

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1858

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 with respect to the emergency watershed program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 with respect to the emergency watershed 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 “Flooding Prevention,
5 Assessment, and Restoration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.**

7 Section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
8 (16 U.S.C. 2203) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

1 “(c) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—In carrying out this
2 section, the Secretary may undertake measures that in-
3 crease the level of protection above that which would be
4 necessary to address the immediate impairment of the wa-
5 tershed if the Secretary determines that such restoration
6 is—

7 “(1) in the best interest of the long-term health
8 and the protection of the watershed from repetitive
9 impairments; and

10 “(2) cost-effective and appropriate, given risks
11 to the environment.”.

12 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE FLOOD VULNERABILITY**
13 **STUDY.**

14 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
15 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to
16 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
17 tives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
18 Forestry of the Senate a national agriculture flood vulner-
19 ability report containing the results of a conservation ef-
20 fects assessment project studying flood risk on agricul-
21 tural lands, including—

22 (1) an analysis of economic losses of crops and
23 livestock resulting from flooding under different re-
24 currence scenarios;

1 (2) an analysis of the downstream effects of
2 mitigation activities carried out as part of a water-
3 shed management approach;

4 (3) an analysis of available Federal and State
5 data relating to flood risk, as applicable to agricul-
6 tural land, including data relating to riverine flood-
7 ing, coastal flooding, storm surge, extreme precipita-
8 tion, and flash flooding; and

9 (4) a description of ongoing producer-level con-
10 servation practices and broader government initia-
11 tives to manage flooding impact and flood risk with-
12 in and across watersheds, and recommendations for
13 additional practices and initiatives to further address
14 such impact and risk.

15 **SEC. 4. REHABILITATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES**
16 **NEAR, AT, OR PAST THEIR EVALUATED LIFE**
17 **EXPECTANCY.**

18 The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act
19 is amended—

20 (1) in section 2 (16 U.S.C. 1002), by striking
21 “respectively.” and all that follows through “must
22 contain” and inserting “respectively. Each project,
23 other than a rehabilitation project under section 14,
24 must contain”; and

1 (2) in section 14(b)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1012(b)(2)),
2 by striking “65 percent” and inserting “90 per-
3 cent”.

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