

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2221

To establish requirements under which the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall carry out the Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 9, 2025

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To establish requirements under which the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall carry out the Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program.

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 “Supporting American
5 Wood and Mill Infrastructure with Loans for Longevity
6 Act” or the “SAWMILL Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TIMBER PRODUCTION EXPANSION GUARANTEED**
2 **LOAN PROGRAM.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
5 ty” means an individual or entity that owns or oper-
6 ates a sawmill or other wood-processing facility lo-
7 cated in a rural area (as defined in section 343(a)
8 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
9 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))) of the United States.

10 (2) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL LAND.—The term “eli-
11 gible Federal land” means any unit of Federal land,
12 including Indian forest land or rangeland, that has
13 been identified by the Secretary, in coordination
14 with the Secretary of the Interior, as high or very
15 high priority for ecological restoration involving
16 vegetation removal under subsection (b).

17 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
18 the Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan
19 Program of the Department of Agriculture.

20 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of Agriculture.

22 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE FEDERAL
23 LAND.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 5 years
25 thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the Sec-
26 retary of the Interior, shall—

1 (1) review Federal land under the jurisdiction
2 of the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior; and

3 (2) identify units of Federal land that, as deter-
4 mined by the Secretaries, are high or very high pri-
5 ority for ecological restoration involving vegetation
6 removal.

7 (c) LOAN GUARANTEES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
9 tion with the Secretary of the Interior, shall provide
10 loan guarantees under the Program to eligible enti-
11 ties seeking to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or
12 improve a sawmill or other wood-processing facility
13 located within a 250-mile radius of, a unit of eligible
14 Federal land, if the presence of a sawmill or other
15 wood-processing facility would, or does, substantially
16 decrease the cost of conducting ecological restoration
17 projects involving vegetation removal on the eligible
18 Federal land, as determined by the Secretary, in co-
19 ordination with the Secretary of the Interior.

20 (2) CONDITIONS.—A loan guarantee under the
21 Program shall be provided in accordance with such
22 conditions as the Secretary determines to be nec-
23 essary.

1 (3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary may
2 provide a total of not more than \$220,000,000 in
3 loan guarantees under the Program.

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