

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7712

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate with various entities, and to establish a grant program, as a means of supporting nurseries and seed orchards, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Mr. BERGMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate with various entities, and to establish a grant program, as a means of supporting nurseries and seed orchards, 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 “Reforestation, Nurs-
5 eries, and Genetic Resources Support Act of 2026” or the
6 “RNGR Support Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD SUPPORT.**

2 (a) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER
3 ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED OR-
4 CHARDS.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through
5 the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

6 (1) partner with Federal and State agencies,
7 Indian Tribes, institutions of higher education, non-
8 profit organizations, and private nurseries to provide
9 training, technical assistance, and research to nurs-
10 ery and tree establishment programs that support
11 natural regeneration, reforestation, agroforestry, and
12 afforestation;

13 (2) promote information sharing to improve
14 technical knowledge and practices, and to better un-
15 derstand reforestation needs, relating to seeds or
16 seedlings, effects of climate change, tree genetics for
17 resistance to pathogens and drought, and other
18 issues necessary to address all facets of the reforest-
19 ation supply chain;

20 (3) provide technical and financial assistance to
21 international nursery and tree establishment pro-
22 grams through the Forest Service International Pro-
23 grams, the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, and
24 the International Institute of Tropical Forestry;

25 (4) collaborate with other relevant Federal de-
26 partments and agencies, including the Foreign Agri-

1 cultural Service of the Department of Agriculture,
2 the United States Agency for International Develop-
3 ment, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,
4 and international organizations, including the Food
5 and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
6 to provide technical and financial assistance related
7 to nurseries and reforestation;

8 (5) coordinate the efforts of the Department of
9 Agriculture—

10 (A) to address the challenges associated
11 with the reforestation supply chain, including
12 workforce development; and

13 (B) to leverage economic development as-
14 sistance for work with private nurseries;

15 (6) expand reforestation supply chains through
16 science and research, seed collection and storage,
17 workforce development, and nursery infrastructure
18 and operations; and

19 (7) shorten the timeline for approval of permits
20 to collect seeds on National Forest System lands.

21 (b) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD GRANT PRO-
22 GRAM.—

23 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 2 years
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
25 retary shall establish a program to provide grants to

1 eligible recipients to support nurseries and seed or-
2 chards.

3 (2) ALLOWABLE USES.—A recipient of grant
4 funds under paragraph (1) may use such funds to
5 carry out a project comprised of 1 or more of the
6 following:

7 (A) The development, expansion, enhance-
8 ment, or improvement of nursery production ca-
9 pacity or other infrastructure—

10 (i) to improve seed collection and stor-
11 age;

12 (ii) to increase seedling production,
13 storage, and distribution; or

14 (iii) to enhance seedling survival and
15 properly manage tree genetic resources.

16 (B) The establishment or expansion of a
17 nursery or seed orchard, including by acquiring
18 equipment for a nursery or seed orchard.

19 (C) The development or implementation of
20 quality control measures at nurseries or seed
21 orchards.

22 (D) The promotion of workforce develop-
23 ment within any facet of the reforestation sup-
24 ply chain.

1 (E) Any other activity determined appro-
2 priate by the Secretary.

3 (c) REFORESTATION TRUST FUND.—Notwith-
4 standing subsection (d) of section 303 of Public Law 96–
5 451 (16 U.S.C. 1606a), of amounts in the Reforestation
6 Trust Fund established by subsection (a) of that section
7 that are not otherwise obligated, the Secretary may obli-
8 gate not more than \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year to
9 carry out this section.

10 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
12 recipient” means—

13 (A) a State forestry agency;

14 (B) an Indian Tribe; and

15 (C) a private nursery that has experience
16 growing high-quality native trees of appropriate
17 genetic sources in bareroot or container
18 stocktypes specific for reforestation, restoration,
19 or conservation, including native plants and
20 seeds that are of cultural significance to Indian
21 Tribes.

22 (2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
23 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
24 the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-

1 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
2 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

3 (3) NURSERY.—The term “nursery” means a
4 tree or native plant nursery.

5 (4) SEED ORCHARD.—The term “seed orchard”
6 means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

7 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
8 the several States, the District of Columbia, the
9 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or
10 possession of the United States.

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