

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4779

To support nutrition, farmers, the seafood industry, agricultural research, wood energy and innovation, and indigenous self-determination, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2026

Ms. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To support nutrition, farmers, the seafood industry, agricultural research, wood energy and innovation, and indigenous self-determination, 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. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

TITLE I—IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS

- Sec. 101. Improving micro-grants for food security program.
- Sec. 102. Grants and loans for food distribution in frontier communities.
- Sec. 103. Acceptance of SNAP benefits through online transactions for certain delivery costs.
- Sec. 104. Nonduplication of penalty.
- Sec. 105. Tolerance level for excluding small errors.

- Sec. 106. Fee agents serving rural Alaska residents.
- Sec. 107. Pilot program to purchase locally produced food.

TITLE II—IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR FARMERS AND FOOD PROCESSING

- Sec. 201. Forgivable loans for small commercial food processing.
- Sec. 202. Improving the geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers program.

TITLE III—IMPROVING SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

- Sec. 301. Country of origin labeling for cooked crab.
- Sec. 302. Eligibility of wild-caught fish and shellfish.
- Sec. 303. Domestic seafood production.
- Sec. 304. Grant program to promote the reuse, recycling, and sustainable use of marine products from seafood industry.
- Sec. 305. Wild USA seafood label.
- Sec. 306. Market name for genetically engineered fish.
- Sec. 307. Market name for cultivated fish.

TITLE IV—IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

- Sec. 401. Funding for agricultural research in States without Agricultural Research Service facilities.
- Sec. 402. Seaweed methane reduction research grants.
- Sec. 403. Urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production research, education, and extension initiative.
- Sec. 404. Reports and regulations on coastal seaweed farming.

TITLE V—SUPPORTING FORESTRY

- Sec. 501. Community wood energy and wood innovation program.

TITLE VI—SUPPORTING UNITED STATES FLORICULTURE

- Sec. 601. Limitation on procurement.

TITLE VII—IMPROVING TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINATION

- Sec. 701. Agricultural self-determination and self-governance.
- Sec. 702. Buy Indian Act modifications.
- Sec. 703. Water systems for Alaska Native villages and rural villages.
- Sec. 704. Reauthorization of grant program.

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

2 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
3 retary of Agriculture.

1 **TITLE I—IMPROVING ACCESS TO**
2 **HEALTHY FOODS**

3 **SEC. 101. IMPROVING MICRO-GRANTS FOR FOOD SECURITY**
4 **PROGRAM.**

5 Section 4206 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
6 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7518) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A)(iv), by striking sub-
8 clause (II) and inserting the following:

9 “(II) a public or Tribal elemen-
10 tary or secondary school;”;

11 (2) in subsection (e), by striking “competitive
12 distribution of subgrants” and inserting “distribu-
13 tion of subgrants or other financial assistance”;

14 (3) in subsection (d)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1), in the matter pre-
16 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-
17 section (g)” and inserting “subsection (h)”; and

18 (B) by striking paragraph (3);

19 (4) in subsection (e)—

20 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
21 “AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE” after
22 “SUBGRANTS”;

23 (B) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (I) in the matter preceding clause
2 (i), by inserting “or other financial as-
3 sistance provided” after “subgrant”;
4 and

5 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
6 “\$10,000” and inserting “\$25,000”;
7 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (I) in the first sentence, by in-
9 serting “described in clauses (ii)
10 through (v) of subsection (b)(1)(A)”
11 after “an eligible entity”; and

12 (II) in the second sentence, by
13 striking “an individual who otherwise
14 meets” and inserting “those eligible
15 entities that otherwise meet”; and

16 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
17 “or other financial assistance provided”
18 after “subgrant”;

19 (C) in paragraph (2)—

20 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
21 graph (A), by striking “competitive dis-
22 tribution of subgrants under subsection
23 (c)” and inserting “distribution of sub-
24 grants or other financial assistance under
25 this section”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
2 “or other financial assistance provided”
3 after “subgrant”;

4 (D) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or
5 other financial assistance under this section”
6 after “subgrants”;

7 (E) in paragraph (4), in the matter pre-
8 ceeding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or other
9 financial assistance provided” after “subgrant”;
10 and

11 (F) in paragraph (5), by inserting “or
12 other financial assistance” after “subgrant”;

13 (5) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as
14 subsections (g) and (h), respectively;

15 (6) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(f) USE OF FUNDS BY ELIGIBLE STATES.—Of the
18 amount received by an agricultural department or agency
19 of an eligible State under subsection (c), some may be
20 used by the agricultural department or agency to provide,
21 or to enter into a contract with a nonprofit entity to pro-
22 vide, an educational or training course or technical assist-
23 ance designed to increase the quantity and quality of lo-
24 cally grown food for food insecure individuals, families,
25 neighborhoods, and communities.”; and

1 (7) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) by inserting “or other financial as-
4 sistance” after “subgrant” each place it
5 appears; and

6 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
7 “subgrants by eligible entities” and insert-
8 ing “subgrant or other financial assistance
9 by the eligible entity”; and

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

11 “(3) DISPOSITION REQUIREMENTS.—No eligible
12 State or eligible entity shall be required, as a condi-
13 tion of receiving a subgrant or other financial assist-
14 ance under this section, to monitor or report on, or
15 meet disposition requirements relating to, real prop-
16 erty or capital improvements, insurance coverage, or
17 depreciation considerations, as described in sections
18 200.310, 200.311, 200.330, and 200.436 of title 2,
19 Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
20 tions), for projects that would build or enhance per-
21 manent structures the purpose of which is to im-
22 prove food security over the long term.”.

1 **SEC. 102. GRANTS AND LOANS FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN**
 2 **FRONTIER COMMUNITIES.**

3 Subtitle A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
 4 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) is amended by add-
 5 ing at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 310J. GRANTS AND LOANS FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION**
 7 **IN FRONTIER COMMUNITIES.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY.—The term ‘eligible
 10 community’ means—

11 “(A) a frontier community that—

12 “(i) is located in a noncontiguous
 13 State;

14 “(ii) does not have a food bank or
 15 food pantry as of the date of submission of
 16 an application for a grant or loan under
 17 this section; and

18 “(iii) is determined to be Frontier
 19 Level 4 in accordance with the most recent
 20 version of the Frontier and Remote Com-
 21 munities Code developed by the Economic
 22 Research Service; and

23 “(B) a rural community that—

24 “(i) is located in a noncontiguous
 25 State;

1 “(ii) does not have a food bank or
2 food pantry as of the date of submission of
3 an application for a grant or loan under
4 this section; and

5 “(iii) is determined to be Frontier
6 Level 3 in accordance with the most recent
7 version of the Frontier and Remote Com-
8 munities Code developed by the Economic
9 Research Service.

10 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
11 tity’ means—

12 “(A) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section
13 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
14 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

15 “(B) a Tribal organization (as defined in
16 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
17 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));
18 and

19 “(C) an organization described in section
20 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
21 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)
22 of that Code.

23 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
24 lish a program to provide grants and loans to eligible enti-

1 ties to establish food banks or food pantries in eligible
2 communities.

3 “(c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity that
4 receives a grant or loan under subsection (b) may use the
5 grant or loan for—

6 “(1) the construction or renovation of facilities;

7 “(2) wages and benefits for employees;

8 “(3) equipment to keep food and beverages cold
9 or frozen, as appropriate;

10 “(4) transportation of foods and beverages from
11 rural hub communities to outlying villages, including
12 by air, barge, or surface transportation; and

13 “(5) such other activities as the Secretary de-
14 termines to be appropriate.

15 “(d) INTEREST RATE.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)
17 and (3), the interest rate of a loan under subsection
18 (b) shall be established by the Secretary, for each
19 quarter of the applicable fiscal year, based on the
20 rate prescribed in Rural Development Instruction
21 440.1, exhibit B (or a successor instruction), as in
22 effect on the date on which the loan is approved.

23 “(2) ADJUSTMENT.—The interest rate estab-
24 lished under paragraph (1) shall be adjusted to the
25 nearest $\frac{1}{8}$ of 1 percent.

1 “(3) WRITTEN REQUEST.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-
3 graph (1), before the closing date of a loan
4 under subsection (b), the eligible entity apply-
5 ing for the loan may submit to the Secretary a
6 written request that the interest rate to be
7 charged for the loan be equal to the lesser of—

8 “(i) the interest rate in effect on the
9 date of the loan approval; and

10 “(ii) the interest rate in effect on the
11 date of the loan closing.

12 “(B) TEMPORARY DEBT INSTRUMENTS.—

13 If a request submitted under subparagraph (A)
14 is approved by the Secretary providing that the
15 applicable interest rate shall be the interest rate
16 in effect on the date of the loan closing, the in-
17 terest rate charged on a loan involving multiple
18 advances of Federal funds using temporary
19 debt instruments shall be the interest rate in ef-
20 fect on the date on which the first applicable
21 temporary debt instrument is issued.

22 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$100,000,000.”.

1 **SEC. 103. ACCEPTANCE OF SNAP BENEFITS THROUGH ON-**
2 **LINE TRANSACTIONS FOR CERTAIN DELIV-**
3 **ERY COSTS.**

4 Section 7(k) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
5 (7 U.S.C. 2016(k)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “on-line” each place it appears
7 and inserting “online”;

8 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph
9 (4)” and inserting “the requirements of this sub-
10 section”;

11 (3) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
12 following:

13 “(2) REQUIREMENTS TO ACCEPT BENEFITS.—A
14 retail food store seeking to accept benefits from re-
15 cipients of supplemental nutrition assistance through
16 online transactions shall submit to the Secretary for
17 approval a plan that includes—

18 “(A) a method of ensuring that benefits
19 may be used to purchase only eligible items
20 under the supplemental nutrition assistance
21 program;

22 “(B) a description of the method of edu-
23 cating participant households about the avail-
24 ability and operation of online purchasing;

25 “(C) adequate testing of the online pur-
26 chasing option prior to implementation;

1 “(D) the provision of data, as requested by
2 the Secretary, to analyze the impact of the
3 project on participant access, ease of use, and
4 program integrity;

5 “(E) recipient protections regarding pri-
6 vacy, ease of use, access, and support similar to
7 the protections provided for transactions made
8 in retail food stores;

9 “(F) except as provided in paragraph (4),
10 a method to ensure benefits are not used to pay
11 delivery, ordering, convenience, or other fees or
12 charges;

13 “(G) clear notification to participating
14 households at the time a food order is placed of
15 any delivery, ordering, convenience, or other fee
16 or charge associated with the food purchase;

17 “(H) a method to ensure the security of
18 online transactions by using the most effective
19 technology available that the Secretary con-
20 sidered appropriate and cost-effective and that is
21 comparable to the security of transactions at re-
22 tail food stores; and

23 “(I) any other criteria established by the
24 Secretary.”; and

1 (4) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(4) DELIVERY COSTS.—Benefits may be used
4 for the fees and charges described in paragraph
5 (2)(F) in the case of the purchase of foods that
6 must be delivered to, but not within, a rural hub
7 community or outlying village in a noncontiguous
8 State.

9 “(5) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.—The Sec-
10 retary shall establish a formal process for consulta-
11 tion with State agencies, retail food stores author-
12 ized under section 9 (including retail food stores
13 serving rural and frontier communities), electronic
14 benefit transfer processors, consumer advocates, and
15 other relevant stakeholders to incorporate lessons
16 learned from online purchasing operations during
17 the period of 2014 through 2025.

18 “(6) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
19 120 days after the effective date of this paragraph,
20 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ag-
21 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and
22 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
23 resentatives a report describing the consultation
24 process under paragraph (5) and recommendations
25 received.

1 “(7) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the
3 Secretary shall promulgate such regulations and
4 issue such guidance as are necessary to carry out
5 this subsection, which shall be informed by the con-
6 sultation conducted under paragraph (5).”.

7 **SEC. 104. NONDUPLICATION OF PENALTY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(a)(2)(B) of the Food
9 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(a)(2)(B)) is
10 amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(iv) NONDUPLICATION OF PEN-
12 ALTY.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs
13 (C) through (F) of section 16(c)(1), the
14 Secretary shall not establish a liability
15 amount (as defined in subparagraph (C) of
16 that section) or designate an at-risk
17 amount (as defined in subparagraph
18 (D)(i)(II) of that section) for a State that
19 owes a State share pursuant to this para-
20 graph.”.

21 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Sec-
22 tion 16(c)(7) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
23 U.S.C. 2025(c)(7)) is amended—

24 (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or sec-
25 tion 4(a)(2)(B)” after “paragraph (1)”; and

1 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or sec-
 2 tion 4(a)(2)(B)” after “paragraph (1)(C)”.

3 **SEC. 105. TOLERANCE LEVEL FOR EXCLUDING SMALL ER-**
 4 **RORS.**

5 Section 16(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of the Food and Nutrition
 6 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “thereafter, the amount” and
 8 inserting the following: “thereafter—

9 “(aa) the amount”;

10 (2) in item (aa) (as so designated), by striking
 11 the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

13 “(bb) in the case of house-
 14 holds that reside in a region for
 15 which cost adjustments in the
 16 thrifty food plan are made under
 17 section 3(u)(3)(A), 20 percent of
 18 the maximum allotment for a 1-
 19 person household in that re-
 20 gion.”.

21 **SEC. 106. FEE AGENTS SERVING RURAL ALASKA RESI-**
 22 **DENTS.**

23 Section 11(m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
 24 (7 U.S.C. 2020(m)) is amended, in the first sentence, by
 25 inserting “serving residents living” after “agents”.

1 **SEC. 107. PILOT PROGRAM TO PURCHASE LOCALLY PRO-**
2 **DUCED FOOD.**

3 Section 203D of the Emergency Food Assistance Act
4 of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7507) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) by striking “distribution, to store, han-
7 dle or distribute” and inserting the following:

8 “distribution—

9 “(1) to store, handle, or distribute”;

10 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by
11 striking the period at the end and inserting “;

12 and”; and

13 (C) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(2) to purchase locally produced food in ac-
15 cordance with the pilot program established under
16 subsection (g).”; and

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

18 “(g) PILOT PROGRAM TO PURCHASE LOCALLY PRO-
19 DUCED FOOD.—The Secretary shall establish a pilot pro-
20 gram under which the Secretary shall permit emergency
21 feeding organizations participating in the program author-
22 ized by this Act to use those funds to purchase locally pro-
23 duced food to supplement the commodities provided by the
24 Secretary under this Act.”.

1 **TITLE II—IMPROVING SUPPORT**
2 **FOR FARMERS AND FOOD**
3 **PROCESSING**

4 **SEC. 201. FORGIVABLE LOANS FOR SMALL COMMERCIAL**
5 **FOOD PROCESSING.**

6 (a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
7 tion, the term “eligible entity” means an individual or en-
8 tity that is an agricultural producer or owns or operates,
9 or seeks to own or operate, a commercial food processing
10 operation that—

11 (1) holds a commercial license issued by a non-
12 contiguous State; and

13 (2)(A) carries on a farming business (within the
14 meaning of section 263A(e)(4) of the Internal Rev-
15 enue Code of 1986); or

16 (B) conducts a commercial food processing op-
17 eration that is a small business concern (as defined
18 in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
19 632)).

20 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
21 a program, to be known as the “Arctic Agriculture Accel-
22 erator Loan Program”, to provide—

23 (1) loans to eligible entities to start or expand
24 a small commercial food processing operation; and

1 (2) forgiveness of those loans in accordance
2 with subsection (f).

3 (c) APPLICATIONS.—To apply for a loan under sub-
4 section (b)(1), an eligible entity shall submit to the Sec-
5 retary an application at such time, in such manner, and
6 containing such information as the Secretary may require,
7 including a description of activities described in subsection
8 (d) that the eligible entity will carry out using the loan.

9 (d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity that
10 receives a loan under subsection (b)(1) may use the loan
11 funds for the purchase and installation of equipment, the
12 construction or renovation of facilities, or any other activ-
13 ity to create or expand the capacity of the eligibility entity
14 to process, store, or distribute locally produced food.

15 (e) LOAN AMOUNTS.—The amount of a loan under
16 subsection (b)(1) shall be—

17 (1) \$150,000 in the case of an eligible entity
18 that owns or operates, or seeks to own or operate,
19 a small commercial food processing operation for
20 specialty crops or grains; and

21 (2) \$250,000 in the case of an eligible entity
22 that owns or operates, or seeks to own or operate,
23 a small commercial food processing operation for
24 meat, poultry, egg, aquaculture, or wild-caught fish
25 products.

1 (f) LOAN FORGIVENESS.—The Secretary shall forgive
 2 the indebtedness of a borrower of a loan under subsection
 3 (b)(1) if the Secretary determines that the borrower has
 4 successfully carried out the activities described in the ap-
 5 plication submitted by the borrower under subsection (c).

6 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 7 authorized to be appropriated for the cost of loans and
 8 forgiveness of loans to carry out this section \$10,000,000
 9 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

10 **SEC. 202. IMPROVING THE GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVAN-**
 11 **TAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS PROGRAM.**

12 Section 1621(c)(3)(B) of the Food, Conservation,
 13 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8792(c)(3)(B)) is
 14 amended by striking “\$15,000,000” and inserting
 15 “\$20,000,000”.

16 **TITLE III—IMPROVING SEAFOOD**
 17 **INDUSTRY**

18 **SEC. 301. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING FOR COOKED**
 19 **CRAB.**

20 Section 281(1) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
 21 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638(1)) is amended—

22 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “The
 23 term” and inserting “Except as provided in subpara-
 24 graph (C), the term”; and

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

1 “(C) INCLUSION.—The term ‘covered com-
2 modity’ includes crab that—

3 “(i) is wild fish; and

4 “(ii) has been cooked, including by
5 frying, broiling, grilling, boiling, steaming,
6 baking, and roasting.”.

7 **SEC. 302. ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND SHELL-**
8 **FISH.**

9 (a) FARM LOANS.—

10 (1) DEFINITIONS OF FARMER AND FARMING.—

11 Section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
12 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “farm-
14 ing.” and inserting “farming or commercial
15 fishing.”;

16 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “farm-
17 ing.” and inserting “farming and commercial
18 fishing.”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(14) COMMERCIAL FISHING.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘commercial
22 fishing’ means fishing (as defined in section 3
23 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
24 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) in
25 which the fish harvested, either in whole or in

1 part, are intended to enter commerce or enter
2 commerce through sale, barter, or trade.

3 “(B) ASSOCIATED DEFINITION OF FISH.—
4 For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term
5 ‘fish’—

6 “(i) means finfish, mollusks, crusta-
7 ceans, and all other forms of aquatic ani-
8 mal and plant life; but

9 “(ii) does not include—

10 “(I) marine mammals; or

11 “(II) birds.”.

12 (2) FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.—Section 303(a)
13 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
14 Act (7 U.S.C. 1923(a)) is amended by adding at the
15 end the following:

16 “(3) COMMERCIAL FISHERS.—A commercial
17 fisher may use a direct or guaranteed loan under
18 this subtitle for—

19 “(A) acquiring a commercial fishing per-
20 mit; and

21 “(B) acquiring, operating, and maintaining
22 a commercial fishing vessel.”.

23 (3) FARM OPERATING LOANS.—Section 312 of
24 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

1 (7 U.S.C. 1942) is amended by adding at the end
2 the following:

3 “(f) COMMERCIAL FISHERS.—A commercial fisher
4 may use a direct or guaranteed loan under this subtitle
5 for acquiring, operating, and maintaining a commercial
6 fishing vessel.”.

7 (b) FARMERS’ MARKETS AND LOCAL FOOD PRO-
8 MOTION PROGRAM.—Section 210A(d)(6) of the Agricul-
9 tural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c(d)(6)) is
10 amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(F) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH
12 AND SHELLFISH.—For purposes of this para-
13 graph, an agricultural commodity or product
14 described in subsection (a)(12) shall include
15 fish (as defined in paragraph (14)(B) of section
16 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
17 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))).”.

18 **SEC. 303. DOMESTIC SEAFOOD PRODUCTION.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) MARICULTURE.—The term “mariculture”
21 means shellfish and aquatic plants grown under con-
22 trolled conditions.

23 (2) RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term “rural
24 community” means a coastal community located in
25 a rural area (as defined in section 343(a) of the

1 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
2 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

3 (3) SEAFOOD.—The term “seafood” means
4 wild-caught finfish and shellfish.

5 (b) ACTION PLAN AND SELECTION OF COASTAL
6 COMMUNITIES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
9 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Com-
10 merce, shall develop an action plan to facilitate in-
11 creased domestic processing of United States-caught
12 seafood and mariculture.

13 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The action plan developed
14 under paragraph (1) shall include—

15 (A) an identification of coastal commu-
16 nities in which—

17 (i) commercial fishing is a significant
18 economic driver; and

19 (ii) there exists a need, and voiced
20 community desire, for the creation of new
21 (or rehabilitation of existing) seafood proc-
22 essing infrastructure to allow those com-
23 munities—

24 (I) to effectively process the
25 catch of the communities locally; and

1 (II) to provide for the local and
2 domestic market;

3 (B) an identification of coastal commu-
4 nities with existing or developing mariculture
5 operations in which processing infrastructure is
6 not sufficient to meet the needs of the
7 mariculture operations;

8 (C) a consideration of the diversity of
9 coastal communities, including geographic di-
10 versity;

11 (D) an assessment of the number of coast-
12 al communities described in subparagraphs (A)
13 through (C) that qualify as rural communities;
14 and

15 (E) an analysis of the current domestic
16 seafood supply chain, including a carbon foot-
17 print.

18 (3) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES.—
19 The action plan developed under paragraph (1) shall
20 include a selection of 5 coastal communities across
21 the United States that would be eligible for the
22 grants and cooperative agreements under subsection
23 (c).

24 (4) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—In devel-
25 oping the action plan under paragraph (1), the Sec-

1 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Com-
2 merce, shall provide a meaningful stakeholder en-
3 gagement process that—

4 (A) prioritizes outreach and engagement
5 through methods that effectively reach residents
6 of rural communities described in subpara-
7 graphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (2); and

8 (B) provides an opportunity for public
9 comment regarding a draft of the action plan,
10 and incorporation of any comments received by
11 the date that is 60 days after the end of the
12 public comment period.

13 (c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS TO
14 SUPPORT LOCAL SEAFOOD PROCESSING.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available
16 under subsection (f), the Secretary shall, for the pe-
17 riod of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, make competi-
18 tive grants or enter into cooperative agreements—

19 (A) to support pilot projects for new sea-
20 food or mariculture processing infrastructure in
21 eligible communities selected under subsection
22 (b)(3);

23 (B) to support pilot projects for the reha-
24 bilitation, repair, or retrofitting of existing sea-

1 food or mariculture processing infrastructure in
2 those eligible communities;

3 (C) to host onsite local training, education,
4 outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for
5 working waterfront populations in those com-
6 munities; or

7 (D) to provide preference for community
8 members from those eligible communities in the
9 startup of pilot seafood or mariculture proc-
10 essing facilities exclusively designed for serving
11 domestic and local markets, which shall in-
12 clude—

13 (i) entrepreneurship and business
14 training;

15 (ii) financial and risk management
16 training; and

17 (iii) food safety and recordkeeping.

18 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
19 grant or enter into a cooperative agreement under
20 paragraph (1), the recipient of the grant or partici-
21 pant in the cooperative agreement shall be—

22 (A) a collaborative State, Tribal, local, or
23 regionally based network or partnership of pub-
24 lic or private entities; or

1 (B) an individual seafood or mariculture
2 processing company.

3 (3) PRIORITIES.—In making grants or entering
4 into cooperative agreements under paragraph (1),
5 the Secretary shall give priority to—

6 (A) projects that commit—

7 (i) to sell a substantial quantity of
8 seafood domestically, as determined by the
9 Secretary;

10 (ii) to meaningful local-hire practices,
11 as determined by the Secretary;

12 (iii) to avoiding additional overbur-
13 dening of rural communities, such as by
14 minimizing additional vehicular traffic; and

15 (iv) to supporting innovative transpor-
16 tation networks to minimize adverse im-
17 pacts on adjacent communities;

18 (B) projects that—

19 (i) collocate with, or supply, commu-
20 nity fish markets or community-based sea-
21 food distributors, such as local farmers'
22 markets;

23 (ii)(I) would retrofit or update exist-
24 ing infrastructure; and

1 (II) are zoned for mixed use, such as
2 a processing plant with an adjacent com-
3 munity fish market; or

4 (iii) include partnerships with schools
5 or organizations that address food security
6 and hunger; and

7 (C) community-based businesses and orga-
8 nizations with expertise in working with rural
9 communities and coastal communities.

10 (4) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In making grants
11 or entering into cooperative agreements under para-
12 graph (1), the Secretary shall evaluate, with respect
13 to applications for the grants or cooperative agree-
14 ments—

15 (A) relevancy;

16 (B) technical merit;

17 (C) achievability, expertise, and track
18 record; and

19 (D) equity and environmental justice im-
20 pacts.

21 (5) REQUIREMENTS.—A grant or cooperative
22 agreement under paragraph (1) shall be for an
23 amount and term determined appropriate by the
24 Secretary.

1 (6) INTERAGENCY FUNDING.—Any Federal
2 agency may participate in any grant or cooperative
3 agreement under paragraph (1) by contributing
4 funds, if the contributing agency determines that the
5 objectives of the grant or cooperative agreement will
6 advance the authorized programs of the contributing
7 agency.

8 (7) LIMITATION ON INDIRECT COSTS.—A recipi-
9 ent of a grant or a party to a cooperative agreement
10 under paragraph (1) may not use more than 10 per-
11 cent of the funds received for the indirect costs of
12 carrying out the grant or cooperative agreement.

13 (d) EVALUATION OF ACTION PLAN, GRANTS, AND
14 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-
16 sultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall submit to
17 Congress a report evaluating the effectiveness of the ac-
18 tion plan developed under subsection (b) and the grants
19 and cooperative agreements made or entered into under
20 subsection (c), including—

21 (1) an assessment of social and economic bene-
22 fits resulting from projects carried out using those
23 grants and cooperative agreements; and

24 (2) recommendations—

1 (A) to improve the effectiveness of the ac-
2 tion plan and the grants and cooperative agree-
3 ments; and

4 (B) to expand projects carried out using
5 the grants and cooperative agreements to addi-
6 tional coastal communities.

7 (e) EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE PROHIBITIONS.—

8 (1) PROHIBITION ON AUTHORIZING FINFISH
9 AQUACULTURE.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
10 sion of law, no Federal agency shall permit, author-
11 ize, or otherwise regulate commercial finfish aqua-
12 culture operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone
13 of the United States (as established by Proclamation
14 Numbered 5030, dated March 10, 1983), except in
15 accordance with a law authorizing such an action
16 that is enacted after the date of enactment of this
17 Act.

18 (2) PROHIBITION ON FUNDS TO PROMOTE
19 FINFISH AQUACULTURE.—No Federal funds avail-
20 able to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
21 ministration shall be used to award grants to facili-
22 tate or otherwise regulate finfish aquaculture in
23 Federal waters.

24 (f) FUNDING.—

1 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
4 2027 and 2028.

5 (2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts
6 made available under paragraph (1)—

7 (A) \$200,000 shall be used to carry out
8 subsection (b) during fiscal year 2027, to be di-
9 vided equally between the Secretary and the
10 Secretary of Commerce;

11 (B) \$200,000 shall be used to carry out
12 subsection (d) during fiscal year 2028; and

13 (C) the remaining amounts shall be used,
14 subject to paragraphs (3) and (4)—

15 (i) to carry out subsection (e); or

16 (ii) for expenses relating to the ad-
17 ministration of this section.

18 (3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—A majority of the
19 amount made available to carry out subsection (c)
20 for any fiscal year shall be used to support coastal
21 communities that are rural communities.

22 (4) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more
23 than 5 percent of the amounts made available to
24 carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used

1 for expenses relating to the administration of this
2 section.

3 **SEC. 304. GRANT PROGRAM TO PROMOTE THE REUSE, RE-**
4 **CYCLING, AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE**
5 **PRODUCTS FROM SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.**

6 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to sup-
7 port projects that promote the reuse, recycling, and sus-
8 tainable use of marine products from the seafood industry.

9 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
11 ty” means—

12 (A) an academic institution;

13 (B) a nonprofit organization; and

14 (C) a for-profit company.

15 (2) MARINE PRODUCT.—The term “marine
16 product” means—

17 (A) chitin derived from marine animals, in-
18 cluding crustaceans, mollusks, and the scales,
19 shells, or waste of any marine animal;

20 (B) seaweed;

21 (C) marine waste from seafood; and

22 (D) any other product or byproduct of the
23 seafood industry that, in the determination of
24 the Secretary—

1 (i) would ultimately end in a landfill
 2 or other waste disposal facility if not re-
 3 used, recycled, or put to use in a manner
 4 consistent with the purpose of this section;
 5 and

6 (ii) demonstrates promise for reuse,
 7 recycling, or sustainable use.

8 (3) REUSE, RECYCLING, OR SUSTAINABLE
 9 USE.—The term “reuse, recycling, or sustainable
 10 use”, with respect to a marine product, includes use
 11 of the marine product—

12 (A) as a fertilizer;

13 (B) as a biostimulant;

14 (C) as a component in a plastic alternative;

15 (D) in soil amendment and remediation;

16 (E) in wastewater treatment; and

17 (F) for collagen extraction.

18 (c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

19 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
 20 tablish a program under which the Secretary shall
 21 provide grants to eligible entities for projects that
 22 involve the reuse, recycling, or sustainable use of 1
 23 or more marine products from the seafood industry.

24 (2) SET-ASIDE.—The Secretary shall set aside
 25 50 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry out

1 the program established under paragraph (1) to
 2 make grants to eligible entities that are domiciled, or
 3 have an operating location, in a State that, as deter-
 4 mined by the Secretary, is among the States with
 5 the greatest length of coastline.

6 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 7 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
 8 sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

9 **SEC. 305. WILD USA SEAFOOD LABEL.**

10 Title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
 11 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 12 the following:

13 **“Subtitle H—Wild USA Seafood**
 14 **Label**

15 **“SEC. 298A. DEFINITIONS.**

16 “In this subtitle:

17 “(1) FISH.—The term ‘fish’ means finfish, mol-
 18 lusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of aquatic
 19 animal and plant life other than aquatic mammals
 20 and birds.

21 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
 22 the Secretary of Agriculture.

23 **“SEC. 298B. WILD USA SEAFOOD LABEL.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A retailer of fish or person en-
 25 gaged in the business of supplying fish to a retailer may

1 label the fish as ‘wild USA seafood’, ‘wild American sea-
2 food’, or any equivalent designation only if—

3 “(1) the fish is—

4 “(A) naturally born in the wild; or

5 “(B) a hatchery-originated fish released in
6 the wild;

7 “(2) the fish is caught, taken, or harvested
8 from—

9 “(A) waters within the exclusive economic
10 zone (as defined in section 107 of title 46,
11 United States Code); or

12 “(B) navigable waters (as defined in sec-
13 tion 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
14 Act (33 U.S.C. 1362)); and

15 “(3) if the fish is caught, taken, or harvested
16 by a vessel, that vessel is a vessel of the United
17 States (as defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Ste-
18 vens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
19 U.S.C. 1802)).

20 “(b) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The information described
22 in subsection (a) may be provided to consumers by
23 means of a label, stamp, mark, placard, or other
24 clear and visible sign on the fish, or on the package,

1 display, holding unit, or bin containing the fish, at
2 the final point of sale to consumers.

3 “(2) LABELED COMMODITIES.—If fish is al-
4 ready individually labeled for retail sale with the
5 label described in subsection (a), the retailer shall
6 not be required to provide any additional informa-
7 tion to comply with this section.

8 **“SEC. 298C. ENFORCEMENT.**

9 “(a) WARNINGS.—If the Secretary determines that a
10 retailer of fish or person engaged in the business of sup-
11 plying fish to a retailer is in violation of section 298B,
12 the Secretary shall—

13 “(1) notify the retailer or person of the deter-
14 mination of the Secretary; and

15 “(2) provide the retailer or person a 30-day pe-
16 riod, beginning on the date on which the retailer or
17 person receives the notice under paragraph (1) from
18 the Secretary, during which the retailer or person
19 may take necessary steps to comply with section
20 298B.

21 “(b) FINES.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may fine a
23 retailer or person under paragraph (2) if, on comple-
24 tion of the 30-day period described in subsection

1 (a)(2), the Secretary determines that the retailer or
2 person—

3 “(A) has not made a good faith effort to
4 comply with section 298B; and

5 “(B) continues to willfully violate section
6 298B with respect to the violation regarding
7 which the retailer or person received a notifica-
8 tion under subsection (a)(1).

9 “(2) NOTICE AND HEARING; AMOUNT.—After
10 providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing
11 before the Secretary with respect to the violation de-
12 scribed in paragraph (1), the Secretary may fine the
13 retailer or person in an amount equal to not more
14 than \$10,000 for each violation.

15 **“SEC. 298D. REGULATIONS.**

16 “The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as
17 are necessary to implement this subtitle.”.

18 **SEC. 306. MARKET NAME FOR GENETICALLY ENGINEERED**

19 **FISH.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subtitle E of
21 title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7
22 U.S.C. 1639 et seq.), or any other provision of law, for
23 purposes of applying the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-
24 metic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), the acceptable market
25 name of any fish product that is genetically engineered

1 shall include the words “Genetically Engineered” or “GE”
2 prior to the existing acceptable market name.

3 (b) GENETICALLY ENGINEERED DESCRIBED.—For
4 purposes of this section, a fish product shall be considered
5 to be genetically engineered if the fish product has been
6 modified by recombinant DNA (rDNA) techniques, includ-
7 ing the entire lineage of fish that contain the rDNA modi-
8 fication.

9 **SEC. 307. MARKET NAME FOR CULTIVATED FISH.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subtitle E of
11 title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7
12 U.S.C. 1639 et seq.) or any other provision of law, for
13 purposes of applying the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-
14 metic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), the acceptable market
15 name of any fish product that is laboratory-grown shall
16 include the word “Cultivated” prior to the existing accept-
17 able market name.

18 (b) CULTIVATED DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this
19 section, a fish product shall be considered to be cultivated
20 if the fish product is derived from the harvested cells of
21 fish and grown in a laboratory setting.

1 **TITLE IV—IMPROVING**
2 **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

3 **SEC. 401. FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN**
4 **STATES WITHOUT AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**
5 **SERVICE FACILITIES.**

6 Subtitle B of title VI of the Agricultural Research,
7 Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
8 7651 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 **“SEC. 621. FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN**
11 **STATES WITHOUT AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**
12 **SERVICE FACILITIES.**

13 “There is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000
14 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter, to re-
15 main available until expended, for agricultural research at
16 1862 Institutions and State agriculture agencies in States
17 that do not have an Agricultural Research Service facility,
18 to address the research priorities of those States.”.

19 **SEC. 402. SEAWEED METHANE REDUCTION RESEARCH**
20 **GRANTS.**

21 Subtitle H of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
22 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by inserting
23 after section 1673 (7 U.S.C. 5926) the following:

1 **“SEC. 1674. SEAWEED METHANE REDUCTION RESEARCH**
2 **GRANTS.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
5 tity’ means an institution of higher education (as de-
6 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
7 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

8 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
9 the Secretary of Agriculture.

10 “(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall provide grants to
11 eligible entities for the research and development of the
12 suitability of cold-water seaweed species for reduction of
13 enteric methane through livestock feed additives.

14 “(c) RESEARCH PRIORITIES.—The Secretary shall
15 give priority in providing grants under subsection (b) for
16 the following types of research:

17 “(1) Research conducted on which varieties of
18 seaweed inhibit methane production.

19 “(2) Research conducted on which varieties of
20 seaweed that inhibit methane production can grow in
21 cold-water climates.

22 “(3) Research conducted on whether bromoform
23 from seaweed causes any effects on the ozone.

24 “(4) Research conducted on what level of shelf-
25 life seaweed could have if produced on a large scale.

1 “(5) Research conducted on whether, and to
2 what extent, large-scale production of seaweed has
3 environmental effects.

4 “(6) Research conducted on how seaweed af-
5 fects livestock biology if used as livestock feed.

6 “(7) Research conducted on whether seaweed
7 affects human health if used as livestock feed.

8 “(8) Research conducted on how knowledge of
9 the ability of seaweed to inhibit methane production
10 would affect the market value of seaweed products,
11 including—

12 “(A) the largest entities or sectors that
13 would potentially purchase seaweed products;

14 “(B) potential market prices for livestock
15 feed containing seaweed additives; and

16 “(C) the potential role of greenhouse gas
17 emission credits in supporting the reduction of
18 enteric methane using seaweed.

19 “(d) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing grants under
20 subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

21 “(1) select recipients on the basis of the quality
22 of the proposed research project; and

23 “(2) award not less than 50 percent of funding
24 to eligible entities in States that, as determined by

1 the Secretary, are among the States with the great-
2 est length of coastline.

3 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
5 essary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years
6 2027 through 2031.”.

7 **SEC. 403. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRI-**
8 **CULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDU-**
9 **CATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

10 Section 1672E of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
11 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g) is amend-
12 ed—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “produc-
15 tion;” and inserting “production or preserva-
16 tion;”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (6), by inserting “, in-
18 cluding those in circumpolar regions” before the
19 semicolon; and

20 (2) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” at
22 the end;

23 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
24 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

1 “(3) areas designated as frontier or remote
2 areas.”.

3 **SEC. 404. REPORTS AND REGULATIONS ON COASTAL SEA-**
4 **WEED FARMING.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) COASTAL SEAWEED FARMING.—The term
7 “coastal seaweed farming” means the onshore or
8 nearshore propagation and harvesting of seaweed
9 and products derived from seaweed that—

10 (A) does not use any—

11 (i) synthetic pesticide (as defined in
12 section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fun-
13 gicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C.
14 136)); or

15 (ii) plastic, unless a suitable replace-
16 ment does not exist; and

17 (B) does not produce finfish for commer-
18 cial purposes.

19 (2) SEAWEED.—The term “seaweed” means
20 any macroscopic, multicellular marine algae species.

21 (3) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
22 means—

23 (A) the Secretary; and

1 (B) the Secretary of Commerce, acting
2 through the Under Secretary of Commerce for
3 Oceans and Atmosphere.

4 (b) REPORTS.—

5 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
8 retaries shall jointly submit to Congress, and
9 publish on the websites of the Department of
10 Agriculture and the National Oceanic and At-
11 mospheric Administration, a preliminary report
12 analyzing the following:

13 (i) The effects of coastal seaweed
14 farming on—

15 (I) surrounding communities;

16 (II) the ecosystem; and

17 (III) marine and coastal wildlife.

18 (ii) Best practices for cultivating and
19 sourcing local seeds to propagate for coast-
20 al seaweed farming, including practices
21 based on traditional ecological knowledge.

22 (iii) Best practices, including practices
23 based on traditional ecological knowledge,
24 to prevent the escape or spread during

1 coastal seaweed farming of any organism
2 that would—

3 (I) alter the natural ecosystem;

4 or

5 (II) present a biofouling risk.

6 (iv) Best practices, including practices
7 based on traditional ecological knowledge,
8 relating to species selection, harvesting cy-
9 cles, spatial planning and siting, engineer-
10 ing and design, and environmental aspects
11 of coastal seaweed farming that—

12 (I) maximize benefits, and avoid
13 adverse effects, on the marine eco-
14 system and marine and coastal wild-
15 life;

16 (II) lead to optimal yields;

17 (III) account for the impact cli-
18 mate change may have on natural
19 habitats and coastal seaweed farming
20 operations;

21 (IV) minimize entanglements and
22 other harmful interactions between
23 marine life and nearshore seaweed
24 farming infrastructure and gear;

1 (V) account for changes in mi-
2 gration patterns of marine mammals
3 and highly migratory species (as de-
4 fined in section 3 of the Magnuson-
5 Stevens Fishery Conservation and
6 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802));
7 and

8 (VI) account for, and avoid inter-
9 ference with, competing uses, includ-
10 ing vessel traffic and commercial and
11 recreational fishing.

12 (v) The potential for growing seaweed
13 for long-term carbon sequestration and
14 best practices for measurement, reporting,
15 and verification approaches for that grow-
16 ing, specific to the sequestration reservoir.

17 (vi) The effects of cocultivation of bi-
18 valves with seaweed on the ecosystem,
19 ocean acidification, and hypoxia levels.

20 (vii) The effects of coastal seaweed
21 farming on water quality.

22 (viii) Best practices for limiting the
23 use of plastic in coastal seaweed farming
24 gear.

- 1 (ix) The history and use of Indigenous
2 and traditional seaweed farming practices.
- 3 (x) Best practices for sustainable har-
4 vest and post-harvest processing of coastal
5 seaweed farming products, including—
- 6 (I) methods of reducing energy
7 costs; and
- 8 (II) methods based on traditional
9 ecological knowledge.
- 10 (xi) Scalable commercial applications
11 for value-added seaweed or products de-
12 rived from seaweed, including as feedstock
13 for animals and other agricultural, com-
14 mercial, and industrial applications.
- 15 (xii) Processes for processing, storage,
16 and transportation of seaweed that—
- 17 (I) are cost-effective and effi-
18 cient; and
- 19 (II) reduce carbon emissions
20 from transportation.
- 21 (xiii) Existing and potential markets
22 and market capacity for major cultivated
23 seaweed species.

1 (xiv) Baseline economic analyses and
2 business planning models for major cul-
3 tivated seaweed species.

4 (xv) The effects of water quality on
5 the quality of cultivated seaweed for
6 human consumption, including the absorp-
7 tion of toxic heavy metals and persistent
8 organic pollutants.

9 (xvi) Best practices for onshore sea-
10 weed farming issues that reduce energy re-
11 quirements to pump water, include man-
12 agement of effluent and spatial planning,
13 and address conflicting uses of the onshore
14 coastal zone.

15 (xvii) Best practices in efficient and
16 effective Federal and State regulatory sys-
17 tems for coastal seaweed farming.

18 (B) CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT.—

19 In preparing the report under subparagraph
20 (A), the Secretaries shall consult or engage, as
21 appropriate, with the following:

22 (i) The Interagency Working Group
23 on Indigenous Traditional Ecological
24 Knowledge, with respect to—

1 (I) the cultivation of kelp, sea-
2 weed, and shellfish;

3 (II) the use of Tribal waters for
4 coastal seaweed farming;

5 (III) the impact and benefits of
6 coastal seaweed farming on Tribal
7 waters; and

8 (IV) best practices for engaging
9 with Indian Tribes (as defined in sec-
10 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determina-
11 tion and Education Assistance Act
12 (25 U.S.C. 5304)) with respect to
13 matters relating to coastal seaweed
14 farming.

15 (ii) Indian Tribes (as so defined).

16 (iii) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs
17 (as defined in section 2 of the Native
18 American Graves Protection and Repatri-
19 ation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)).

20 (iv) The Interagency Working Group
21 on Research for Farming of Seaweeds and
22 Seagrasses.

23 (v) The Interagency Working Group
24 on Ocean Acidification.

1 (vi) The Joint Subcommittee on
2 Aquaculture of the National Science and
3 Technology Council.

4 (vii) Such other agencies as the Secre-
5 taries determine to be appropriate.

6 (2) UPDATE.—Not later than 2 years after the
7 date on which the report under paragraph (1) is
8 submitted, the Secretaries shall submit to Congress
9 an updated report based on pertinent information
10 derived from Federal research programs and other
11 sources of information.

12 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
13 date on which the preliminary report under subsection
14 (b)(1) is published, the Secretaries, in consultation with
15 the Chief of Engineers, shall promulgate and implement
16 such regulations as the Secretaries determine to be appro-
17 priate—

18 (1) to ensure that design, development, siting,
19 species selection, operation, and production systems
20 of coastal seaweed farming maximize potential bene-
21 fits to, and avoid potential adverse effects on, the
22 marine ecosystem, wildlife, and fisheries and sur-
23 rounding communities;

1 (2) to establish evaluation metrics to measure
2 the impact and benefits of coastal seaweed farming
3 on—

4 (A) the marine ecosystem, including ma-
5 rine wildlife, biodiversity, productivity, water
6 quality, and stored carbon; and

7 (B) surrounding communities, including
8 relating to the equitable distribution of costs
9 and benefits (including economic and environ-
10 mental costs and benefits) within those commu-
11 nities; and

12 (3) to require monitoring and reporting relating
13 to—

14 (A) any adverse effects on the marine eco-
15 system and wildlife, including entanglements of
16 marine life; and

17 (B) any effects on commercial and rec-
18 reational fishing.

19 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretaries, to
21 be allocated between the Secretaries as the Secretaries de-
22 termine to be appropriate—

23 (1) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
24 and 2028 to complete the preliminary report under
25 subsection (b)(1);

1 (2) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2029, of which—

2 (A) \$1,000,000 shall be used for the up-
3 dated report under subsection (b)(2); and

4 (B) \$2,000,000 shall be used to promul-
5 gate and implement regulations pursuant to
6 subsection (c); and

7 (3) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2030 to complete
8 the updated report under subsection (b)(2).

9 **TITLE V—SUPPORTING**
10 **FORESTRY**

11 **SEC. 501. COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY AND WOOD INNOVA-**
12 **TION PROGRAM.**

13 Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
14 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—

16 (A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the
17 end;

18 (B) in clause (iii)(II), by striking the pe-
19 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(iv) involves services and equipment
22 for the processing and distribution of
23 woody biomass materials.”;

24 (2) in subsection (c)—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by striking “make grants to cover”
2 and inserting the following: “make
3 grants—

4 “(A) to cover”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (A) (as so redes-
6 igned), by striking the period at the end
7 and inserting “; and”; and

8 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(B) for the processing and distribution of
11 woody biomass products.”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or in
13 the case of processing and distribution of woody
14 biomass products for a school or hospital in a
15 low-income community,” after “community,”;
16 and

17 (3) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding
18 paragraph (1), by striking “or innovative wood prod-
19 uct facility project” and inserting “, an innovative
20 wood product facility project, or a project for the
21 processing and distribution of woody biomass prod-
22 ucts”.

1 **TITLE VI—SUPPORTING UNITED**
2 **STATES FLORICULTURE**

3 **SEC. 601. LIMITATION ON PROCUREMENT.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the
5 “American Grown Act”.

6 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

7 (1) **COVERED AGENCY.**—The term “covered
8 agency” means—

9 (A) the Executive Office of the President;

10 (B) the Department of Defense; and

11 (C) the Department of State.

12 (2) **COVERED ENTITY.**—The term “covered en-
13 tity” means—

14 (A) a foreign government; and

15 (B) an agent of a foreign principal (as de-
16 fined section 1 of the Foreign Agents Registra-
17 tion Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611)).

18 (3) **CUT FLOWER.**—The term “cut flower”
19 means a flower removed from a living plant for deco-
20 rative use.

21 (4) **CUT GREEN.**—The term “cut green” means
22 a green, foliage, or branch removed from a living
23 plant for decorative use.

24 (5) **QUALIFYING AREA.**—The term “qualifying
25 area” means—

- 1 (A) a State;
- 2 (B) the District of Columbia;
- 3 (C) a territory or possession of the United
- 4 States; and
- 5 (D) an area subject to the jurisdiction of
- 6 a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

7 (c) REQUIREMENT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated or oth-

9 erwise available to a covered agency may only be

10 used for the procurement of a cut flower or cut

11 green if the cut flower or cut green is grown in a

12 qualifying area.

13 (2) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall

14 apply to a procurement made or contracted for—

15 (A) in the United States; and

16 (B) on or after the date that is 1 year

17 after the date of enactment of this Act.

18 (d) GIFTS FOR DISPLAY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—A covered agency may only

20 accept a gift of a cut flower or cut green that is not

21 grown in a qualifying area from a covered entity for

22 the purpose of displaying the cut flower or cut green

23 if—

1 (A) the origin of the cut flower or cut
 2 green is clearly displayed at the time of deliv-
 3 ery; and

4 (B) at the time of delivery, the covered
 5 agency procures an additional cut flower or cut
 6 green that is grown in a qualifying area to dis-
 7 play during the period of display of the gift.

8 (2) REQUIREMENT.—A covered agency that ac-
 9 cepts a gift of a cut flower or cut green from a cov-
 10 ered entity under paragraph (1) shall clearly display
 11 the origin of the cut flower or cut green during the
 12 period of display of the cut flower or cut green.

13 **TITLE VII—IMPROVING TRIBAL**
 14 **SELF-DETERMINATION**

15 **SEC. 701. AGRICULTURAL SELF-DETERMINATION AND**
 16 **SELF-GOVERNANCE.**

17 (a) SELF-DETERMINATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF
 18 AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—Title I of
 19 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
 20 Act (25 U.S.C. 5321 et seq.) is amended by adding at
 21 the end the following:

22 **“SEC. 112. SELF-DETERMINATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF**
 23 **AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.**

24 “(a) AGRICULTURE SELF-DETERMINATION AUTHOR-
 25 IZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into self-

1 determination contracts, in accordance with subsection
2 (c), with Tribal organizations, on the request of any In-
3 dian Tribe, by Tribal resolution—

4 “(1) to plan, conduct, and administer any func-
5 tion, service, or activity provided by the Forest Serv-
6 ice or the Natural Resources Conservation Service
7 for the Indian Tribe; or

8 “(2) subject to subsection (b), to carry out the
9 authority of the Food Safety and Inspection Service
10 under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
11 601 et seq.) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of
12 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.).

13 “(b) FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE CON-
14 TRACTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Before requesting to enter
16 into a self-determination contract described in sub-
17 section (a)(2), a Tribal organization shall adopt, by
18 Tribal resolution, a food and agriculture code ap-
19 proved by the Secretary of Agriculture, after which
20 the Secretary of Agriculture shall exercise the au-
21 thority of the Secretary of Agriculture under Public
22 Law 87–718 (7 U.S.C. 1633) with respect to the In-
23 dian Tribe governed by that Tribal organization.

24 “(2) RURAL WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND
25 COMMUNITY FACILITIES LOANS AND GRANTS.—An

1 Indian Tribe operating under a contract described in
2 subsection (a)(2) shall be eligible for grant and loan
3 programs under paragraphs (19) and (24) of section
4 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
5 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

6 “(c) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—A self-de-
7 termination contract entered into under subsection (a)
8 shall have the same terms and conditions, and be subject
9 to the same procedures, regulations, and requirements, as
10 a self-determination contract entered into under section
11 102, except that the Secretary of Agriculture and the De-
12 partment of Agriculture shall be the appropriate Secretary
13 and agency for purposes of a self-determination contract
14 entered into under subsection (a).

15 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Self-Govern-
17 ance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall provide
18 technical assistance with respect to self-determina-
19 tion contracts under subsection (a)—

20 “(A) to the Secretary of Agriculture; and

21 “(B) to Indian Tribes and Tribal organiza-
22 tions that request that assistance.

23 “(2) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—After
24 an Office of Self-Governance is established in the
25 Department of Agriculture, the Office of Self Gov-

1 ernance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs may con-
2 tinue to provide technical assistance under para-
3 graph (1), subject to the condition that self-deter-
4 mination contracts under subsection (a) shall be pri-
5 marily negotiated and executed by the Office of Self-
6 Governance of the Department of Agriculture.”.

7 (b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF
8 SELF-GOVERNANCE.—

9 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
11 conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a
12 Tribal self-governance demonstration project for ap-
13 propriate programs, services, functions, and activi-
14 ties of the Department of Agriculture.

15 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
17 shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

18 (A) the results of the study conducted
19 under paragraph (1); and

20 (B) a plan to establish an Office of Self-
21 Governance in the Department of Agriculture to
22 carry out—

23 (i) the results of that study; and

24 (ii) the amendment made by sub-
25 section (a).

1 (3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall de-
2 velop the plan described in paragraph (2)(B) in con-
3 sultation with Indian Tribes, the Office of Tribal
4 Relations of the Department of Agriculture, and the
5 Tribal Advisory Committee established under section
6 309(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and
7 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
8 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921(b)).

9 (4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 18
10 months after the date on which the Secretary sub-
11 mits the report under paragraph (2), the Secretary
12 shall implement the plan described in the report.

13 **SEC. 702. BUY INDIAN ACT MODIFICATIONS.**

14 Section 23 of the Act of Act of June 25, 1910 (36
15 Stat. 861, chapter 431; 25 U.S.C. 47) (commonly known
16 as the “Buy Indian Act”), is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
19 “and” at the end;

20 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
21 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (C) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(C) the Secretary of Agriculture.”;

24 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and the
2 Department of Health and Human Services”
3 and inserting “, the Department of Health and
4 Human Services, and the Department of Agri-
5 culture”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “and the
7 Indian Health Service” and inserting “, the In-
8 dian Health Service, and the Department of
9 Agriculture”; and

10 (3) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “Com-
11 mittee on Indian Affairs” and all that follows
12 through “House of Representatives” and inserting
13 “Committees on Indian Affairs and Agriculture, Nu-
14 trition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Commit-
15 tees on Natural Resources and Agriculture of the
16 House of Representatives”.

17 **SEC. 703. WATER SYSTEMS FOR ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES**
18 **AND RURAL VILLAGES.**

19 Section 306D(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
20 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d(c)) is amended by in-
21 serting “and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consor-
22 tium” after “State of Alaska”.

1 **SEC. 704. REAUTHORIZATION OF GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 Section 1419B(a) of the National Agricultural Re-
3 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
4 U.S.C. 3156(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, for up to
6 5 years,” after “competitive grants”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
9 “and” at the end;

10 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the
11 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

13 “(E) to purchase, rent, or lease scientific
14 or laboratory equipment for educational pur-
15 poses, including instructional and research pur-
16 chases; and

17 “(F) to renovate, repair, and improve
18 classroom, library, laboratory, and other in-
19 structional facilities.”; and

20 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023” and
21 inserting “2050”.

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