S. 934

To prohibit mandatory or compulsory checkoff programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 28, 2019

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

A BILL

To prohibit mandatory or compulsory checkoff programs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Voluntary Checkoff Program Participation Act”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON MANDATORY OR COMPULSORY CHECKOFF PROGRAMS.

(a) Definition of Checkoff Program.—The term “checkoff program” means a program to promote and provide research and information for a particular agricul-tural commodity without reference to specific pro-
ducers or brands, including a program carried out under any of the following:

(1) The Cotton Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.).

(2) The Potato Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2611 et seq.).

(3) The Egg Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

(4) The Beef Research and Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.).


(6) The Floral Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.).


(8) The Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.).

(9) The Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.).

(10) The Watermelon Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.).

(11) The Pecan Promotion and Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6001 et seq.).
(12) The Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.).


(14) The Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).


(16) The Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Information Act of 1993 (7 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.).


(19) The Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7411 et seq.).

(20) The Canola and Rapeseed Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7441 et seq.).
(21) The National Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7461 et seq.).

(22) The Popcorn Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7481 et seq.).


(b) PROHIBITION.—No checkoff program shall be mandatory or compulsory.

(c) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Producer participation in a checkoff program shall be voluntary at the point of sale.