

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2215

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for floodplain easement restoration and management, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 9, 2025

Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for floodplain easement restoration and management, 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 “Restoring America’s
5 Floodplains Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM FLOODPLAIN**
 2 **EASEMENT RESTORATION AND MANAGE-**
 3 **MENT.**

4 Section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
 5 (16 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by striking the subsection designation
 8 and heading and all that follows through “The
 9 Secretary” and inserting the following:

10 “(a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—

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

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

13 “(2) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—The Secretary
 14 may provide financial and technical assistance for
 15 restoring adapted vegetative cover and the hydro-
 16 logic functions and values of wetlands on floodplain
 17 easements acquired under paragraph (1).

18 “(3) EASEMENT MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary
 19 shall have sole discretion for entering into compat-
 20 ible-use agreements with landowners and agreements
 21 with government agencies or nongovernmental orga-
 22 nizations to address maintenance and management
 23 of the vegetative cover and wetlands restoration
 24 measures on floodplain easements acquired under
 25 paragraph (1).”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b), by striking the subsection
2 designation and heading and all that follows through
3 the “The Secretary” in the matter preceding sub-
4 paragraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(b) MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION OF FLOOD-
7 PLAIN EASEMENTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”.

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