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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary will enter into cooperative agreements with State, local, or Tribal governments increase the purchase of local foods, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BRESNAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary will enter into cooperative agreements with State, local, or Tribal governments increase the purchase of local foods, 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 “Local Farmers Feed-
5 ing our Communities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LOCAL FARMERS FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
4 establish a program under which the Secretary will enter
5 into cooperative agreements (on a noncompetitive basis)
6 with eligible entities—

7 (1) to help support covered local producers
8 through building and expanding economic opportuni-
9 ties;

10 (2) to establish and broaden partnerships with
11 such covered local producers and the food distribu-
12 tion community to ensure distribution of fresh and
13 nutritious foods; and

14 (3) to strengthen such entity's local and re-
15 gional food security and systems.

16 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity selected to
17 enter into a cooperative agreement under this section shall
18 use funds received through such agreement—

19 (1) to purchase unprocessed or minimally proc-
20 essed local foods (including seafood, meat, milk and
21 dairy products, eggs, produce, and poultry) from
22 covered producers;

23 (2) to ensure that at least 25 percent of the
24 total annual value of products purchased by the eli-
25 gible entity comprises purchases from small-size pro-

1 ducers, mid-size producers, beginning farmers or
2 ranchers, or veteran farmers or ranchers;

3 (3) to provide technical assistance supporting—

4 (A) covered local producers, including in
5 obtaining food safety training and certifications;
6 and

7 (B) efforts to grow the local agricultural
8 value chain;

9 (4) to distribute such local foods to organiza-
10 tions, including nonprofit organizations, that have
11 experience in food distribution to improve access to
12 healthy and nutritious food; and

13 (5) to build and expand economic opportunity
14 for covered local producers.

15 (c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made avail-
17 able to an eligible entity through a cooperative
18 agreement under this section, an eligible entity may
19 use not more than 25 percent of such amount—

20 (A) to cover administrative expenses; and

21 (B) to provide technical assistance de-
22 scribed in subsection (b)(3);

23 (2) ALLOCATION FOR TECHNICAL ASSIST-
24 ANCE.—Of the amount described in paragraph (1),
25 an eligible entity shall use not less than 50 percent

1 to provide technical assistance described in sub-
2 section (b)(3).

3 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ENTI-
4 TIES.—The Secretary shall provide to eligible entities en-
5 tering into a cooperative agreement under this section
6 guidance, technical assistance, instruction, and monitoring
7 throughout the life cycle of the cooperative agreement.

8 (e) AMOUNT OF ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts
9 made available to carry out this section for each fiscal
10 year, the Secretary shall—

11 (1) allocate 10 percent to Tribal governments,
12 to be allocated using a funding formula determined
13 by the Secretary; and

14 (2) of the amounts remaining after making the
15 allocation under paragraph (1), allocate 1 percent to
16 each State (other than Tribal governments); and

17 (3) after making the allocations under para-
18 graphs (1) and (2), allocate the remaining amounts
19 to each eligible entity (other than Tribal govern-
20 ments) by applying the formula described in section
21 214 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983
22 (7 U.S.C. 7515).

23 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER; VET-
25 ERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The terms “beginning

1 farmer or rancher” and “veteran farmer or rancher”
2 have the meanings given such terms in section 2501
3 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade
4 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279).

5 (2) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term “covered
6 producer” means a fisherman, farmer, producer,
7 rancher, processor, or cooperative processor that
8 is—

9 (A) within the geographic boundaries of
10 the eligible entity in which the food will be de-
11 livered; or

12 (B) not more than 400 miles from the de-
13 livery destination of the food.

14 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
15 ty” means a State agency, commission, or depart-
16 ment that is responsible for agriculture, procure-
17 ment, food distribution, emergency response, or
18 other similar activities within the State.

19 (4) MID-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term “medium-
20 sized producer” means an individual whose annual
21 gross cash farm income is equal to or exceeds
22 \$350,000 and is less than \$999,999.

23 (5) SMALL-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term “small-
24 sized producer” means one whose annual gross cash
25 farm income is less than \$350,000.

1 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
2 the several States, the District of Columbia, each
3 territory or possession of the United States, and
4 each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

5 (7) UNPROCESSED OR MINIMALLY PROCESSED
6 LOCAL FOODS.—The term “unprocessed or mini-
7 mally processed local foods” means food products
8 means only those agricultural products that retain
9 their inherent character. Such term includes—

10 (A) fruits and vegetables (including 100
11 percent juices);

12 (B) grain products, such as pastas and
13 rice;

14 (C) meats (including whole carcasses,
15 pieces thereof, or ground meat);

16 (D) protein sources that are meat alter-
17 natives (such as beans or legumes) and fluid
18 milk and other dairy foods (such as cheese and
19 yogurt); and

20 (E) foods in a wide variety of minimal
21 processing states (such as whole, cut, or pu-
22 reed) or forms (such as fresh, frozen, canned,
23 or dried).

24 (g) FUNDING.—

1 (1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
2 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
3 shall use to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for
4 fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

5 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
6 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
7 this section \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years
8 2026 through 2030, to remain available until ex-
9 pended.