

9 “(vi) \$3,000,000,000 for each of fiscal  
10 years 2024 through 2031; and”; and

11 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

12 (I) in clause (iv), by striking  
13 “and” at the end;

14 (II) in clause (v), by striking  
15 “each of fiscal years 2023 through  
16 2031.” and inserting “fiscal year  
17 2023; and”; and

18 (III) by adding at the end the  
19 following:

20 “(vi) \$4,000,000,000 for each of fiscal  
21 years 2024 through 2031.”.

22 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1241(c)  
23 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
24 3841(c)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
25 lowing:

1 “(5) SPECIAL INITIATIVE.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in fiscal  
3 year 2022, and each year thereafter through  
4 fiscal year 2028, the Secretary shall use for a  
5 special technical assistance initiative to assist  
6 producers in mitigating and adapting to climate  
7 change, of the funds of the Commodity Credit  
8 Corporation, an amount equal to not less than  
9 1 percent of Commodity Credit Corporation  
10 funds made available for the applicable fiscal  
11 year for each of the programs described in sub-  
12 section (a).

13 “(B) PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
14 ANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical  
15 assistance under the special initiative under this  
16 paragraph to producers—

17 “(i) directly;

18 “(ii)(I) through an agreement with a  
19 third-party provider (as defined in section  
20 1242(a)); or

21 “(II) at the option of the producer,  
22 through a payment, as determined by the  
23 Secretary, to the producer for a third-party  
24 provider approved under section 1242, if  
25 available; or

1 “(iii) through a cooperative agreement  
2 or contract with—

3 “(I) a cooperative extension;

4 “(II) a nongovernmental organi-  
5 zation; or

6 “(III) a State, Tribal, or Federal  
7 agency.

8 “(C) UNDERSERVED PRODUCERS.—In pro-  
9 viding technical assistance under this para-  
10 graph, the Secretary shall give priority to pro-  
11 ducers who are persons described in section  
12 1244(a)(2).”.

13 (3) ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN FARMERS OR  
14 RANCHERS FOR CONSERVATION ACCESS.—Section  
15 1241(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
16 U.S.C. 3841(h)) is amended—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking  
18 “practicable—” in the matter preceding clause  
19 (i) and all that follows through the period at  
20 the end of clause (ii) and inserting “practicable,  
21 30 percent to assist beginning farmers or  
22 ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers or  
23 ranchers.”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “section  
25 2501(e)” and all that follows through the pe-

1           riod at the end and inserting “section 2501(a)  
2           of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and  
3           Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)) that  
4           qualifies under paragraph (1)(B).”.

5           (b) DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section  
6 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842)  
7 is amended—

8           (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

9                   (A) by inserting “an individual,” before “a  
10           commercial entity”;

11                   (B) by striking “State or local” and insert-  
12           ing “State, local, or Tribal”; and

13                   (C) by striking “nutrient management  
14           planning,” and inserting “soil health planning,  
15           greenhouse gas emissions reduction planning,  
16           nutrient management planning, integrated pest  
17           management planning, agroforestry planning,  
18           organic transition planning,”;

19           (2) in subsection (e)—

20                   (A) in paragraph (3)(A)—

21                           (i) by inserting “individuals,” before  
22                           “commercial entities,”; and

23                           (ii) by striking “State or local” and  
24           inserting “State, local, or Tribal”; and



1 (B) in paragraph (5), by inserting “or or-  
2 ganic” after “sustainability”; and

3 (3) in subsection (i)—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
5 “PERENNIAL AGRICULTURE SYSTEM,” after  
6 “ORGANIC,”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “a pe-  
8 rennial agriculture system,” after “production,”  
9 each place it appears.

10 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-  
11 SERVATION PROGRAMS.—

12 (1) INCENTIVES FOR CERTAIN FARMERS AND  
13 RANCHERS AND INDIAN TRIBES.—Section  
14 1244(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
15 U.S.C. 3844(a)(1)) is amended—

16 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
17 (A), by striking “incentives” and inserting “in-  
18 centives, including higher payment rates, ad-  
19 vance payments, transition payments, and farm  
20 infrastructure assistance,”;

21 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
22 “and” at the end; and

23 (C) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-  
24 serting the following:

1           “(B) to establish a new generation of pro-  
2           ducers who use the full array of climate-friendly  
3           conservation activities that reduce greenhouse  
4           gas emissions, increase soil carbon, and improve  
5           resilience to weather extremes; and

6           “(C) to enhance other long-term environ-  
7           mental goals.”.

8           (2) REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICE  
9           COSTS AND PAYMENT RATES.—Section  
10          1244(j)(1)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
11          U.S.C. 3844(j)(1)(B)) is amended—

12           (A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the  
13           end;

14           (B) in clause (iii), by striking the period at  
15           the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

17                   “(iv) accelerates progress in meeting  
18                   the goals established under title I of the  
19                   Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023.”.

20          (3) ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—Sec-  
21          tion 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
22          U.S.C. 3844) is amended by adding at the end the  
23          following:

24          “(q) ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out any con-  
2           servation program administered by the Secretary,  
3           the Secretary shall encourage advanced grazing  
4           management, including management-intensive rota-  
5           tional grazing (as those terms are defined in section  
6           1240L(d)(1)).

7           “(2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—In each of fis-  
8           cal years 2024 through 2028, the Secretary shall use  
9           to carry out this subsection not less than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of any  
10          funds available for activities relating to livestock  
11          production under conservation programs adminis-  
12          tered by the Secretary under this title (other than  
13          the conservation reserve program established under  
14          subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D, except for  
15          acres enrolled in that program under section  
16          1231(d)(2)).”.

17          (d) ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MARKETS.—Section  
18          1245 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3845)  
19          is amended by adding at the end the following:

20          “(f) GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND CARBON SE-  
21          QUESTRATION MONITORING AND MEASUREMENT FED-  
22          ERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

23                 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180  
24                 days after the date of enactment of this subsection,  
25                 the Secretary shall establish an advisory committee,

1 to be known as the ‘Greenhouse Gas Emissions and  
2 Carbon Sequestration Monitoring and Measurement  
3 Federal Advisory Committee’ (referred to in this  
4 subsection as the ‘advisory committee’).

5 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—In carrying out paragraph  
6 (1), the Secretary shall appoint members to the ad-  
7 visory committee that—

8 “(A) reflect diversity in gender, age, race,  
9 and geography; and

10 “(B) include—

11 “(i) farmers and ranchers, including  
12 farmers and ranchers operating small and  
13 mid-sized farms;

14 “(ii) organizations representing farm-  
15 ers and ranchers, including organizations  
16 representing farmers and ranchers oper-  
17 ating small and mid-sized farms;

18 “(iii) scientists;

19 “(iv) environmental nonprofit organi-  
20 zations;

21 “(v) existing private sector carbon and  
22 ecosystem services market development ini-  
23 tiatives;

1           “(vi) businesses working to reduce  
2           greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture  
3           in the supply chains of the businesses;

4           “(vii) relevant Federal agencies;

5           “(viii) Tribal communities; and

6           “(ix) State agriculture agencies.

7           “(3) TERMS.—

8           “(A) TERM LENGTH.—The term of a  
9           member of the advisory committee shall be 3  
10          years.

11          “(B) REAPPOINTMENT.—The Secretary  
12          may reappoint a member of the advisory com-  
13          mittee for not more than 2 consecutive terms.

14          “(4) MEETINGS.—The advisory committee shall  
15          meet—

16                 “(A) not fewer than 4 times in the first  
17                 year after the advisory committee is established;  
18                 and

19                 “(B) not less frequently than twice annu-  
20                 ally thereafter.

21          “(5) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1  
22          year after the date on which the advisory committee  
23          is established, and periodically thereafter, the advi-  
24          sory committee shall submit to the Secretary rec-  
25          ommendations on—

1           “(A) the feasibility of establishing reliable  
2 outcomes-based measurement systems, as de-  
3 scribed in subsection (g);

4           “(B) existing technology that provides reli-  
5 able measurement data;

6           “(C) with respect to parameters for which  
7 existing technology does not provide reliable  
8 measurement data, research and technical  
9 needs and, as appropriate, goals and plans for  
10 that research;

11           “(D) standards for data collection and dis-  
12 semination;

13           “(E) farmer data management and pri-  
14 vacy;

15           “(F) greenhouse gas emissions and soil  
16 health inventories and databases, as described  
17 in subsection (h); and

18           “(G) criteria for soil health and green-  
19 house gas emissions reductions incentives, as  
20 described in subsection (i).

21           “(g) MEASUREMENT SYSTEM.—

22           “(1) PURPOSE.—The Secretary shall evaluate  
23 existing outcomes-based measurement systems for  
24 recordkeeping, modeling, and measurement of farm-  
25 level greenhouse gas emissions and soil carbon se-

1        questration, including measures of soil disturbance,  
2        plant diversity, continual living cover, residue man-  
3        agement, advanced grazing management, and crop-  
4        livestock integration, to determine which of those  
5        systems—

6                “(A) can be implemented quickly;

7                “(B) can improve in accuracy and ease  
8        over time;

9                “(C) use the best available science and  
10        technology;

11               “(D) estimate uncertainty; and

12               “(E) are cost-effective.

13               “(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 18 months  
14        after the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
15        Secretary shall issue guidance on the outcomes-  
16        based measurement systems evaluated under para-  
17        graph (1), based on—

18               “(A) recommendations from the advisory  
19        committee established under subsection (f); and

20               “(B) information from—

21                       “(i) existing and emerging  
22        agroecosystem models;

23                       “(ii) remote sensing data and anal-  
24        ysis;

1 “(iii) soil health demonstration trials  
2 carried out under section 1240H(e)(7);

3 “(iv) existing and emerging public en-  
4 vironmental services protocols, measure-  
5 ment systems, and benchmarks, including  
6 uncertainty predictions and measurements;

7 “(v) field-level measurement, including  
8 field-based data collected under section  
9 21002(a)(2) of Public Law 117–169 (7  
10 U.S.C. 6936 note; 136 Stat. 2018);

11 “(vi) the Conservation Evaluation and  
12 Monitoring Activity for the Carbon Seques-  
13 tration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation As-  
14 sessment; and

15 “(vii) such other sources as the Sec-  
16 retary determines to be appropriate.

17 “(3) REVIEW.—The Secretary, based on rec-  
18 ommendations from the advisory committee estab-  
19 lished under subsection (f), shall—

20 “(A) establish and maintain an outcomes-  
21 based measurement system in accordance with  
22 the guidance issued under paragraph (2) when  
23 feasible;

24 “(B) conduct a periodic review of that sys-  
25 tem;



1           “(C) periodically make any necessary up-  
2           dates to that system; and

3           “(D) establish research and development  
4           goals and plans, as necessary.

5           “(h) INVENTORY.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
7           after the date of enactment of this subsection, and  
8           every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary, in consulta-  
9           tion with the advisory committee established under  
10          subsection (f) and the Administrator of the Environ-  
11          mental Protection Agency, shall conduct a nation-  
12          wide soil health and agricultural greenhouse gas  
13          emissions inventory that uses the best available  
14          science and data to establish expected average per-  
15          formance for soil carbon drawdown and storage and  
16          greenhouse gas emissions reduction by primary pro-  
17          duction type and production region.

18          “(2) DATABASE.—Drawing on the field-based  
19          data collected under section 21002(a)(2) of Public  
20          Law 117–169 (7 U.S.C. 6936 note; 136 Stat. 2018),  
21          the Secretary shall—

22                 “(A) establish an accessible and interoper-  
23                 able database for the information collected  
24                 through the inventory conducted under para-  
25                 graph (1); and

1           “(B) improve and update that database  
2           not less frequently than once every 2 years as  
3           new data is collected.

4           “(i) CRITERIA.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
6           tion with the advisory committee established under  
7           subsection (f), shall establish criteria for payments,  
8           credits, or other forms of incentives to inform policy  
9           established to promote soil carbon sequestration or  
10          greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

11          “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The criteria established  
12          under paragraph (1) shall—

13                 “(A) have a documented likelihood to lead  
14                 to long-term net increases in soil carbon seques-  
15                 tration and net reductions in greenhouse gas  
16                 emissions, according to the best available  
17                 science;

18                 “(B) be based in part on environmental  
19                 impact modeling of the changes of shifting from  
20                 baseline agricultural practices to new or im-  
21                 proved agricultural practices; and

22                 “(C) be designed to prevent the degrada-  
23                 tion of other natural resource or environmental  
24                 conditions.

25          “(j) DEMONSTRATION TRIALS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall peri-  
2           odically review the results from soil health dem-  
3           onstration trials carried out under section  
4           1240H(c)(7), and other similar public and private  
5           demonstration trials that the Secretary determines  
6           to be appropriate, to inform the activities under sub-  
7           sections (g), (h), and (i).

8           “(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In submitting re-  
9           ports pursuant to section 1240H(c)(7)(C)(ii), the  
10          Secretary shall include any recommendations to Con-  
11          gress for changes or additions to the conservation  
12          programs under this Act that the Secretary deter-  
13          mines to be appropriate to accelerate net increases  
14          in soil carbon sequestration and other improvements  
15          in soil health.”.

16 **SEC. 306. CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE.**

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

19                 (1) in paragraph (3)—

20                         (A) by striking “highly erodible” each  
21                         place it appears; and

22                         (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and  
23                         conservation treatment measures” and inserting  
24                         “crop rotation and cover crop systems, and

1 other relevant soil conservation and soil health  
2 management treatment measures”;

3 (2) in paragraph (4)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
5 “and” at the end;

6 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

7 (i) by striking “or a substantial im-  
8 provement in soil conditions on a field or  
9 group of fields containing highly erodible  
10 cropland” and inserting “and a substantial  
11 improvement in soil health conditions (in-  
12 cluding soil carbon levels) on a field or  
13 group of fields containing cropland”; and

14 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
15 and inserting a semicolon; and

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

17 “(C) are designed to achieve, within 5  
18 years of actively applying a conservation plan,  
19 a level of erosion not to exceed twice the soil  
20 loss tolerance level; and

21 “(D) are designed to effectively prevent the  
22 formation of new, or treat all existing, ephem-  
23 eral gullies.”; and

24 (3) in paragraph (11)(A)(ii), by striking “exces-  
25 sive average annual rate of erosion in relation to”

1 and inserting “average annual rate of erosion ex-  
2 ceeding twice”.

3 (b) CROPLAND CONSERVATION.—

4 (1) PROGRAM INELIGIBILITY.—Section 1211 of  
5 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811) is  
6 amended—

7 (A) in subsection (a)—

8 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph  
9 (1), by striking “produces an agricultural  
10 commodity” and all that follows through  
11 “as determined by the Secretary” and in-  
12 serting “carries out an activity described in  
13 subsection (b), as determined by the Sec-  
14 retary,”; and

15 (ii) in paragraph (1)(D), by inserting  
16 “cropland or” before “highly erodible  
17 land”;

18 (B) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
19 section (c);

20 (C) by inserting after subsection (a) the  
21 following:

22 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Activities referred to  
23 in subsection (a) are—

24 “(1) the production of an agricultural com-  
25 modity on a field on which cropland is predominant;

1           “(2) the designation of land on which cropland  
2           is predominant to be set aside, diverted, devoted to  
3           conservation uses, or otherwise not cultivated under  
4           a program administered by the Secretary to reduce  
5           production of an agricultural commodity; and

6           “(3) the production of an agricultural com-  
7           modity without having in place a conservation  
8           plan.”; and

9           (D) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated),  
10           by striking the heading and inserting “AU-  
11           THORITY OF SECRETARY.—”.

12           (2) EXEMPTIONS.—Section 1212 of the Food  
13           Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812) is amend-  
14           ed—

15           (A) in subsection (a)(3)—

16           (i) in the first sentence, by striking  
17           “highly erodible land” and inserting “crop-  
18           land”; and

19           (ii) in the first and second sentences,  
20           by striking “only be required to apply a  
21           conservation plan established under this  
22           subtitle. The person shall not be required  
23           to meet a higher conservation standard  
24           than the standard applied to other highly  
25           erodible” and inserting “be required to

1 apply a conservation plan established  
2 under this subtitle consistent with the  
3 standard applied to other”;

4 (B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “high-  
5 ly erodible land” each place it appears and in-  
6 serting “cropland”; and

7 (C) in subsection (f)(4)(A)—

8 (i) in clause (i), by striking “highly  
9 erodible”; and

10 (ii) in clause (ii)(II), by inserting  
11 “and soil health” after “erosion control”.

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

17 **SEC. 307. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CEN-**  
18 **TERS.**

19 Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
20 and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law  
21 101–624) is amended—

22 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-  
23 ing “**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGRO-**  
24 **FORESTRY CENTERS**”;

1           (2) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and  
2           (d) as subsections (e), (d), and (f), respectively;

3           (3) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the  
4           following:

5           “(a) DEFINITION OF AGROFORESTRY.—In this sec-  
6           tion, the term ‘agroforestry’ means a management system  
7           that intentionally integrates trees and shrubs into crop  
8           and animal farming systems to build more profitable and  
9           weather-resilient farms, ranches, and communities, ad-  
10          dress natural resource concerns and conservation needs,  
11          and establish productive and sustainable land use prac-  
12          tices, including—

13           “(1) riparian forest buffers and managed  
14          waterbreaks;

15           “(2) alley cropping;

16           “(3) silvopasture;

17           “(4) forest farming and multistory cropping;

18          and

19           “(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, field  
20          borders, and living snow fences.

21          “(b) NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY  
22          CENTERS.—

23           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-  
24          culture (referred to in this section as the ‘Sec-  
25          retary’)—



1           “(A) shall establish at the Forestry  
2           Sciences Laboratory of the Forest Service, in  
3           Lincoln, Nebraska, a National Agroforestry Re-  
4           search, Development, and Demonstration Cen-  
5           ter; and

6           “(B) acting through the Chief of the For-  
7           est Service and in cooperation with the Natural  
8           Resources Conservation Service, shall establish  
9           not fewer than 3 additional regional agro-  
10          forestry centers at other locations, as deter-  
11          mined by the Secretary.

12          “(2) NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS.—  
13          The Secretary shall appoint a National Director and  
14          Regional Directors to manage and coordinate the  
15          program established under subsection (c).”;

16          (4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

17                 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph  
18                 (1)—

19                         (i) by striking “Center” and inserting  
20                         “Centers established under subparagraphs  
21                         (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1) (referred  
22                         to in this section as the ‘Centers’)”; and

23                         (ii) by inserting “and organizations”  
24                         after “nonprofit foundations”;

25                 (B) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands  
2 that” and inserting “that build soil health  
3 and”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “, including agro-  
5 forestry systems on semiarid land and  
6 other fragile agroecosystems in which res-  
7 toration of permanent woody perennial  
8 plant communities will enhance carbon se-  
9 questration and reduce greenhouse gas  
10 emissions” before the semicolon;

11 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “forestry  
12 products for commercial sale from semiarid  
13 land” and inserting “agroforestry products for  
14 commercial sale”;

15 (D) in paragraph (4)—

16 (i) by striking “in semiarid regions”;  
17 and

18 (ii) by striking “the Great Plains re-  
19 gion” and inserting “particular regions”;

20 (E) in paragraph (5), by inserting “tech-  
21 nical assistance and” before “technology”;

22 (F) by striking paragraph (6) and insert-  
23 ing the following:

24 “(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley crop-  
25 ping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian

1       buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other peren-  
2       nial production and conservation systems and tech-  
3       nologies to improve soil health, carbon sequestration,  
4       drought preparedness, soil and water conservation,  
5       environmental quality, and biological diversity;”;

6               (G) in paragraph (7), by striking “on  
7       semiarid lands”;

8               (H) in paragraph (8), by striking “on  
9       semiarid lands worldwide” and inserting  
10       “worldwide, including on semiarid land”; and

11              (I) in paragraph (9)—

12                   (i) by striking “on semiarid lands”;

13              and

14                   (ii) by inserting “and climate change”  
15       after “pollution”;

16       (5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

17               (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
18       by striking “Center” and inserting “Centers”;

19               (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at  
20       the end;

21               (C) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-  
22       riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

24                   “(3) facilitate agroforestry adoption by dissemi-  
25       nating comprehensive information on Federal, State,

1 local, and Tribal programs that provide support for  
2 agroforestry.”;

3 (6) by inserting after subsection (d) (as so re-  
4 designated) the following:

5 “(e) GRANTS.—The Secretary may establish regional  
6 grant programs at each of the Centers to support agro-  
7 forestry projects, including demonstration farms.”; and

8 (7) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by in-  
9 serting “and \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
10 2024 through 2028” after “through 2023”.

## 11 **TITLE IV—FARMLAND PRESER-** 12 **VATION AND FARM VIABILITY**

### 13 **SEC. 401. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.**

14 Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of  
15 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)(12)(A)—

17 (A) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as  
18 clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively; and

19 (B) by inserting after clause (iii) the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 “(iv) is produced and marketed in a  
22 manner that significantly improves soil  
23 health and carbon sequestration or signifi-  
24 cantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions;

1 “(v) when added to the crop or graz-  
2 ing rotation on a farm, will significantly  
3 improve soil health and carbon sequestra-  
4 tion or significantly reduce greenhouse gas  
5 emissions;”;

6 (2) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
9 “and” at the end;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
11 the semicolon at the end and inserting “,  
12 including value-added agricultural products  
13 from crops or animals that, when added  
14 into crop or grazing rotations on a farm,  
15 will significantly improve soil health and  
16 carbon sequestration or significantly re-  
17 duce greenhouse gas emissions; and”;

18 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 “(D) markets for agricultural commodities  
21 and products produced in a manner that signifi-  
22 cantly improve soil health and carbon seques-  
23 tration or significantly reduce greenhouse gas  
24 emissions;”;

25 (B) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) by striking “and local” and insert-  
2 ing “, local”; and

3 (ii) by inserting “, and production and  
4 marketing approaches to significantly im-  
5 prove soil health and carbon sequestration  
6 or significantly reduce greenhouse gas  
7 emissions” before the semicolon at the end;

8 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at  
9 the end;

10 (D) by redesignating paragraph (6) as  
11 paragraph (7); and

12 (E) by inserting after paragraph (5) the  
13 following:

14 “(6) enhances the economic viability of pro-  
15 ducers and related agricultural enterprises; and”;

16 (3) in subsection (d)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)—

18 (i) by striking “subsection (i)” and in-  
19 serting “subsection (j)”; and

20 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting  
21 “2028”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (C)—

24 (I) in clause (i), by striking  
25 “and” at the end;

1 (II) in clause (ii), by adding  
2 “and” at the end; and

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

5 “(iii) agricultural commodities and  
6 products that are produced and marketed  
7 in a manner that—

8 “(I) significantly improves soil  
9 health and carbon sequestration or  
10 significantly reduces greenhouse gas  
11 emissions; or

12 “(II) when added to a crop or  
13 grazing rotation on a farm will signifi-  
14 cantly improve soil health and carbon  
15 sequestration or significantly reduce  
16 greenhouse gas emissions;”; and

17 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
18 “producers of local food products and  
19 value-added agricultural products in new  
20 and existing markets” and inserting the  
21 following: “producers of—

22 “(i) local food products;

23 “(ii) value-added agricultural products  
24 in new and existing markets; and

1           “(iii) agricultural commodities and  
2           products that are produced in a manner  
3           that—

4                   “(I) enhances soil health and car-  
5                   bon sequestration or significantly re-  
6                   duces greenhouse gas emissions; or

7                   “(II) when added to a crop or  
8                   grazing rotation on a farm, will sig-  
9                   nificantly improve soil health and car-  
10                  bon sequestration or significantly re-  
11                  duce greenhouse gas emissions;”;

12                  (C) in paragraph (5)(A), by inserting “and  
13                  the Chief of the Natural Resources Conserva-  
14                  tion Service” before the period at the end;

15                  (4) in subsection (e)(2)(A)—

16                   (A) by striking “subsection (i)” and insert-  
17                   ing “subsection (j)”; and

18                   (B) by striking “2023” and inserting  
19                   “2028”;

20                  (5) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), (h),  
21                  and (i) as subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j), respec-  
22                  tively;

23                  (6) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
24                  lowing:



1       “(f) FARM VIABILITY AND LOCAL CLIMATE RESIL-  
2 IENCY CENTERS.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
4 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Mar-  
5 keting Service and in coordination with the Adminis-  
6 trator of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service and  
7 the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation  
8 Service, shall provide grants to eligible entities de-  
9 scribed in paragraph (2) to serve as farm viability  
10 and local climate resiliency centers (referred to in  
11 this section as ‘centers’) to support—

12           “(A) efforts to enhance farm viability; and

13           “(B) the development, coordination, and  
14 expansion of markets for commodities and farm  
15 products that significantly improve soil health  
16 and carbon sequestration or significantly reduce  
17 greenhouse gas emissions.

18           “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible  
19 to receive a grant under this subsection if the entity  
20 is—

21           “(A) an agricultural cooperative or other  
22 agricultural business entity or a producer net-  
23 work or association;

24           “(B) a local, State, or Tribal government;

25           “(C) a nonprofit corporation;

1 “(D) a public benefit corporation;

2 “(E) an economic development corporation;

3 “(F) an institution of higher education; or

4 “(G) such other entity as the Secretary  
5 may designate.

6 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiv-  
7 ing a grant under this subsection shall use grant  
8 funds to provide to entities described in subsection  
9 (d)(5)(B)—

10 “(A) assistance for the development of  
11 business plans and feasibility studies;

12 “(B) assistance in developing marketing  
13 strategies for—

14 “(i) local products; and

15 “(ii) value-added agricultural products  
16 in new and existing markets;

17 “(C) assistance in enterprise development  
18 for the processing, aggregation, distribution,  
19 and storage of—

20 “(i) local and regional food products  
21 that are marketed locally or regionally; and

22 “(ii) value-added agricultural prod-  
23 ucts;

24 “(D) assistance relating to finances and  
25 recordkeeping;

1           “(E) assistance relating to enterprise and  
2           business management;

3           “(F) assistance relating to ownership suc-  
4           cession planning;

5           “(G) outreach and assistance in the adop-  
6           tion of farming practices that enhance soil  
7           health and carbon sequestration or significantly  
8           reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

9           “(H) outreach regarding assistance avail-  
10          able under subsection (d);

11          “(I) outreach regarding assistance avail-  
12          able through other programs administered by  
13          any other Federal agency that supports the  
14          adoption of farming practices that enhance soil  
15          health and carbon sequestration or significantly  
16          reduce greenhouse gas emissions; or

17          “(J) at the request of the entity described  
18          in subsection (d)(5)(B), assistance in applying  
19          for a grant under subsection (d), including act-  
20          ing on behalf of the entity in applying for the  
21          grant.

22          “(4) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—To the max-  
23          imum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure  
24          geographic diversity in selecting eligible entities to  
25          receive a grant under this subsection.

1           “(5) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An entity receiv-  
2           ing a grant under this subsection shall provide fund-  
3           ing in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent  
4           of the total amount of the Federal portion of the  
5           grant.

6           “(6) APPLICATIONS.—

7           “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-  
8           ceive a grant under this subsection, an eligible  
9           entity shall submit to the Secretary an applica-  
10          tion at such time, in such manner, and con-  
11          taining such information as the Secretary con-  
12          siders necessary to evaluate and select applica-  
13          tions.

14          “(B) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Sec-  
15          retary—

16                  “(i) shall conduct a competitive proc-  
17                  ess to select applications submitted under  
18                  subparagraph (A);

19                  “(ii) may assess and rank applications  
20                  with similar proposals as a group; and

21                  “(iii) shall, prior to accepting applica-  
22                  tions under that subparagraph, make pub-  
23                  lic the criteria to be used in evaluating the  
24                  applications.

1           “(7) PRIORITY.—The Secretary may give pri-  
2           ority to applications submitted under paragraph  
3           (6)(A) that include—

4                   “(A) plans to use funds for 3 or more of  
5                   purposes described in paragraph (3); or

6                   “(B) activities relating to improving the  
7                   use and expanded adoption of farming practices  
8                   that enhance soil health and carbon sequestra-  
9                   tion or significantly reduce greenhouse gas  
10                  emissions while simultaneously improving farm  
11                  viability.

12           “(8) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—An entity  
13           receiving a grant under this subsection may use not  
14           more than 4 percent of the funds received through  
15           the grant for administrative expenses.”;

16           (7) in subsection (i)(1) (as so redesignated), in  
17           the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking  
18           “subsection (i)(3)(E)” and inserting “subsection  
19           (j)(3)(E)”;

20           (8) in subsection (j) (as so redesignated)—

21                   (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “fiscal  
22                   year 2019” and inserting “each of fiscal years  
23                   2019 through 2023 and \$150,000,000 for fiscal  
24                   year 2024”;

25                   (B) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking  
2 “35” and inserting “36”; and

3 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and  
4 inserting the following:

5 “(B) FARMERS’ MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD  
6 PROMOTION GRANTS.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds  
8 made available to carry out this section for  
9 a fiscal year, 36 percent shall be used for  
10 grants under subsection (d)(6).

11 “(ii) ALLOCATION AMONG SUBPRO-  
12 GRAMS.—Of the funds made available for  
13 grants under subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal  
14 year—

15 “(I) 40 percent shall be made  
16 available for farmers’ market pro-  
17 motion grants; and

18 “(II) 60 percent shall be made  
19 available for local food promotion  
20 grants.”;

21 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)  
22 and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respec-  
23 tively;

24 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (C)  
25 the following:

1           “(D) FARM VIABILITY AND LOCAL CLI-  
2           MATE RESILIENCY.—Of the funds made avail-  
3           able to carry out this section for a fiscal year,  
4           10 percent shall be used to provide grants  
5           under subsection (f).”; and

6           (E) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesi-  
7           gnated), in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
8           striking “or (C)” and inserting “(C), or (D)”.

9   **SEC. 402. NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST-SHARE**  
10           **PROGRAM.**

11       (a) FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 10606(b)(2) of the  
12 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7  
13 U.S.C. 6523(b)(2)) is amended by striking “\$750” and  
14 inserting “\$1,500”.

15       (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 10606(d)(1) of  
16 the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7  
17 U.S.C. 6523(d)(1)) is amended by striking “shall make  
18 available” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and  
19 all that follows through the period at the end of subpara-  
20 graph (C) and inserting “shall use such sums as are nec-  
21 essary to carry out this section.”.

22   **SEC. 403. FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY ACT.**

23       (a) FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND DEFINITIONS.—Sec-  
24 tion 1540 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7  
25 U.S.C. 4201) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (4)  
3 through (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8), re-  
4 spectively; and

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

7 “(4) the Nation’s farmland is a vital source of  
8 environmental services, such as carbon sequestra-  
9 tion;”;

10 (2) in subsection (b), by inserting “Tribal,”  
11 after “State,”; and

12 (3) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2),  
14 (3), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (7), (8), and  
15 (6), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so  
16 as to appear in numerical order;

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

19 “(1) the term ‘conversion’ means—

20 “(A) the physical conversion of farmland  
21 to a nonagricultural use;

22 “(B) the effective conversion of farmland  
23 as a consequence of physical conversion of adja-  
24 cent farmland, which threatens the continued  
25 viability of the land for agricultural use; or



1           “(C) a change in management of federally  
2           owned land historically used for agriculture to  
3           a nonagricultural use;”;

4           (C) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignig-  
5           nated)—

6           (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
7           “that is used for” and inserting “that is  
8           suitable for”; and

9           (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting  
10          “and is suitable” after “local importance”;

11          (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as so  
12          redesignated) the following:

13          “(3) the term ‘farmland of national signifi-  
14          cance’ means farmland that is the most suitable for  
15          intensive crop and food production, as determined by  
16          the Secretary, taking into consideration, among  
17          other factors, the physical and chemical characteris-  
18          tics of the farmland;”;

19          (E) in paragraph (4), in the second sen-  
20          tence, by striking “and” at the end;

21          (F) by inserting after paragraph (4) the  
22          following:

23          “(5) the term ‘permanently protected farmland’  
24          means farmland encumbered by a conservation ease-  
25          ment—

1           “(A) held by the Federal Government, a  
2           State, Tribal, or local unit of government, or a  
3           land conservation organization; and

4           “(B) that is perpetual or the maximum  
5           number of years allowed by State law;”;

6           (G) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated),  
7           by striking the period at the end and inserting  
8           a semicolon;

9           (H) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated),  
10          by adding “and” at the end; and

11          (I) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated),  
12          by striking the semicolon at the end and insert-  
13          ing a period.

14          (b) FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY.—Section 1541  
15          of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4202)  
16          is amended to read as follows:

17          **“SEC. 1541. FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY.**

18          “(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United  
19          States that Federal programs—

20                 “(1) shall minimize the conversion of farmland  
21                 to nonagricultural uses; and

22                 “(2) subject to subsection (d), shall not convert  
23                 to nonagricultural uses farmland—

24                         “(A) that is permanently protected farm-  
25                         land;

1           “(B) that has been defined and delineated  
2           by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1) as  
3           farmland of national significance; or

4           “(C) that has been defined and delineated  
5           by a State as significant to the State or a pri-  
6           ority for inclusion in a State farmland protec-  
7           tion program and for which the State has sub-  
8           mitted a definition and delineation under sub-  
9           section (b)(2).

10       “(b) DEFINITION AND DELINEATION OF LAND.—

11       “(1) NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.—

12           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
13           define and delineate farmland of national sig-  
14           nificance.

15           “(B) EXPERTS.—The Secretary shall con-  
16           vene a group of experts, including agronomists  
17           and soil scientists, to assist the Secretary in  
18           carrying out subparagraph (A).

19       “(2) STATE SIGNIFICANCE.—Any State wishing  
20       to have farmland recognized under subsection  
21       (a)(2)(C) shall provide to the Secretary a definition  
22       and delineation of the farmland.

23       “(c) PROCESS AND CRITERIA.—

24           “(1) PROCESS AND CRITERIA.—The Secretary  
25       shall develop a process, including criteria—

1           “(A) to determine the potential conversion  
2 of farmland as a consequence of any action or  
3 activity conducted through a Federal program;

4           “(B)(i) to minimize the conversion of  
5 farmland to nonagricultural uses; or

6           “(ii) in the case of farmland identified  
7 under subsection (a)(2), to avoid conversion of  
8 the farmland to nonagricultural uses;

9           “(C) to provide to the Secretary notice re-  
10 garding actions described in subparagraphs (A)  
11 and (B); and

12           “(D) that the Secretary shall use to make  
13 determinations under subsection (d).

14           “(2) USE REQUIRED.—Each department, agen-  
15 cy, independent commission, and other unit of the  
16 Federal Government shall use the process and cri-  
17 teria developed under paragraph (1) in carrying out  
18 a Federal program.

19           “(d) EXEMPTION.—

20           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(2) shall not  
21 apply if the Secretary determines, based on the proc-  
22 ess and criteria developed under subsection (c)(1),  
23 that converting farmland to nonagricultural uses  
24 cannot be avoided.

1           “(2) MINIMIZATION OF CONVERSION.—In a  
2 case in which the Secretary makes a determination  
3 under paragraph (1), the Federal program shall  
4 minimize the conversion of farmland described in  
5 subsection (a)(2) to the maximum extent practicable.

6           “(e) INFORMATION.—The Secretary may make avail-  
7 able to States, units of local government, individuals, orga-  
8 nizations, and other units of the Federal Government in-  
9 formation—

10           “(1) useful in restoring, maintaining, and im-  
11 proving the quantity and quality of farmland; and

12           “(2) concerning the location of permanently  
13 protected farmland.

14           “(f) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide as-  
15 sistance to departments, agencies, independent commis-  
16 sions, and other units of the Federal Government, on re-  
17 quest, in using the process and criteria developed under  
18 subsection (c)(1).”.

19 **SEC. 404. AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PRO-**  
20 **GRAM.**

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

23           (1) in subsection (b)—

24           (A) in paragraph (4)(C)(iv), by striking

25           “only”; and

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

2 “(6) CONDITION OF ASSISTANCE.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of re-  
4 ceiving cost-share assistance under this section,  
5 the owner of eligible land shall agree to have in  
6 place a conservation plan that addresses appli-  
7 cable resource concerns for the land subject to  
8 the easement, including soil health and green-  
9 house gas emissions reduction, not later than 3  
10 years after the date on which the easement is  
11 granted.

12 “(B) BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.—Sub-  
13 paragraph (A) may be satisfied by having in  
14 place a conservation plan developed or recog-  
15 nized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.”; and

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

18 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may  
19 provide technical assistance, if requested, to assist in—

20 “(1) compliance with the terms and conditions  
21 of an easement; and

22 “(2) development and implementation of a con-  
23 servation plan required under subsection (b)(6), in-  
24 cluding, as applicable—

1           “(A) a conservation plan for highly erod-  
2           ible land required under subsection  
3           (b)(4)(C)(iv); and

4           “(B) a comprehensive conservation plan  
5           developed pursuant to subsection (e)(1).

6           “(e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—

8           “(A) ENROLLMENT IN CSP.—At the sole  
9           option of the owner of the eligible land subject  
10          to an easement, the Secretary shall provide for  
11          the automatic enrollment of the eligible land  
12          subject to the easement in the conservation  
13          stewardship program established by subchapter  
14          B of chapter 4 of subtitle D, including financial  
15          assistance for the development of a comprehen-  
16          sive conservation plan under section 1240L(e),  
17          if the person or entity farming the eligible land  
18          is otherwise eligible for the conservation stew-  
19          ardship program, as determined by the Sec-  
20          retary.

21          “(B) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—

22          In the case of eligible land enrolled in the con-  
23          servation stewardship program pursuant to sub-  
24          paragraph (A), the Secretary shall have the sole  
25          responsibility of determining compliance with

1 the terms of the conservation stewardship pro-  
2 gram contract.

3 “(C) FUNDING.—Funding received by an  
4 eligible entity pursuant to this paragraph shall  
5 not be considered in the calculation of costs  
6 under subsection (b).

7 “(2) TIMING.—The owner of the eligible land  
8 subject to an easement may exercise the option  
9 under paragraph (1)(A) during the 3-year period be-  
10 ginning on the date on which the easement is grant-  
11 ed.”.

## 12 **TITLE V—PASTURE-BASED** 13 **LIVESTOCK**

### 14 **SEC. 501. ANIMAL RAISING CLAIMS.**

15 The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.  
16 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

## 18 **“Subtitle H—Animal Raising** 19 **Claims**

### 20 **“SEC. 298A. DEFINITIONS.**

21 “In this subtitle:

22 “(1) ANIMAL RAISING CLAIM.—The term ‘ani-  
23 mal raising claim’ means a statement on the labeling  
24 of a meat food product or poultry product used in  
25 interstate commerce that references—



1           “(A) the manner in which the source ani-  
2           mal for the meat food product or poultry prod-  
3           uct was raised, including—

4                   “(i) production practices that were  
5                   used, such as living or raising conditions;  
6                   and

7                   “(ii) the location or source where the  
8                   source animal was born, raised, and proc-  
9                   essed; or

10           “(B) the breed of the source animal.

11           “(2) MEAT FOOD PRODUCT.—The term ‘meat  
12           food product’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
13           tion 1 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21  
14           U.S.C. 601).

15           “(3) POULTRY PRODUCT.—The term ‘poultry  
16           product’ has the meaning given the term in section  
17           4 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.  
18           453).

19           “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
20           the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-  
21           ministrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, in  
22           coordination with the Administrator of the Food  
23           Safety and Inspection Service.

1 **“SEC. 298B. REQUIRED VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR ANI-**  
2 **MAL RAISING CLAIMS.**

3 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to fa-  
4 cilitate marketing, truth in labeling, and new economic op-  
5 portunities for producers and businesses using animal  
6 raising claims.

7 “(b) STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
9 after the date of enactment of this subtitle, after  
10 providing notice and an opportunity to comment,  
11 and in a manner consistent with United States obli-  
12 gations under international agreements, the Sec-  
13 retary shall establish—

14 “(A) mandatory standards with respect to  
15 animal raising claims, including the standards  
16 described in paragraph (2);

17 “(B) procedures—

18 “(i) to verify an animal raising claim  
19 prior to the use in commerce of any meat  
20 food product or poultry product bearing  
21 that claim; and

22 “(ii) that are incorporated seamlessly  
23 with the labeling requirements under the  
24 Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.  
25 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products In-  
26 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.); and

1           “(C) on-farm and supply chain auditing  
2           and verification procedures to ensure the truth-  
3           fulness of animal raising claims.

4           “(2) STANDARDS.—In developing and approv-  
5           ing animal raising claim standards under paragraph  
6           (1)(A), the Secretary shall include standards relat-  
7           ing to—

8           “(A) diet claims, including claims that the  
9           source animal was grass fed, vegetarian fed, or  
10          fed no animal byproducts;

11          “(B) living and raising condition claims,  
12          including claims that the source animal was  
13          cage free, free range, or pasture raised;

14          “(C) antibiotic and hormone claims, in-  
15          cluding claims that the source animal was  
16          raised without antibiotics, had no hormones  
17          added, or was raised without growth  
18          promotants;

19          “(D) source claims that the source animal  
20          can be traced back to its farm of origin from  
21          birth to slaughter;

22          “(E) age claims;

23          “(F) animal welfare claims;

1           “(G) environmental stewardship claims, in-  
2           cluding greenhouse gas reduction and carbon  
3           sequestration claims;

4           “(H) breed claims; and

5           “(I) any other claim that the Secretary de-  
6           termines appropriate.

7           “(3) CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER LAWS.—The  
8           Secretary shall ensure consistency between the ani-  
9           mal raising claim standards established under this  
10          subsection and the Organic Foods Production Act of  
11          1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and any rules or regu-  
12          lations implementing that Act.

13          “(c) THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION.—A producer of  
14          a meat food product or a poultry product may use an ani-  
15          mal raising claim that is verified by a third party if—

16                 “(1) the claim is consistent with standards es-  
17                 tablished by the Secretary under subsection (b); and

18                 “(2) the procedures used by the third party to  
19                 verify the claim, and for any subsequent auditing,  
20                 are equivalent to the verification and auditing proce-  
21                 dures established under subsection (b)(1)(C), as de-  
22                 termined by the Secretary.

23          “(d) APPROVAL PROCESS.—To the maximum extent  
24          practicable, the Secretary shall require that a producer  
25          seeking to make an animal raising claim shall submit to

1 the Secretary, prior to using the label on the meat food  
2 product or poultry product that is the subject of the ani-  
3 mal raising claim, the following documentation to support  
4 the animal raising claim:

5           “(1) A detailed written description explaining  
6 the controls used for ensuring that the animal rais-  
7 ing claim is valid, as applicable—

8                   “(A) from birth to harvest; or

9                   “(B) for the period of raising referenced in  
10 the animal raising claim.

11           “(2) A signed and dated document describing  
12 the manner in which the source animals were raised.

13           “(3) A written description of the product trac-  
14 ing and segregation mechanism used with respect to  
15 the applicable meat food product or poultry product  
16 from the time of slaughter of the source animal or  
17 further processing through the packaging and dis-  
18 tribution of the meat food product or poultry prod-  
19 uct.

20           “(4) A written description of the identification,  
21 control, and segregation of nonconforming animals  
22 or products.

23           “(5) In the case of a meat food product or  
24 poultry product certified by a third party, a current  
25 copy of the third party certificate.

1       “(e) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.—Beginning on  
2 the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of  
3 this subtitle—

4           “(1) a person may sell or label a domestic meat  
5 food product or poultry product with an animal rais-  
6 ing claim only if the animal raising claim and the  
7 meat food product or poultry product is in compli-  
8 ance with the standards established under subsection  
9 (b); and

10          “(2) an imported meat food product or poultry  
11 product may be sold or labeled with an animal rais-  
12 ing claim if, as determined by the Secretary, the ani-  
13 mal raising claim and the meat food product or  
14 poultry product is in compliance with a verification  
15 program that provides safeguards and guidelines  
16 that are at least equivalent to the standards estab-  
17 lished under subsection (b).

18       “(f) VIOLATIONS.—

19           “(1) MISUSE OF LABEL.—Any person who,  
20 after notice and an opportunity to be heard, is found  
21 by the Secretary to have knowingly sold or labeled  
22 any meat food product or poultry product with an  
23 animal raising claim in violation of this subtitle, in-  
24 cluding the standards and procedures established

1 under subsection (b), shall be assessed a civil pen-  
2 alty of not more than \$10,000.

3 “(2) FALSE STATEMENT.—Any person who,  
4 after notice and an opportunity to be heard, is found  
5 by the Secretary to have made to the Secretary, a  
6 Federal or State official, or a third-party certifier a  
7 false, fraudulent, or fictitious statement, or to have  
8 concealed to, hidden from, falsified to, or deceived  
9 the Secretary, official, or certifier regarding a mate-  
10 rial fact, with respect to an animal raising claim  
11 subject to the requirements of this subtitle, shall be  
12 subject to a penalty described in section 1001 of title  
13 18, United States Code.

14 “(g) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this sec-  
15 tion alters the authority of the Secretary under the Fed-  
16 eral Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the  
17 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.).

18 **“SEC. 298C. APPLICABILITY.**

19 “This subtitle shall only apply to meat food products  
20 and poultry products that are subject to labeling require-  
21 ments under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.  
22 601 et seq.) or the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21  
23 U.S.C. 451 et seq.).

1 **“SEC. 298D. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
3 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this sub-  
4 title.”.

5 **SEC. 502. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946  
7 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
8 the following:

9 **“SEC. 210B. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

10 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 “(1) BUSINESS ENTERPRISE OWNED AND CON-  
12 TROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DIS-  
13 ADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—The term ‘business en-  
14 terprise owned and controlled by socially and eco-  
15 nomically disadvantaged individuals’ has the mean-  
16 ing given the term in section 3002 of the State  
17 Small Business Credit Initiative Act of 2010 (12  
18 U.S.C. 5701).

19 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
20 tity’ means—

21 “(A) a smaller establishment or very small  
22 establishment (as those terms are defined in the  
23 final rule entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard  
24 Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)  
25 Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg. 33806 (July 25,  
26 1996)));



1           “(B) a slaughtering or processing estab-  
2           lishment subject to—

3                   “(i) a State meat inspection program  
4                   pursuant to section 301 of the Federal  
5                   Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661); or

6                   “(ii) a State poultry product inspec-  
7                   tion program pursuant to section 5 of the  
8                   Poultry Products Inspection Act (21  
9                   U.S.C. 454);

10           “(C) a person engaging in custom oper-  
11           ations that is exempt from inspection under—

12                   “(i) section 23 of the Federal Meat  
13                   Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 623); or

14                   “(ii) section 15 of the Poultry Prod-  
15                   ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 464); and

16           “(D) a person seeking—

17                   “(i) to establish and operate an estab-  
18                   lishment described in subparagraph (A) or  
19                   (B); or

20                   “(ii) to engage in custom operations  
21                   described in subparagraph (C).

22           “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
23           the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-  
24           ministrators of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

25           “(b) GRANTS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days  
2 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
3 retary shall award competitive grants to eligible enti-  
4 ties for activities to increase resiliency and diver-  
5 sification of the meat processing system, including  
6 activities that—

7           “(A) support the health and safety of meat  
8 and poultry plant employees, suppliers, and cus-  
9 tomers;

10           “(B) support increased processing capac-  
11 ity; and

12           “(C) otherwise support the resilience of the  
13 small meat and poultry processing sector.

14           “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum  
15 amount of a grant awarded under this section shall  
16 not exceed \$500,000.

17           “(3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded  
18 under this section shall not exceed 3 years.

19           “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

20           “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a  
21 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-  
22 retary an application at such time, in such manner,  
23 and containing such information as the Secretary  
24 may require.

1           “(2) APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS.—The  
2 Secretary shall establish a separate, simplified appli-  
3 cation process for eligible entities applying for a  
4 grant under this section of not more than \$100,000.

5           “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall en-  
6 sure that any application for a grant under this sec-  
7 tion is—

8                   “(A) simple and practicable;

9                   “(B) accessible online; and

10                   “(C) available through local staff of the  
11 Department of Agriculture.

12           “(4) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days before  
13 the date on which the Secretary begins to accept ap-  
14 plications under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall  
15 publish a notice of funding opportunity with respect  
16 to the grants available under this section.

17           “(5) REAPPLICATION.—If an application of an  
18 eligible entity under this subsection is denied by the  
19 Secretary, the eligible entity may submit a revised  
20 application.

21           “(6) PRIORITY.—In reviewing applications sub-  
22 mitted under this subsection, the Secretary shall  
23 give priority to proposals that will—

1           “(A) increase farmer and rancher access to  
2           animal slaughter options within a 200-mile ra-  
3           dius of the location of the farmer or rancher;

4           “(B) support an eligible entity described in  
5           subsection (a)(2)(A); or

6           “(C) support an eligible entity that is a  
7           business enterprise owned and controlled by so-  
8           cially and economically disadvantaged individ-  
9           uals.

10          “(d) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity that receives  
11 a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to  
12 carry out activities in support of the purposes described  
13 in subsection (b)(1), including through—

14           “(1) the development and issuance of a Hazard  
15           Analysis and Critical Control Points plan for the eli-  
16           gible entity, which may be developed by a consultant;

17           “(2) the purchase or establishment, as applica-  
18           ble, of facilities, equipment, processes, and oper-  
19           ations necessary for the eligible entity to comply  
20           with applicable requirements under the Federal  
21           Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the  
22           Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et  
23           seq.);

24           “(3) the purchase of cold storage, equipment, or  
25           transportation services;

1           “(4) the purchase of temperature screening  
2 supplies, testing for communicable diseases, dis-  
3 infectant, sanitation systems, hand washing stations,  
4 and other sanitizing supplies;

5           “(5) the purchase and decontamination of per-  
6 sonal protective equipment;

7           “(6) the construction or purchase of humane  
8 handling infrastructure, including holding space for  
9 livestock prior to slaughter, shade structures, and  
10 knock box structures;

11           “(7)(A) the purchase of software and computer  
12 equipment for record keeping, production data, Haz-  
13 ard Analysis and Critical Control Points record re-  
14 view, and facilitation of marketing and sales of prod-  
15 ucts in a manner consistent with the social  
16 distancing guidelines of the Centers for Disease Con-  
17 trol and Prevention; and

18           “(B) the provision of guidelines and training re-  
19 lating to that software and computer equipment;

20           “(8) the provision of staff time and training for  
21 implementing and monitoring health and safety pro-  
22 cedures;

23           “(9) the development of a feasibility study or  
24 business plan for, or the carrying out of any other

1 activity associated with, establishing or expanding a  
2 small meat or poultry processing facility;

3 “(10) the purchase of equipment that enables  
4 the further use or value-added sale of coproducts or  
5 byproducts, such as organs, hides, and other rel-  
6 evant products; and

7 “(11) other activities associated with expanding  
8 or establishing an eligible entity described in sub-  
9 section (a)(2)(A), as determined by the Secretary.

10 “(e) OUTREACH.—During the period beginning on  
11 the date on which the Secretary publishes the notice under  
12 subsection (c)(4) and ending on the date on which the Sec-  
13 retary begins to accept applications under subsection  
14 (c)(1), the Secretary shall perform outreach to States and  
15 eligible entities relating to grants under this section.

16 “(f) FEDERAL SHARE.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
18 the Federal share of the activities carried out using  
19 a grant awarded under this section shall not ex-  
20 ceed—

21 “(A) 90 percent in the case of a grant in  
22 the amount of \$100,000 or less; or

23 “(B) 75 percent in the case of a grant in  
24 an amount greater than \$100,000.

1           “(2) FISCAL YEARS 2023 AND 2024.—An eligible  
2           entity awarded a grant under this section during fis-  
3           cal year 2023 or 2024 shall not be required to pro-  
4           vide non-Federal matching funds with respect to the  
5           grant.

6           “(g) ADMINISTRATION.—The promulgation of regula-  
7           tions under, and administration of, this section shall be  
8           made without regard to—

9           “(1) the notice and comment provisions of sec-  
10          tion 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

11          “(2) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code  
12          (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction  
13          Act’).

14          “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15          is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agri-  
16          culture to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of  
17          fiscal years 2023 through 2028.”.

18   **SEC. 503. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.**

19          (a) PURPOSE.—Section 1240M(a) of the Food Secu-  
20          rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb(a)) is amended—

21                 (1) in paragraph (6), by inserting “conserving  
22                 water and” before “improving”;

23                 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the  
24                 end;

1           (3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at  
2           the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

4           “(9) conserving and improving soil health and  
5           improving grazing system resilience in the face of  
6           climate change through advanced grazing manage-  
7           ment practices; and

8           “(10) providing support for producers  
9           transitioning from confinement and feedlot systems  
10          or continuous grazing to managed grazing-based sys-  
11          tems, including support for pasture development and  
12          management.”.

13          (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240M(b)(2) of the Food  
14          Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb(b)(2)) is amend-  
15          ed by striking “hay land” and inserting “perennial hay  
16          land, including silvopasture”.

17          (c) PRIVATE GRAZING LAND CONSERVATION ASSIST-  
18          ANCE.—Section 1240M(c) of the Food Security Act of  
19          1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb(c)) is amended—

20                 (1) in paragraph (1)—

21                         (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
22                         (A), by inserting “and partnerships described in  
23                         paragraph (2)(B)” after “local conservation dis-  
24                         tricts”;



1 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-  
2 serting the following:

3 “(B) planning and implementing regionally  
4 appropriate, advanced grazing land manage-  
5 ment technologies to improve soil health and  
6 maximize carbon sequestration;”;

7 (C) in subparagraph (C)(iv), by inserting  
8 “through integrated strategies that include ro-  
9 tational and multispecies grazing, integrated  
10 pest management, and other ecological prac-  
11 tices” after “brush encroachment problems”;

12 (D) in subparagraph (H), by striking  
13 “and” at the end;

14 (E) in subparagraph (I), by striking the  
15 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

17 “(J) assisting producers in transitioning  
18 from confinement or feedlot systems or contin-  
19 uous grazing to managed grazing-based sys-  
20 tems, including assistance in pasture develop-  
21 ment and management.”; and

22 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the  
23 following:

24 “(2) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—

1           “(A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EDU-  
2           CATION.—Personnel of the Department trained  
3           in pasture and range management shall be  
4           made available under the program to deliver  
5           and coordinate technical assistance and edu-  
6           cation to owners and managers of private graz-  
7           ing land, including owners and managers inter-  
8           ested in developing new or improved pasture or  
9           grazing-based systems on the land of the own-  
10          ers and managers, at the request of the owners  
11          and managers.

12          “(B) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out the  
13          program under this section, the Secretary shall  
14          provide research, demonstration, education (in-  
15          cluding conferences, workshops, field days, and  
16          trainings), workforce training, planning, and  
17          outreach activities through partnerships with—

18                 “(i) land-grant colleges and univer-  
19                 sities (as defined in section 1404 of the  
20                 National Agricultural Research, Extension,  
21                 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
22                 3103));

23                 “(ii) nongovernmental organizations;  
24                 and

25                 “(iii) Tribal organizations.

1 “(C) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out  
3 the program under this section, the Sec-  
4 retary shall provide funds on a competitive  
5 basis for cooperative agreements to re-  
6 gional, State, or local partnerships to use  
7 to conduct grazing land research, dem-  
8 onstration, education, workforce training,  
9 planning, and outreach projects.

10 “(ii) DURATION.—Grants made by  
11 partnerships under this subparagraph shall  
12 be for a period not to exceed 3 years.

13 “(iii) LIMITATION ON INDIRECT  
14 COSTS.—A partnership that receives fund-  
15 ing under this subparagraph may not use  
16 more than 15 percent of the total cost of  
17 the project for the indirect costs of car-  
18 rying out the project.

19 “(iv) PRIORITY.—A partnership that  
20 receives funding under this subparagraph  
21 shall give priority to projects that—

22 “(I) focus on sustainable grazing  
23 management systems and techniques  
24 that assist producers with multiple  
25 ecosystem services, including climate

1 change adaptation and mitigation;  
2 and

3 “(II) involve beginning farmers  
4 and ranchers, socially disadvantaged  
5 farmers and ranchers, Tribal pro-  
6 ducers, or new graziers (including  
7 State or federally registered appren-  
8 ticeships).”.

9 (d) GRAZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING.—  
10 Section 1240M of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
11 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking subsection (d) and  
12 inserting the following:

13 “(d) GRAZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING.—  
14 In carrying out the program under this section, the Sec-  
15 retary shall provide funds to establish training programs  
16 to foster a new generation of technical assistance providers  
17 to support advanced grazing management.”.

18 (e) FUNDING.—Section 1240M of the Food Security  
19 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking  
20 subsection (e) and inserting the following:

21 “(e) FUNDING.—

22 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of  
23 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary  
24 shall use to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for  
25 each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

1           “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
2           There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3           this section \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
4           2024 through 2028.

5           “(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Of the  
6           funds made available under paragraphs (1) and (2),  
7           the Secretary shall use not less than 80 percent to  
8           carry out subsection (c)(2)(C).

9           “(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING.—Of  
10          the funds made available under paragraphs (1) and  
11          (2), the Secretary shall use not more than 10 per-  
12          cent to carry out subsection (d).”.

13 **SEC. 504. CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.**

14          (a) CONSERVATION RESERVE.—Section 1231 of the  
15          Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831) is amend-  
16          ed—

17                  (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2023” and  
18                  inserting “2028”;

19                  (2) in subsection (d)—

20                          (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-  
21                          graphs (A) through (E) and inserting the fol-  
22                          lowing:

23                                  “(A) fiscal year 2024, not more than  
24                                  28,000,000 acres;

1           “(B) fiscal year 2025, not more than  
2           29,000,000 acres;

3           “(C) fiscal year 2026, not more than  
4           30,000,000 acres;

5           “(D) fiscal year 2027, not more than  
6           31,000,000 acres; and

7           “(E) fiscal year 2028, not more than  
8           32,000,000 acres.”; and

9           (B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

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

12           (ii) in clause (ii)(III), by striking the  
13           period at the end and inserting “; and”;  
14           and

15           (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
16           lowing:

17           “(iii) the Secretary shall enroll and  
18           maintain in the conservation reserve not  
19           fewer than 7,000,000 acres of land de-  
20           scribed in subsection (b)(3) by September  
21           30, 2028, of which not fewer than  
22           5,000,000 acres shall be reserved for the  
23           pilot program established under section  
24           1231C(c).”.

1 (b) PILOT PROGRAMS.—Section 1231C of the Food  
2 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831c) is amended by  
3 adding at the end the following:

4 “(c) GRASSLAND 30.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

6 “(A) ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary shall  
7 establish a pilot program to enroll land in the  
8 conservation reserve program through a 30-year  
9 conservation reserve contract (referred to in  
10 this subsection as a ‘Grassland 30 contract’) in  
11 accordance with this subsection.

12 “(B) INCLUSION OF ACREAGE LIMITA-  
13 TION.—For purposes of applying the limitations  
14 in section 1231(d)(1), the Secretary shall in-  
15 clude acres of land enrolled under this sub-  
16 section.

17 “(2) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Eligible land for enroll-  
18 ment through a Grassland 30 contract—

19 “(A) is land that is eligible to be enrolled  
20 in the conservation reserve program under the  
21 grasslands initiative described in section  
22 1231(d)(2); and

23 “(B) shall not be limited to land that is  
24 subject to a covered contract (as defined in  
25 paragraph (3)(A)).

1 “(3) CONSERVATION CONTRACT ELECTION.—

2 “(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED CON-  
3 TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered  
4 contract’ means a contract entered into under  
5 this subchapter that—

6 “(i) expires on or after the date of en-  
7 actment of this subsection; and

8 “(ii) covers land enrolled in the con-  
9 servation reserve program under the grass-  
10 lands initiative described in section  
11 1231(d)(2).

12 “(B) EXPIRING CONTRACTS.—On the expi-  
13 ration of a covered contract, an owner or oper-  
14 ator party to the covered contract shall elect—

15 “(i) not to reenroll the land under the  
16 contract;

17 “(ii) to offer to reenroll the land  
18 under the contract if the land remains eli-  
19 gible under the terms in effect as of the  
20 date of expiration; or

21 “(iii) not to reenroll the land under  
22 the contract and to enroll that land  
23 through a Grassland 30 contract under  
24 this subsection.



1           “(C) UNEXPIRED CONTRACTS.—Prior to  
2           the expiration of a covered contract, an owner  
3           or operator party to the covered contract may  
4           elect to terminate the contract and to enroll  
5           that land through a Grassland 30 contract  
6           under this subsection.

7           “(4) TERM.—The term of a Grassland 30 con-  
8           tract shall be 30 years.

9           “(5) AGREEMENTS.—To be eligible to enroll  
10          land in the conservation reserve program through a  
11          Grassland 30 contract, the owner of the land shall  
12          enter into an agreement with the Secretary—

13                 “(A) to implement a conservation reserve  
14                 plan developed for the land;

15                 “(B) to comply with the terms and condi-  
16                 tions of the contract and any related agree-  
17                 ments; and

18                 “(C) to temporarily suspend the base his-  
19                 tory for the land covered by the contract.

20          “(6) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF GRASSLAND  
21          30 CONTRACTS.—

22                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Grassland 30 con-  
23                 tract—

24                         “(i) shall include terms and conditions  
25                         that promote sustainable grazing systems,

1 protect and enhance soil carbon levels, and  
2 are compatible with wildlife habitat con-  
3 servation, as determined by the Secretary;  
4 and

5 “(ii) may include any additional provi-  
6 sion that the Secretary determines is ap-  
7 propriate to carry out this subsection or  
8 facilitate the practical administration of  
9 this subsection.

10 “(B) VIOLATION.—On the violation of a  
11 term or condition of a Grassland 30 contract,  
12 the Secretary may require the owner to refund  
13 all or part of any payments received by the  
14 owner under the conservation reserve program,  
15 with interest on the payments, as determined  
16 appropriate by the Secretary.

17 “(C) COMPATIBLE USES.—Land subject to  
18 a Grassland 30 contract may be used for com-  
19 patible economic uses, including hunting and  
20 fishing, if the use—

21 “(i) is specifically permitted by the  
22 conservation reserve plan developed for the  
23 land; and

24 “(ii) is consistent with the long-term  
25 protection and enhancement of the con-

1            servation resources for which the contract  
2            was established.

3            “(7) COMPENSATION.—

4            “(A) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The Sec-  
5            retary shall provide payment under this sub-  
6            section to an owner of land enrolled through a  
7            Grassland 30 contract using 30 annual pay-  
8            ments in an amount equal to the amount that  
9            would be used if the land were to be enrolled  
10           in the conservation reserve program under sec-  
11           tion 1231(d)(2).

12           “(B) FORM OF PAYMENT.—Compensation  
13           for a Grassland 30 contract shall be provided  
14           by the Secretary in the form of a cash payment  
15           in an amount determined under subparagraph  
16           (A).

17           “(C) TIMING.—The Secretary shall provide  
18           any annual payment obligation under subpara-  
19           graph (A) as early as practicable in each fiscal  
20           year.

21           “(D) PAYMENTS TO OTHERS.—The Sec-  
22           retary shall make a payment, in accordance  
23           with regulations prescribed by the Secretary, in  
24           a manner as the Secretary determines is fair  
25           and reasonable under the circumstances, if an

1 owner who is entitled to a payment under this  
2 section—

3 “(i) dies;

4 “(ii) becomes incompetent;

5 “(iii) is succeeded by another person  
6 or entity who renders or completes the re-  
7 quired performance; or

8 “(iv) is otherwise unable to receive the  
9 payment.

10 “(8) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
12 assist owners in complying with the terms and  
13 conditions of a Grassland 30 contract.

14 “(B) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The  
15 Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts  
16 with private entities or agreements with a  
17 State, nongovernmental organization, or Indian  
18 Tribe to carry out necessary maintenance of a  
19 Grassland 30 contract if the Secretary deter-  
20 mines that the contract or agreement will ad-  
21 vance the purposes of the conservation reserve  
22 program.

23 “(9) ADMINISTRATION.—

24 “(A) CONSERVATION RESERVE PLAN.—  
25 The Secretary shall develop a conservation re-

1           serve plan for any land subject to a Grassland  
2           30 contract, which shall include practices and  
3           activities necessary to maintain, protect, and  
4           enhance the conservation value of the enrolled  
5           land, including the protection and enhancement  
6           of soil carbon levels.

7                   “(B) DELEGATION OF CONTRACT ADMINIS-  
8           TRATION.—

9                           “(i) FEDERAL, STATE, TRIBAL, OR  
10                   LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—The Sec-  
11                   retary may delegate any of the manage-  
12                   ment, monitoring, and enforcement respon-  
13                   sibilities of the Secretary under this sub-  
14                   section to other Federal, State, Tribal, or  
15                   local government agencies that have the  
16                   appropriate authority, expertise, and re-  
17                   sources necessary to carry out those dele-  
18                   gated responsibilities.

19                           “(ii) CONSERVATION ORGANIZA-  
20                   TIONS.—The Secretary may delegate any  
21                   management responsibilities of the Sec-  
22                   retary under this subsection to conserva-  
23                   tion organizations if the Secretary deter-  
24                   mines the conservation organization has  
25                   similar expertise and resources.”.

1 **SEC. 505. ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

2 Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-  
3 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) (as amended  
4 by section 304) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 1240T. ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT PRO-**  
7 **GRAM.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT  
10 PROGRAM.—The term ‘alternative manure manage-  
11 ment program’ means the program established under  
12 subsection (b).

13 “(2) COVERED MANAGEMENT MEASURE.—The  
14 term ‘covered management measure’ means a dairy  
15 or livestock operation method that is used by an eli-  
16 gible producer to reduce baseline methane emissions  
17 and, where applicable, improve carbon sequestration  
18 on the operation of that eligible producer, including  
19 the measures described in subparagraphs (A)  
20 through (D) of subsection (f)(2).

21 “(3) ELIGIBLE PRODUCER.—The term ‘eligible  
22 producer’ means a dairy or livestock producer who  
23 agrees to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by adopt-  
24 ing at least 1 covered management measure as an  
25 alternative or complement to anaerobic systems that  
26 capture methane emissions.

1           “(4) PASTURE-BASED MANAGEMENT.—The  
2 term ‘pasture-based management’ means a dairy or  
3 livestock production system—

4           “(A) that eliminates or reduces the quan-  
5 tity of manure stored in anaerobic conditions;  
6 and

7           “(B) in which the animals spend all or a  
8 substantial portion of their time grazing on  
9 fields in which some or all of the manure is de-  
10 posited and left in the field and decomposes  
11 aerobically.

12           “(5) SOLID SEPARATION SYSTEM.—The term  
13 ‘solid separation system’ means a system designed to  
14 separate liquid components of manure from mineral  
15 and organic solid components of that manure.

16           “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
17 lish an alternative manure management program to award  
18 contracts to eligible producers to support carbon seques-  
19 tration and greenhouse gas emissions reductions by imple-  
20 menting covered management measures.

21           “(c) SUBMISSION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—To be eli-  
22 gible to participate in the alternative manure management  
23 program, an eligible producer shall submit to the Sec-  
24 retary a contract offer that details any management meas-  
25 ure to be used on the operation of the eligible producer.

1           “(d) CLUSTER CONTRACT OFFERS.—The Secretary  
2 shall establish procedures under which—

3                   “(1) groups of eligible producers may submit a  
4 joint contract offer for a shared composting facility;  
5 and

6                   “(2) the Secretary shall allocate payments to  
7 each eligible producer associated with a joint con-  
8 tract described in paragraph (1).

9           “(e) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

10                   “(1) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—The Secretary  
11 shall develop criteria for evaluating applications that  
12 will maximize—

13                           “(A) carbon sequestration;

14                           “(B) greenhouse gas emissions reductions;

15                   and

16                           “(C) the overall environmental and public  
17 health benefits.

18                   “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding contracts under  
19 this section, the Secretary, using criteria developed  
20 under paragraph (1), shall give priority to contract  
21 offers that address air quality, water quality, or  
22 other public health concerns associated with dairy  
23 and livestock operations located near low-income or  
24 underserved communities.



1           “(3) GROUPING OF APPLICATIONS.—The Sec-  
2           retary may group and evaluate contract offers rel-  
3           ative to other contract offers for similar farming op-  
4           erations.

5           “(4) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY.—In awarding  
6           contracts under this section, the Secretary shall en-  
7           sure geographical diversity.

8           “(f) CONTRACT PROVISIONS.—

9           “(1) TERM.—A contract awarded under this  
10          section shall have a term that does not exceed 3  
11          years.

12          “(2) COVERED MANAGEMENT MEASURES.—  
13          Each eligible producer requesting funding for a  
14          project under the alternative manure management  
15          program shall implement at least 1 of the following  
16          management measures:

17                 “(A) With respect to pasture-based man-  
18                 agement—

19                         “(i) adopting pasture-based manage-  
20                         ment;

21                         “(ii) converting a non-pasture dairy or  
22                         livestock operation to pasture-based man-  
23                         agement;

1           “(iii) increasing the amount of time  
2           livestock spend at pasture at an existing  
3           pasture operation; or

4           “(iv) improving pasture-based man-  
5           agement, including transitioning to man-  
6           agement-intensive rotational grazing (as  
7           defined in section 1240L(d)(1)).

8           “(B) Adopting alternative manure treat-  
9           ment and storage practices, including—

10           “(i) the installation of a compost-bed-  
11           ded pack barn that composts manure;

12           “(ii) the installation of slatted floor  
13           pit storage manure collection that is  
14           cleaned out at least once a month; or

15           “(iii) other similar practices, as deter-  
16           mined by the Secretary.

17           “(C)(i) Adopting a solid separation system,  
18           installing a new solid separation system that  
19           has a significantly higher separation efficiency  
20           than any existing solid separation system, or  
21           developing or retrofitting a manure manage-  
22           ment system that primarily avoids wet handling  
23           infrastructure; and

24           “(ii) in conjunction with 1 or more of  
25           the following management measures:

1                   “(I) Open solar drying or  
2 composting of manure onsite.

3                   “(II) Solar drying in an enclosed  
4 environment.

5                   “(III) Forced evaporation with  
6 natural-gas fueled dryers.

7                   “(IV) Storage of manure in  
8 unconfined piles or stacks.

9                   “(V) Composting in an enclosed  
10 vessel, with forced aeration and con-  
11 tinuous mixing.

12                   “(VI) Composting in piles with  
13 forced aeration without mixing.

14                   “(VII) Composting in intensive  
15 windrows with regular turning for  
16 mixing and aeration.

17                   “(VIII) Composting in passive  
18 windrows with infrequent turning for  
19 mixing and aeration.

20                   “(IX) Vermiculture or  
21 vermifiltration.

22                   “(X) Other similar activities, as  
23 determined by the Secretary.

24                   “(D) Adopting scrape technologies, in con-  
25 junction with 1 of the management measures

1 described in subclauses (I) through (X) of sub-  
2 paragraph (C)(ii).

3 “(3) DUTIES OF ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS UNDER  
4 CONTRACT.—To receive payments under the alter-  
5 native manure management program, an eligible  
6 producer shall—

7 “(A) implement 1 or more management  
8 measures;

9 “(B) supply information as required by the  
10 Secretary to determine compliance with the re-  
11 quirements of the alternative manure manage-  
12 ment program; and

13 “(C) comply with such additional provi-  
14 sions as the Secretary determines are necessary  
15 to carry out the alternative manure manage-  
16 ment program.

17 “(g) PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—During each of fiscal years  
19 2024 through 2028, the Secretary shall provide pay-  
20 ments to eligible producers that enter into contracts  
21 with the Secretary under the alternative manure  
22 management program.

23 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—Payments  
24 provided to an eligible producer under this section

1       may be used to implement 1 or more covered man-  
2       agement measures.

3               “(3) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may  
4       provide a payment to an eligible producer under the  
5       alternative manure management program for an  
6       amount that is up to 100 percent of the costs associ-  
7       ated with planning, design, materials, equipment, in-  
8       stallation, labor, management, maintenance, and  
9       training relating to implementing a covered manage-  
10      ment measure.

11              “(4) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—A person or  
12      legal entity (including a joint venture and a general  
13      partnership) may not receive, directly or indirectly,  
14      payments under the program that exceed \$825,000  
15      during any 5-year period.

16              “(5) ADVANCED PAYMENTS.—The Secretary  
17      shall provide not less than 50 percent of the amount  
18      of total payments to an eligible producer in advance  
19      for all costs relating to—

20                      “(A) purchasing or contracting materials  
21                      and equipment; or

22                      “(B) any technical assistance provided by  
23                      the Secretary.

24              “(h) MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF CON-  
25      TRACTS.—

1           “(1) VOLUNTARY MODIFICATION OR TERMI-  
2           NATION.—The Secretary may modify or terminate a  
3           contract entered into with an eligible producer under  
4           the alternative manure management program if—

5                   “(A) the producer agrees to the modifica-  
6                   tion or termination; and

7                   “(B) the Secretary determines that the  
8                   modification or termination is in the public in-  
9                   terest.

10           “(2) INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION.—The Sec-  
11           retary may terminate a contract under the alter-  
12           native manure management program if the Sec-  
13           retary determines that the eligible producer violated  
14           the contract.

15           “(i) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary  
16           shall—

17                   “(1) determine and publish factors for esti-  
18                   mating the carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas  
19                   emissions reductions for each covered management  
20                   measure described in subclauses (I) through (X) of  
21                   subsection (f)(2)(C)(ii);

22                   “(2) assist an eligible producer in achieving the  
23                   carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions re-  
24                   duction, and other environmental and public health

1 goals of the alternative manure management pro-  
2 gram plan by—

3 “(A) providing payments for developing  
4 and implementing 1 or more covered manage-  
5 ment measures, as appropriate; and

6 “(B) providing that eligible producer with  
7 information, technical assistance, and training  
8 to aid in implementation of the covered man-  
9 agement measures; and

10 “(3) review the adequacy of existing conserva-  
11 tion practice standards for supporting the covered  
12 management measures and, if necessary—

13 “(A) revise existing conservation practice  
14 standards; and

15 “(B) develop new conservation practice  
16 standards.

17 “(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In providing tech-  
18 nical assistance under the alternative manure manage-  
19 ment program, the Secretary shall apply sections 1241(c)  
20 and 1242, except that the Secretary shall—

21 “(1) apportion not more than 15 percent of the  
22 total funding available for the alternative manure  
23 management program for the provision of technical  
24 assistance; and

1           “(2) enter into cooperative agreements with  
2           third-party providers with relevant expertise in the  
3           covered management measures to ensure adequate  
4           technical services are available to alternative manure  
5           management program applicants.

6           “(k) FUNDING.—

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use the  
8           funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity  
9           Credit Corporation to carry out the alternative ma-  
10          nure management program (including the provision  
11          of technical assistance described in subsection (j))  
12          using \$1,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years  
13          2024 through 2028.

14          “(2) RESERVATIONS OF FUNDS.—The Sec-  
15          retary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use  
16          a majority of the funds made available by paragraph  
17          (1) for contract offers from small and mid-sized  
18          dairy and livestock operations, including—

19                  “(A) beginning farmers or ranchers;

20                  “(B) limited resource farmers and ranch-  
21                  ers; and

22                  “(C) socially disadvantaged farmers and  
23                  ranchers.”.



1                   **TITLE VI—ON-FARM**  
2                   **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

3   **SEC. 601. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

4           Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
5   ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended—

6           (1) in subsection (a)—

7                   (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
8                   by striking “and renewable energy develop-  
9                   ment” and inserting “, renewable energy devel-  
10                   opment, and the reduction of greenhouse gas  
11                   emissions”; and

12                   (B) in paragraph (2), by adding “that re-  
13                   duce greenhouse gas emissions” before the pe-  
14                   riod at the end;

15           (2) in subsection (b)—

16                   (A) in paragraph (2)—

17                           (i) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
18                           “and” at the end;

19                           (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
20                           (E) as subparagraph (G); and

21                           (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
22                           (D) the following:

23                                   “(E) a nonprofit corporation;

24                                   “(F) an agricultural cooperative or pro-  
25                           ducer group; and”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3)(D), by inserting be-  
2 fore the semicolon at the end the following: “,  
3 including greenhouse gas emissions reductions”;  
4 and

5 (C) in paragraph (4)—

6 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
7 graph (A), by inserting “, agricultural  
8 processors,” after “agricultural pro-  
9 ducers”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
11 “and” at the end;

12 (iii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by strik-  
13 ing the period at the end and inserting “;  
14 and”;

15 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(C) assisting in the development of feasi-  
18 bility studies and plans for implementing rec-  
19 ommendations provided under subparagraph  
20 (B).”;

21 (3) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by inserting “,  
23 agricultural processors,” after “agricultural  
24 producers”;

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
2 (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and  
3 (H), respectively; and

4 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph  
5 (E) the following:

6 “(F) carbon accounting assessments devel-  
7 oped under subsection (d) with respect to the  
8 renewable energy system to be installed or the  
9 energy efficiency upgrade to be undertaken;”;

10 (C) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
12 “The amount” and all that follows through  
13 “25 percent” and inserting “Except as  
14 provided in subparagraph (F), the amount  
15 of a grant under this subsection shall not  
16 exceed 50 percent”;

17 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs  
18 (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and  
19 (E), respectively;

20 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
21 (B) the following:

22 “(C) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE OF LOAN  
23 GUARANTEE.—The portion of a loan that the  
24 Secretary may guarantee under this section  
25 shall be—

1           “(i) in the case of a loan in the  
2           amount of not less than \$1,000,000, 80  
3           percent of the principal amount of the  
4           loan; and

5           “(ii) in the case of a loan in an  
6           amount less than \$1,000,000, 90 percent  
7           of the principal amount of the loan.”;

8           (iv) in subparagraph (E) (as so redes-  
9           ignated), by striking “subsection (f)” and  
10          inserting “subsection (h)”;

11          (v) by adding at the end the following:

12          “(F) UNDERSERVED PRODUCERS.—The  
13          amount of a grant provided under this sub-  
14          section to an agricultural producer who is a be-  
15          ginning farmer or rancher, a socially disadvan-  
16          taged farmer or rancher, or a veteran farmer or  
17          rancher (as those terms are defined in section  
18          2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation  
19          and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)))  
20          shall not exceed 75 percent of the cost of the  
21          activity funded by the grant.”;

22          (D) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end  
23          the following:

24          “(F) PRE-APPROVED TECHNOLOGIES.—In  
25          order to streamline the adoption of renewable

1 energy systems and energy efficiency improve-  
2 ments, the Secretary shall develop a stream-  
3 lined application process for projects utilizing  
4 pre-approved products and technologies in-  
5 cluded on the list described in paragraph (5).”;  
6 and

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

8 “(5) PRE-APPROVED LIST.—The Secretary  
9 shall, beginning in fiscal year 2024—

10 “(A) develop a list of pre-approved tech-  
11 nologies and products for purposes of para-  
12 graph (4)(F); and

13 “(B) update that list every 2 fiscal years.

14 “(6) PRIORITY.—In making grants or loan  
15 guarantees under this subsection, the Secretary shall  
16 give priority to proposed projects that utilize tech-  
17 nologies—

18 “(A) with a substantially low carbon foot-  
19 print; or

20 “(B) that would result in significant net  
21 decreases of greenhouse gas emissions, as deter-  
22 mined by the Secretary using the carbon ac-  
23 counting assessments developed under sub-  
24 section (d).”;

1 (4) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and  
2 (f) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively;

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

5 “(d) CARBON ACCOUNTING.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
7 after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Resil-  
8 ience Act of 2023, the Secretary, in collaboration  
9 with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory,  
10 shall develop carbon accounting assessments for re-  
11 newable energy systems and energy efficiency up-  
12 grades (including technologies on the list described  
13 in subsection (c)(5)(A) and technologies described in  
14 subsection (h)(5)(A)) supported by assistance pro-  
15 vided under this section.

16 “(2) METHODOLOGIES.—In developing the car-  
17 bon accounting assessments under paragraph (1),  
18 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
19 ticable, create accurate methodologies for assigning  
20 greenhouse gas emission values, including land use  
21 change.

22 “(3) PROGRAM GUIDANCE.—The Secretary  
23 shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use the  
24 carbon accounting assessments developed under  
25 paragraph (1) as guides in carrying out this section.

1 “(e) REGIONAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry  
3 out regional demonstration projects that incentivize  
4 agricultural producers to reduce their carbon foot-  
5 print or overall carbon equivalent emissions to the  
6 maximum extent practicable through the use of en-  
7 ergy efficiency improvements and renewable energy  
8 systems.

9 “(2) PUBLICIZATION.—The Secretary shall  
10 publicize the results of the regional demonstration  
11 projects carried out under paragraph (1).”;

12 (6) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—

13 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
14 “AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE” after “OUT-  
15 REACH”;

16 (B) by striking “The Secretary shall” and  
17 inserting “Using funds made available under  
18 subsection (h)(4), the Secretary shall”;

19 (C) by inserting “and technical assistance”  
20 after “outreach”; and

21 (D) by inserting “or provided, as applica-  
22 ble,” after “conducted”;

23 (7) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by  
24 striking “subsection (f)” each place it appears and  
25 inserting “subsection (h)”; and

1 (8) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-  
3 graphs (A) through (E) and inserting the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(A) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
6 2014 through 2023;

7 “(B) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

8 “(C) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

9 “(D) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

10 and

11 “(E) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2027  
12 and each fiscal year thereafter.”;

13 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “be-  
14 come available” and inserting “be used”; and

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

16 “(4) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the  
17 funds made available to carry out this section for a  
18 fiscal year, the Secretary shall use not more than 8  
19 percent for administrative expenses.

20 “(5) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds  
21 made available to carry out this section for a fiscal  
22 year, the Secretary may reserve—

23 “(A) not more than 15 percent to provide  
24 grants under subsection (c) to support the



1 adoption of underutilized but proven commer-  
2 cial technologies; and

3 “(B) not more than 5 percent to carry out  
4 subsection (e).”.

5 **SEC. 602. AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.**

6 (a) DEFINITION OF AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEM.—In this  
7 section, the term “agrivoltaic system” means a system  
8 under which solar energy production and agricultural pro-  
9 duction, including crop or animal production or apiculture,  
10 occurs in an integrated manner on the same piece of land.

11 (b) STUDY.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct  
13 a study on agrivoltaic systems that shall include—

14 (A) an assessment of the compatibility of  
15 different species of livestock with different  
16 agrivoltaic system designs, including—

17 (i) the optimal height of and distance  
18 between solar panels for—

19 (I) livestock grazing; and

20 (II) shade for livestock;

21 (ii) manure management consider-  
22 ations;

23 (iii) fencing requirements; and

24 (iv) other animal handling consider-  
25 ations;

1 (B) an assessment of animal breeding re-  
2 search needs with respect to beneficial and com-  
3 patible characteristics and behaviors of different  
4 species of grazing animals in agrivoltaic sys-  
5 tems;

6 (C) an assessment of the compatibility of  
7 different crop types with different agrivoltaic  
8 system designs, including—

9 (i) the optimal height of and distance  
10 between solar panels for—

11 (I) plant shading; and

12 (II) farm equipment use;

13 (ii) the impact on crop yield; and

14 (iii) market opportunities to sell crops  
15 at a premium price;

16 (D) an assessment of plant breeding re-  
17 search needs with respect to beneficial and com-  
18 patible characteristics of different crops, includ-  
19 ing specialty and perennial crops, in agrivoltaic  
20 systems;

21 (E) a risk-benefit analysis of agrivoltaic  
22 systems in different regions of the United  
23 States, including a comparison between the  
24 total greenhouse gas impact of agrivoltaic sys-

1           tems and solar energy systems that displace ag-  
2           ricultural production;

3           (F) an assessment of the types of agricul-  
4           tural land best suited and worst suited for  
5           agrivoltaic systems;

6           (G) an assessment of how to best develop  
7           agrivoltaic systems on a national and local scale  
8           consistent with—

9                   (i) maintaining or increasing agricul-  
10                   tural production;

11                   (ii) increasing agricultural resilience;

12                   (iii) retaining prime farmland;

13                   (iv) increasing economic opportunities  
14                   in farming and rural communities;

15                   (v) reducing nonfarmer ownership of  
16                   farmland; and

17                   (vi) enhancing biodiversity;

18           (H) an assessment of the unique risk man-  
19           agement and crop insurance needs of agrivoltaic  
20           systems;

21           (I) an assessment of how Federal procure-  
22           ment of agricultural products could help build  
23           a market for agricultural products from farms  
24           with agrivoltaic systems; and

1           (J) an assessment of how Federal agricul-  
2           tural conservation programs, renewable energy  
3           programs, and investment tax credits can better  
4           support agrivoltaic systems.

5           (2) 5-YEAR PLAN.—Based on the study under  
6           paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop a 5-year  
7           plan for using the research, extension, outreach, con-  
8           servation, and renewable energy activities of the De-  
9           partment of Agriculture to better support agrivoltaic  
10          systems that do not displace agricultural production.

11          (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
12          date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
13          submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the  
14          House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-  
15          riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a  
16          report containing the results of the study conducted  
17          under paragraph (1).

18          (c) AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEM RESEARCH AND DEM-  
19          ONSTRATION.—

20               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
21               through the Administrator of the Agricultural Re-  
22               search Service and in coordination with the relevant  
23               research programs of the Department of Energy,  
24               shall establish and maintain a network of research  
25               and demonstration sites operated by the Agricultural

1 Research Service to investigate and demonstrate  
2 agrivoltaic systems in multiple regions of the United  
3 States, including arid, semi-arid, and wet agricul-  
4 tural zones, that—

5 (A) increase agricultural productivity and  
6 profitability;

7 (B) enhance agricultural resilience and the  
8 capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate  
9 change;

10 (C) protect biodiversity; and

11 (D) increase economic opportunities in  
12 farming and rural communities.

13 (2) COORDINATION.— In establishing and  
14 maintaining the network described in paragraph (1),  
15 the Secretary shall collaborate with USDA Climate  
16 Hubs to share research findings and translate re-  
17 search findings into educational, outreach, and tech-  
18 nical assistance materials for agricultural producers.

19 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
20 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
21 this subsection \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 and  
22 each fiscal year thereafter.

23 **SEC. 603. AGSTAR PROGRAM.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain the  
25 program known as the “AgSTAR program” within the

1 Department of Agriculture, under which the Secretary  
2 shall—

3 (1) support the use of anaerobic digestion in  
4 the agricultural sector to reduce methane emissions  
5 from livestock waste;

6 (2) conduct outreach, education, and training  
7 on anaerobic digestion of livestock waste;

8 (3) provide technical and regulatory assistance  
9 on anaerobic digestion of livestock waste to stake-  
10 holders, including farmers and ranchers, on issues  
11 including—

12 (A) permitting;

13 (B) codigestion of multiple organic wastes  
14 in one digester; and

15 (C) interconnection to physically link a di-  
16 gester to the electrical power grid;

17 (4) promote centralized, multifarm digesters  
18 that use livestock waste from more than 1 farm or  
19 ranch;

20 (5) collect and report data on anaerobic diges-  
21 tion of livestock waste; and

22 (6) maintain a database of on-farm anaerobic  
23 digester projects in the United States.

24 (b) TRANSITION FROM EPA.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
2           Environmental Protection Agency shall take such  
3           steps as are necessary to provide for an orderly tran-  
4           sition for the activities carried out under the  
5           AgSTAR program by the Environmental Protection  
6           Agency to be carried out by the Secretary, in accord-  
7           ance with subsection (c).

8           (2) DEADLINE.—The Administrator of the En-  
9           vironmental Protection Agency shall finish carrying  
10          out paragraph (1) by not later than 1 year after the  
11          date of enactment of this Act, such that the Sec-  
12          retary has sole jurisdiction of the AgSTAR program  
13          by that date.

14          (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall carry out  
15          the AgSTAR program through the Chief of the Natural  
16          Resources Conservation Service—

17                (1) in coordination with the Administrator of  
18                the Environmental Protection Agency and other  
19                Federal agencies as necessary; and

20                (2) in partnership with the climate hubs, coop-  
21                erative extension services, and agencies of the De-  
22                partment of Agriculture.

23          (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
24          authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry

1 out the AgSTAR program not more than \$5,000,000 for  
2 each fiscal year.

3 **TITLE VII—FOOD LOSS AND**  
4 **WASTE**  
5 **Subtitle A—Food Date Labeling**

6 **SEC. 701. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this subtitle:

8 (1) ADMINISTERING SECRETARIES.—The term  
9 “administering Secretaries” means—

10 (A) the Secretary, with respect to any  
11 product that is—

12 (i) under the jurisdiction of the Sec-  
13 retary; and

14 (ii)(I) a poultry product (as defined in  
15 section 4 of the Poultry Products Inspec-  
16 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 453));

17 (II) a meat food product (as defined  
18 in section 1 of the Federal Meat Inspection  
19 Act (21 U.S.C. 601)); or

20 (III) an egg product (as defined in  
21 section 4 of the Egg Products Inspection  
22 Act (21 U.S.C. 1033)); and

23 (B) the Secretary of Health and Human  
24 Services, with respect to any product that is—



1 (i) under the jurisdiction of the Sec-  
2 retary of Health and Human Services; and

3 (ii) a food (as defined in section 201  
4 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic  
5 Act (21 U.S.C. 321)).

6 (2) DISCARD DATE.—The term “discard date”  
7 means a date voluntarily printed on food packaging  
8 that signifies the end of the estimated period of shelf  
9 life under any stated storage conditions, after which  
10 the food labeler advises the product not be con-  
11 sumed.

12 (3) FOOD LABELER.—The term “food labeler”  
13 means the producer, manufacturer, distributor, or  
14 retailer that places a date label on food packaging  
15 of a product.

16 (4) QUALITY DATE.—The term “quality date”  
17 means a date voluntarily printed on food packaging  
18 that is intended to communicate to consumers the  
19 date after which—

20 (A) the quality of the product may begin  
21 to deteriorate; but

22 (B) the product remains apparently whole-  
23 some food (as defined in subsection (b) of the  
24 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation  
25 Act (42 U.S.C. 1791(b))).

1 **SEC. 702. QUALITY DATES AND DISCARD DATES.**

2 (a) QUALITY DATES.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—If a food labeler includes a  
4 quality date on food packaging, the label shall use  
5 the uniform quality date label phrase under para-  
6 graph (2).

7 (2) UNIFORM PHRASE.—The uniform quality  
8 date label phrase under this paragraph shall be  
9 “BEST If Used By” or, if permissible under sub-  
10 section (c)(3), the standard abbreviation of “BB”,  
11 unless and until the administering Secretaries, act-  
12 ing jointly, specify through rulemaking another uni-  
13 form phrase to be used for purposes of complying  
14 with paragraph (1).

15 (3) OPTION OF THE LABELER.—The decisions  
16 on whether to include a quality date on food pack-  
17 aging and which foods should be so labeled shall be  
18 at the discretion of the food labeler.

19 (b) DISCARD DATES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—If a food labeler includes a  
21 discard date on food packaging, the label shall use  
22 the uniform discard date label phrase under para-  
23 graph (2).

24 (2) UNIFORM PHRASE.—The uniform discard  
25 date label phrase under this paragraph shall be  
26 “USE By” or, if permissible under subsection

1 (c)(3), the standard abbreviation of “UB”, unless  
2 and until the administering Secretaries, acting joint-  
3 ly, specify through rulemaking another uniform  
4 phrase to be used for purposes of complying with  
5 paragraph (1).

6 (3) OPTION OF THE LABELER.—The decisions  
7 on whether to include a discard date on food pack-  
8 aging and which foods should be so labeled shall be  
9 at the discretion of the food labeler.

10 (c) QUALITY DATE AND DISCARD DATE LABEL-  
11 ING.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The quality date or discard  
13 date, as applicable, and immediately adjacent uni-  
14 form quality date label phrase or discard date label  
15 phrase—

16 (A) shall be—

17 (i) in single easy-to-read type style;

18 and

19 (ii) located in a conspicuous place on  
20 the package of the food; and

21 (B) may be on the label or, at the discre-  
22 tion of the food labeler, elsewhere on the pack-  
23 age.

1           (2) DATE FORMAT.—Each quality date and dis-  
2           card date shall be stated in terms of day and month  
3           and, as appropriate, year.

4           (3) ABBREVIATIONS.—A food labeler may use a  
5           standard abbreviation of “BB” and “UB” for the  
6           quality date and discard date, respectively, only if  
7           the food packaging is too small to include the uni-  
8           form phrase described in subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2),  
9           as applicable.

10          (4) FREEZE BY.—A food labeler may add “or  
11          Freeze By” following a quality date or discard date  
12          uniform phrase.

13          (d) EDUCATION.—Not later than 1 year after the  
14          date of enactment of this Act, the administering Secre-  
15          taries, acting jointly, shall provide consumer education  
16          and outreach on the meaning of quality date and discard  
17          date food labels.

18          (e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION; PREEMPTION.—

19            (1) INFANT FORMULA.—This title and the  
20            amendments made by this title shall not—

21                (A) apply to infant formula (as defined in  
22                section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and  
23                Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)); and

24                (B) affect the requirements relating to in-  
25                fant formula established under section 412 of

1           the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21  
2           U.S.C. 350a) or other applicable provisions of  
3           law.

4           (2) SALE OR DONATION OF FOOD BASED ON  
5           DISCARD DATE.—Nothing in this title or an amend-  
6           ment made by this title prohibits any State or polit-  
7           ical subdivision of a State from establishing or con-  
8           tinuing in effect any requirement that prohibits the  
9           sale or donation of foods based on passage of the  
10          discard date.

11          (3) TIME TEMPERATURE INDICATOR LABELS.—  
12          Nothing in this title or an amendment made by this  
13          title prohibits or restricts the use of time-tempera-  
14          ture indicator labels or similar technology that is in  
15          addition to or in lieu of any uniform quality date  
16          label phrase under subsection (a)(2) or uniform dis-  
17          card date label phrase under subsection (b)(2).

18          (4) PREEMPTION.—No State or political sub-  
19          division of a State may establish or continue in ef-  
20          fect any requirement that—

21                 (A) relates to the inclusion in food labeling  
22                 of a quality date or a discard date that is dif-  
23                 ferent from or in addition to, or that is other-  
24                 wise not identical with, the requirements of this  
25                 Act and the amendments made by this Act; or

1 (B) prohibits the sale or donation of foods  
2 based on passage of the quality date.

3 (5) ENFORCEMENT.—The administering Secre-  
4 taries, acting jointly and in coordination with the  
5 Federal Trade Commission, shall ensure that the  
6 uniform quality date label phrase and uniform dis-  
7 card date label phrase are standardized across all  
8 food products.

9 (6) SAVINGS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4),  
10 nothing in this title, any amendment made by this  
11 title, or any standard or requirement imposed pursu-  
12 ant to this title preempts, displaces, or supplants  
13 any State or Federal common law rights or any  
14 State or Federal statute creating a remedy for civil  
15 relief, including a remedy for civil damage, or a pen-  
16 alty for criminal conduct.

17 **SEC. 703. MISBRANDING.**

18 (a) FDA VIOLATIONS.—Section 403 of the Federal  
19 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343) is amend-  
20 ed by adding at the end the following:

21 “(z) If it is food and its labeling is in violation of  
22 section 702 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023.”.

23 (b) POULTRY PRODUCTS.—Section 4(h) of the Poul-  
24 try Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 453(h)) is amend-  
25 ed—

1 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “or” at the  
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at  
4 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

6 “(13) if its labeling is in violation of section  
7 702 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023.”.

8 (c) MEAT PRODUCTS.—Section 1(n) of the Federal  
9 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(n)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “or” at the  
11 end;

12 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at  
13 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

15 “(13) if its labeling is in violation of section  
16 702 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023.”.

17 (d) EGG PRODUCTS.—Section 7(b) of the Egg Prod-  
18 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1036(b)) is amended in  
19 the first sentence by inserting “or if its labeling is in viola-  
20 tion of section 702 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of  
21 2023” before the period at the end.

22 **SEC. 704. REGULATIONS.**

23 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
24 of this Act, the administering Secretaries, acting jointly,

1 shall promulgate final regulations for carrying out this  
2 title and the amendments made by this title.

3 **SEC. 705. DELAYED APPLICABILITY.**

4 This title and the amendments made by this title  
5 shall apply only with respect to food products that are la-  
6 beled on or after the date that is 2 years after the date  
7 of promulgation of final regulations under section 704.

8 **Subtitle B—Other Provisions**

9 **SEC. 711. COMPOSTING AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE.**

10 (a) CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND REQUIRE-  
11 MENTS.—Section 1241(j) of the Food Security Act of  
12 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(j)) is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
14 graph (3); and

15 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(2) COMPOSTING AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE  
18 AND ACTIVITY.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall,  
20 by regulation, provide that composting is a con-  
21 servation practice and a conservation activity  
22 for the purposes of this title.

23 “(B) DEFINITION OF COMPOSTING.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph,  
25 the term ‘composting’ means—



1                   “(I) an activity (including an ac-  
2                   tivity that does not require the use of  
3                   a composting facility) to produce com-  
4                   post from organic waste that is—

5                                 “(aa) generated on a farm;

6                                 or

7                                 “(bb) brought to a farm  
8                   from a nearby community and  
9                   used to produce compost on that  
10                  farm; and

11                   “(II) the use and active manage-  
12                  ment of compost on a farm, in accord-  
13                  ance with any applicable Federal,  
14                  State, or local law, to improve water  
15                  retention and soil health.

16                   “(ii) DETERMINATION OF NEARBY  
17                  COMMUNITIES.—The Secretary, in con-  
18                  sultation with the Administrator of the En-  
19                  vironmental Protection Agency, shall issue  
20                  regulations for determining whether a com-  
21                  munity is nearby for purposes of clause  
22                  (i)(I)(bb), which shall ensure that bringing  
23                  organic waste from the community to the  
24                  farm to produce compost results in a net  
25                  reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.”.

1 (b) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.—Sec-  
2 tion 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
3 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting “and  
4 composting (as defined in section 1241(j)(2)(B))” after  
5 “agriculture drainage management systems”.

6 (c) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-  
7 GRAM.—Section 1240A(6)(A)(ii) of the Food Security Act  
8 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)(A)(ii)) is amended by in-  
9 serting “, including composting (as defined in section  
10 1241(j)(2)(B))” before the semicolon at the end.

11 (d) DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section  
12 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
13 3842(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(5) DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSTING PRACTICE  
15 STANDARD.—In addition to conducting a review  
16 under this subsection of any composting facilities  
17 practice standard established before the date of en-  
18 actment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall de-  
19 velop and implement a composting practice standard  
20 under the process developed under paragraph (3).”.

21 **SEC. 712. AMENDMENTS TO FEDERAL FOOD DONATION**

22 **ACT.**

23 (a) PURPOSE.—Section 2 of the Federal Food Dona-  
24 tion Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–247; 42 U.S.C. 1792

1 note) is amended by striking “encourage” and inserting  
2 “require”.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Federal Food  
4 Donation Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–247; 42 U.S.C.  
5 1792 note) is amended—

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

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ‘executive  
11 agency’ has the meaning given the term in section  
12 133 of title 41, United States Code.”.

13 (c) REPORT ON FOOD WASTE BY CERTAIN FEDERAL  
14 CONTRACTORS.—Section 4 of the Federal Food Donation  
15 Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1792) is amended—

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

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

19 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
20 after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Resil-  
21 ience Act of 2023, the Federal Acquisition Regula-  
22 tion issued in accordance with section 1121 of title  
23 41, United States Code, shall be revised to provide  
24 that, except as provided in paragraph (2), all con-  
25 tracts greater than \$10,000 for the provision, serv-

1       ice, or sale of food in the United States, or for the  
2       lease or rental of Federal property to a private enti-  
3       ty for events at which food is provided in the United  
4       States, shall include a clause that—

5               “(A) requires the donation of excess, ap-  
6               parently wholesome food to nonprofit organiza-  
7               tions that provide assistance to food-insecure  
8               people in the United States;

9               “(B) states the terms and conditions de-  
10              scribed in subsection (b); and

11              “(C) requires the submission of a report,  
12              annually if applicable—

13                      “(i) in a form and manner specified  
14                      by the executive agency awarding the con-  
15                      tract; and

16                      “(ii) that describes, for each month of  
17                      performance of the contract during the pe-  
18                      riod covered by the report, the weight of  
19                      apparently wholesome food that was dis-  
20                      posed of pursuant to the contract by—

21                              “(I) donation, organized by the  
22                              name of the organization receiving the  
23                              food;

24                              “(II) composting or other recy-  
25                              cling; or

1                   “(III) discarding, organized by  
2                   the reason that the food was dis-  
3                   carded.

4                   “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not  
5                   apply to a contract with an executive agency that  
6                   has issued a regulation in effect on the date of en-  
7                   actment of the Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023  
8                   that prohibits a donation described in paragraph  
9                   (1)(A).”; and

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

11                   “(c) APPLICATION TO CONGRESS.—

12                   “(1) CONTRACTS.—This Act shall apply to the  
13                   House of Representatives and the Senate, and to  
14                   contracts entered into by the House of Representa-  
15                   tives and the Senate, in the same manner and to the  
16                   same extent as this Act applies to an executive agen-  
17                   cy and to contracts entered into by an executive  
18                   agency pursuant to this Act.

19                   “(2) ADMINISTRATION.—For purposes of car-  
20                   rying out paragraph (1)—

21                   “(A) the Chief Administrative Officer of  
22                   the House of Representatives shall be consid-  
23                   ered to be the head of the House of Representa-  
24                   tives; and

1                   “(B) the Secretary of the Senate shall be  
2                   considered to be the head of the Senate.

3                   “(d) REPORTS.—

4                   “(1) REPORT TO OMB.—Not later than 30 days  
5                   after the date on which an executive agency receives  
6                   a report described in subsection (a)(1)(C), the execu-  
7                   tive agency shall submit a copy of the report to the  
8                   Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

9                   “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of  
10                  the Office of Management and Budget shall submit  
11                  to Congress an annual report aggregating the infor-  
12                  mation in the reports received under paragraph (1)  
13                  during the year covered by the report to Congress.”.

14                  (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The  
15                  Federal Food Donation Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–  
16                  247; 122 Stat. 2314) is amended by adding at the end  
17                  the following:

18                  **“SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19                  “‘There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
20                  retary of Agriculture to carry out this Act \$10,000,000  
21                  for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter.’”.

1 **SEC. 713. GRANTS FOR COMPOSTING AND ANAEROBIC DI-**  
2 **GESTION FOOD WASTE-TO-ENERGY**  
3 **PROJECTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle G of the Solid Waste Dis-  
5 posal Act (42 U.S.C. 6971 et seq.) is amended by adding  
6 at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 7011. GRANTS FOR COMPOSTING AND ANAEROBIC DI-**  
8 **GESTION FOOD WASTE-TO-ENERGY**  
9 **PROJECTS.**

10 “(a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section, the  
11 term ‘State’ means—

12 “(1) each of the several States;

13 “(2) the District of Columbia;

14 “(3) each territory or possession of the United  
15 States; and

16 “(4) each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

17 “(b) GRANTS.—The Administrator shall establish a  
18 grant program to award grants to States eligible to receive  
19 the grants under subsection (c)(1) to construct large-scale  
20 composting or anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy  
21 projects.

22 “(c) ELIGIBLE STATES.—

23 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a  
24 grant under this section, a State shall—

1           “(A) have in effect a plan to limit the  
2           quantity of food waste that may be disposed of  
3           in landfills in the State; and

4           “(B) provide to the Administrator—

5                   “(i) a written commitment that the  
6                   State has read and agrees to comply with  
7                   the Food Recovery Hierarchy of the Envi-  
8                   ronmental Protection Agency, particularly  
9                   as applied to apparently wholesome food  
10                  (as defined in section 22(b) of the Child  
11                  Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.  
12                  1791(b))) that may be provided to or re-  
13                  ceived by the State; and

14                   “(ii) a written end-product recycling  
15                   plan that provides for the beneficial use of  
16                   the material resulting from any anaerobic  
17                   digestion food waste-to-energy operation  
18                   with respect to which the grant is made, in  
19                   a manner that meets all applicable Fed-  
20                   eral, State, and local laws that protect  
21                   human health and the environment.

22           “(2) LIMITATION.—A grant under subsection  
23           (b) may not be used for an anaerobic digester that  
24           uses solely manure as undigested biomass.





1           gram established under section 4 of the Child Nutri-  
2           tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

3           “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall  
4           carry out a program to make grants, on a competi-  
5           tive basis, to eligible local educational agencies to  
6           carry out food waste measurement, prevention, and  
7           reduction projects.

8           “(3) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In awarding grants  
9           under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the  
10          maximum extent practicable, ensure—

11           “(A) that a grant is awarded to an eligible  
12          local educational agency in each region served  
13          by the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition  
14          Service; and

15           “(B) equitable treatment of rural, urban,  
16          and tribal communities.

17          “(4) GRANTS.—

18           “(A) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-  
19          ceive a grant under this subsection, an eligible  
20          local educational agency shall submit an appli-  
21          cation to the Secretary at such time, in such  
22          manner, and containing such information as the  
23          Secretary may require.

24           “(B) PRIORITY.—In making grants under  
25          this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority

1 to an eligible local educational agency that dem-  
2 onstrates in the application submitted under  
3 subparagraph (A) that the grant will be used—

4 “(i) to carry out experiential edu-  
5 cation activities that encourage children  
6 enrolled in the eligible local educational  
7 agency to participate in food waste meas-  
8 urement and education;

9 “(ii) to prioritize the best use of food  
10 in accordance with the Food Recovery Hi-  
11 erarchy published by the Administrator of  
12 the Environmental Protection Agency;

13 “(iii) with respect to food waste pre-  
14 vention and reduction, to collaborate with  
15 other eligible local educational agencies,  
16 Indian Tribes, nongovernmental and com-  
17 munity-based organizations, and other  
18 community partners;

19 “(iv) to establish a food waste meas-  
20 urement, prevention, and reduction project  
21 with long-term sustainability; and

22 “(v) to evaluate the activities de-  
23 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv) and  
24 make evaluation plans.

1           “(C) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible local  
2 educational agency that receives a grant under  
3 this subsection shall use the grant to carry out  
4 1 or more of the following activities:

5           “(i) Planning a food waste measure-  
6 ment, prevention, and reduction project.

7           “(ii) Implementing a food waste meas-  
8 urement, prevention, and reduction project.

9           “(iii) Providing training to support a  
10 food waste measurement, prevention, and  
11 reduction project.

12           “(iv) Purchasing equipment to sup-  
13 port a food waste measurement, preven-  
14 tion, and reduction project.

15           “(v) Offering food waste education to  
16 students enrolled in the eligible local edu-  
17 cational agency.

18           “(D) COST-SHARING.—

19           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a  
20 grant provided under this subsection shall  
21 not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of  
22 the project for which the grant is provided.

23           “(ii) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An eligi-  
24 ble local educational agency that receives a  
25 grant under this subsection shall use non-

1 Federal funds in the form of cash or in-  
2 kind contributions, including facilities,  
3 equipment, or services provided by State  
4 and local governments, nonprofit organiza-  
5 tions, and private sources, to pay for the  
6 remaining cost of the project for which the  
7 grant is provided.

8 “(5) EVALUATION.—

9 “(A) COOPERATION.—As a condition of re-  
10 ceiving a grant under this subsection, each eli-  
11 gible local educational agency shall agree to co-  
12 operate in an evaluation by the Secretary of the  
13 project carried out by the eligible local edu-  
14 cational agency as part of the evaluation con-  
15 ducted by the Secretary under subparagraph  
16 (B).

17 “(B) PERIODIC EVALUATION.—Not later  
18 than 2 years after the date of enactment of the  
19 Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023, and every 2  
20 years thereafter, the Secretary shall evaluate  
21 the grants made under this subsection, includ-  
22 ing—

23 “(i) the amount of Federal funds used  
24 to award those grants; and

1                   “(ii) an evaluation of the outcomes of  
2                   the projects carried out using those grants.

3                   “(C) REPORT.—The Secretary shall sub-  
4                   mit to Congress as a report each evaluation car-  
5                   ried out under subparagraph (B).”.

6           (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 21(b) of the  
7 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 1769b–1(b)) is amended—

9                   (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the  
10                  end;

11                  (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at  
12                  the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

14                   “(4) food waste measurement, prevention, and  
15                  reduction.”.

16 **SEC. 715. SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS TO**  
17 **DECREASE INCIDENCE OF FOOD WASTE.**

18           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall support na-  
19 tional media campaigns to decrease the incidence of food  
20 waste.

21           (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
22 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
23 essary to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 716. FOOD WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Food Loss and Waste  
3 Reduction Liaison of the Department of Agriculture (in  
4 this section referred to as the “Liaison”) shall establish  
5 a partnership with 5 regional partner institutions, selected  
6 under subsection (c), to carry out a Food Waste Research  
7 Program (in this section referred to as the “Program”).

8 (b) FOOD WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM REQUIRE-  
9 MENTS.—

10 (1) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the  
11 Liaison, in partnership with the 5 regional partner  
12 institutions selected under subsection (c), shall—

13 (A) plan, conduct, and arrange for public  
14 research, data, education, and recommendations  
15 within the areas of study specified in paragraph  
16 (2), as such areas relate to food waste reduction  
17 and food recovery issues nationwide, regionally,  
18 and locally;

19 (B) carry out the activities of the Program  
20 within a variety of regions in the United States,  
21 which are identified and categorized by the Li-  
22 aison based on the specific food recovery and  
23 food waste reduction issues of such regions;

24 (C) identify areas to increase efficiency in  
25 the allocation of resources and the coordination,  
26 cooperation, and consolidation of efforts as they

1 relate to local, statewide, Tribal, regional, and  
2 Federal food recovery and food waste reduction  
3 efforts;

4 (D) create a Program website, as described  
5 in paragraph (4), to disseminate information to  
6 the public; and

7 (E) collaborate with other colleges, univer-  
8 sities, and nonprofit organizations in the re-  
9 gions selected by the Liaison that have dem-  
10 onstrated capability for research, information  
11 dissemination, and professional training in  
12 order to develop regional networks that are  
13 knowledgeable in food waste reduction issues.

14 (2) AREAS OF STUDY.—In carrying out the du-  
15 ties listed in paragraph (1), the Liaison and the re-  
16 gional partner institutions shall consider the fol-  
17 lowing areas of study:

18 (A) Reducing the volume of surplus food  
19 produced.

20 (B) Utilizing excess food to feed individ-  
21 uals in need, including through the use of dona-  
22 tions of surplus food.

23 (C) Diverting food unusable for purposes  
24 described in subparagraph (B) to feed animals.



1 (D) Utilizing food waste to create renew-  
2 able energy sources.

3 (E) Composting food waste to create nutri-  
4 ent rich soil.

5 (F) Diminishing the deposits of food waste  
6 in landfills and reducing the incineration of  
7 food waste.

8 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Liaison may make  
10 funds available under this section to improve  
11 the capacities and facilities of the regional part-  
12 ner institutions to a level that meets the re-  
13 quirements of the role of a regional partner in-  
14 stitution.

15 (B) PLAN.—A regional partner institution  
16 may not receive any funding for any facility up-  
17 grade under subparagraph (A), unless—

18 (i) the regional partner institution  
19 submits to the Liaison a plan detailing the  
20 type of facility construction or improve-  
21 ments to take place (including any land ac-  
22 quisition, engineering, design, and staffing  
23 and equipment needs, in addition to other  
24 information as required by the Liaison);  
25 and

1 (ii) the Liaison approves such plan.

2 (C) NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE FOR FA-  
3 CILITY IMPROVEMENT.—A regional partner in-  
4 stitution shall be required to provide at least a  
5 20 percent non-Federal cost share for facility  
6 improvement or construction projects pursued  
7 by a regional partner institution under subpara-  
8 graph (A).

9 (D) MATCHING FUNDS FOR OPERATING  
10 EXPENSES.—A regional partner institution shall  
11 be required to provide at least a 30 percent  
12 non-Federal cost share for all Program oper-  
13 ating expenses related to such regional partner  
14 institution.

15 (E) WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS.—A con-  
16 struction activity carried out pursuant to this  
17 subsection shall meet Federal prevailing wage  
18 requirements as determined by the Secretary of  
19 Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of  
20 chapter 31 of part A of subtitle II of title 40,  
21 United States Code (commonly referred to as  
22 the “Davis-Bacon Act”).

23 (4) FOOD WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM  
24 WEBSITE.—The Liaison shall establish a website  
25 that shall contain at least the following information:

1 (A) Key findings and best practices.

2 (B) A list of collaborations and partner-  
3 ships carried out pursuant to this subsection.

4 (C) Annual reports and other pertinent in-  
5 formation on the duties of the Program.

6 (D) The location and contact information  
7 for regional partner institutions.

8 (E) Federal, State, local, and regionally  
9 specific public research, data, education, and  
10 policy recommendations that shall be updated  
11 in a timely manner with new information.

12 (F) Tools for tracking reduction efforts  
13 and measuring food waste production.

14 (c) SELECTION OF REGIONAL PARTNER INSTITU-  
15 TIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Liai-  
18 son shall select 5 regional partner institutions to  
19 partner with to carry out the requirements of the  
20 Program under subsection (b).

21 (2) CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL PARTNER INSTI-  
22 TUTIONS.—In making a selection under paragraph  
23 (1), the Liaison shall select an institution of higher  
24 education that—

1 (A) has a focus or expertise in at least one  
2 of the areas of study described in subsection  
3 (b)(2);

4 (B) has the ability to plan, conduct, and  
5 arrange for public research, data, education,  
6 and recommendations related to food waste re-  
7 duction and the areas of study described in sub-  
8 section (b)(2);

9 (C) can assist the Liaison in fulfilling the  
10 duties listed in subsection (b)(1);

11 (D) can contribute the required non-Fed-  
12 eral funding to maintain a regional partner in-  
13 stitution center; and

14 (E) satisfies any other criteria determined  
15 by the Liaison.

16 (3) ELIGIBLE SUB-AWARDEES.—A State, Trib-  
17 al, or local government, local educational agency, ag-  
18 ricultural or commodity organization, farmer, or  
19 other organization focused on food waste prevention  
20 may serve as an eligible sub-awardee of a regional  
21 partner institution if the entity meets the require-  
22 ments of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of para-  
23 graph (2).

1           (4) EMPLOYMENT STATUS.—Members of re-  
2           gional partner institutions shall not be considered  
3           Federal employees for any purpose.

4           (d) COLLABORATION WITH FEDERAL, REGIONAL,  
5           STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ORGA-  
6           NIZATIONS.—The Liaison, in conjunction with the 5 re-  
7           gional partner institutions selected under subsection (c),  
8           shall collaborate and share best practices on regional,  
9           State, Tribal, and locally specific food waste and food  
10          waste reduction issues with—

11           (1) State and county governments;

12           (2) Tribal governments;

13           (3) units of local government;

14           (4) local educational entities;

15           (5) colleges and universities;

16           (6) agricultural and commodity organizations;

17           (7) farmers; and

18           (8) organizations focused on food waste preven-  
19          tion.

20          (e) INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINA-  
21          TION.—

22           (1) REPORT OF REGIONAL PARTNER INSTITU-  
23          TIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the  
24          enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the  
25          regional partnership institutions shall submit to the

1 Liaison a report containing the activities, partner-  
2 ships, collaborations, Federal policy recommenda-  
3 tions, previous and continuing budgets, findings, and  
4 any other applicable information carried out under  
5 the Program.

6 (2) LIAISON REPORT.—Not later than 15  
7 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
8 and annually thereafter, the Liaison shall submit to  
9 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
10 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-  
11 trition, and Forestry of the Senate and publish on  
12 the Program website an annual report containing a  
13 compilation of the activities, partnerships, collabora-  
14 tions, Federal policy recommendations, previous and  
15 continuing budgets, findings, and any other applica-  
16 ble information relating to the Program.

17 (3) REVIEW OF REPORT.—The Liaison shall re-  
18 view the annual report from the regional partner in-  
19 stitutions to ensure that funds are being used effi-  
20 ciently according to the duties of the Program and  
21 that the Program is producing utilizable public re-  
22 search, data, education, and recommendations re-  
23 lated to food waste and food waste reduction issues.