

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6725

To provide Federal funding for targeted purchases to buy food from producers who rely on local agricultural food markets affected by COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2020

Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. DELBENE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide Federal funding for targeted purchases to buy food from producers who rely on local agricultural food markets affected by COVID–19, 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 “Farmers Feeding
5 Families Coronavirus Response Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TARGETED PURCHASES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
8 use not less than \$300,000,000 of the funds available
9 under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C.

1 612c), to purchase qualified agricultural products to pro-
2 vide to food assistance programs, including the emergency
3 food assistance program under the Emergency Food As-
4 sistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.), of which
5 the Secretary shall utilize—

6 (1) not less than \$150,000,000 to purchase spe-
7 cialty crops;

8 (2) not less than \$75,000,000 to purchase
9 dairy; and

10 (3) not less than \$75,000,000 to purchase meat
11 and poultry products.

12 (b) QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT DE-
13 FINED.—In this section, the term “qualified agricultural
14 product” means a specialty crop, dairy, meat, or poultry
15 product—

16 (1) that was packaged, marketed, intended to
17 be harvested, or harvested for sale—

18 (A) to commercial or food service indus-
19 tries; or

20 (B) through direct-to-consumer, direct-to-
21 institution, direct-to-retail, or direct-to-res-
22 taurant-or-store marketing channels, including
23 local and regional food enterprises like food
24 hubs, agricultural cooperatives and producer as-
25 sociations; and

1 (2) for which decreased demand exists for such
2 a product due to the COVID–19 outbreak.

3 (c) DIRECT MARKET PRODUCTS.—Of the amounts in
4 subsection (a), to the maximum extent practicable, the
5 Secretary of Agriculture shall use not less than 10 percent
6 to purchase qualified agricultural products that would oth-
7 erwise have been sold through direct-to-consumer, direct-
8 to-institution, direct-to-retail, or direct-to-restaurant mar-
9 keting channels.

10 (d) STATE PURCHASING FUNDS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts
12 used under subsection (a), the Secretary of Agri-
13 culture shall use not less than \$200,000,000 of the
14 funds available under section 32 of the Act of Au-
15 gust 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), to be apportioned
16 among the States for the purpose of procuring addi-
17 tional food products to support food assistance pro-
18 grams within each State.

19 (2) AMOUNT AVAILABLE.—The Secretary shall
20 allocate the amounts made available under para-
21 graph (1) to each State in the amount proportionate
22 to the share such State received under the formula
23 under section 251.3(h) of title 7, Code of Federal
24 Regulations, for such fiscal year 2020.

1 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds available under
2 this subsection shall be transferred to the State
3 agency designated as responsible for distributing
4 commodities pursuant to a State plan under the
5 emergency food assistance program under the Emer-
6 gency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501
7 et seq.). The distributed funds may only be used
8 to—

9 (A) purchase qualified agricultural prod-
10 ucts to be donated to food assistance programs
11 within the State or transferred directly to one
12 or more eligible recipient agencies (as defined in
13 section 201A of the Emergency Food Assist-
14 ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501)) for such
15 procurement;

16 (B) purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire
17 vehicles, including refrigerated vehicles, or other
18 equipment to carry out activities related to pro-
19 curement and distribution of qualified agricul-
20 tural products;

21 (C) reimburse travel costs related to pro-
22 curement of qualified agricultural products at
23 the per mile rate established by the Commis-
24 sioner of the Internal Revenue Service; and

1 (D) reimburse costs related to preparing,
2 storing, and transporting qualified agricultural
3 products, including transportation to or be-
4 tween recipient agencies, as well as delivery to
5 end-consumers.

6 (4) DIRECT MARKET SUPPORT IN-STATE.—
7 Each State shall, to the maximum extent prac-
8 ticable, use not less than 10 percent of the amounts
9 allocated to such State under paragraph (2) to pur-
10 chase crops and products that would otherwise have
11 been sold through direct-to-consumer, direct-to-insti-
12 tution, direct-to-retail, or direct-to-restaurant mar-
13 keting channels.

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