

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1011

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to remove barriers to agricultural producers in accessing funds to carry out emergency measures under the emergency conservation program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2025

Ms. LETLOW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to remove barriers to agricultural producers in accessing funds to carry out emergency measures under the emergency conservation program, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Conserva-
5 tion Program Improvement Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

7 Section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
8 (16 U.S.C. 2201) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
3 “AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION
4 MEASURES” after “FENCING”; and

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

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a payment
8 to an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for
9 the repair or replacement of fencing, or for other
10 emergency measures to rehabilitate farmland or to
11 repair or replace a farmland or conservation struc-
12 ture, the Secretary shall give the agricultural pro-
13 ducer the option of receiving—

14 “(A) before carrying out such replacement
15 or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of
16 the payment for such replacement or rehabilita-
17 tion, which shall be based on the fair market
18 value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as
19 determined by the Secretary; and

20 “(B) before carrying out such repair, not
21 more than 50 percent of the payment for such
22 repair, which shall be based on the fair market
23 value of the repair, as determined by the Sec-
24 retary.”; and

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

1 “(c) WILDFIRES.—A wildfire that causes damage
 2 with respect to which a payment may be made under sub-
 3 section (a) includes any wildfire that is not caused natu-
 4 rally, including a wildfire that is caused by the Federal
 5 Government, if the damage is caused by the spread of the
 6 fire due to natural causes.”.

7 **SEC. 3. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORA-**
 8 **TION PROGRAM.**

9 Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
 10 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
 12 section (f); and

13 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
 14 lowing:

15 “(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an
 17 owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option
 18 of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency
 19 measures under this section, not more than 75 per-
 20 cent of the cost of the emergency measures, as de-
 21 termined by the Secretary based on the fair market
 22 value of the cost of the emergency measures using
 23 the estimated cost of the applicable practice pub-
 24 lished in the Field Office Technical Guide of each

1 State by the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
2 ice.

3 “(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds pro-
4 vided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the
5 end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on
6 which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land
7 receives those funds, the funds shall be returned
8 within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the
9 Secretary.”.

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