

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8833

To mend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and maintain Regional Food and Supply Chain Resource Centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Mr. FLOOD) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To mend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and maintain Regional Food and Supply Chain Resource Centers, 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 “American Food Supply
5 Chain Resiliency Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGIONAL FOOD AND SUPPLY CHAIN RESOURCE**
2 **CENTERS.**

3 The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
4 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“Subtitle H—Food Supply Chain**
7 **Resiliency**

8 **“SEC. 298. REGIONAL FOOD AND SUPPLY CHAIN RESOURCE**
9 **CENTERS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
11 the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service,
12 shall enter into competitively awarded cooperative agree-
13 ments with eligible entities to establish or continue the op-
14 erations of not fewer than 12 Regional Food and Supply
15 Chain Regional Resource Centers to support small-sized
16 and medium-sized producers of agricultural products and
17 small-sized and medium-sized agricultural businesses
18 through activities, which may include—

19 “(1) offering coordination, technical assistance,
20 and capacity building support to small-sized and me-
21 dium-sized producers of agricultural products and
22 agricultural businesses;

23 “(2) supporting supply chain and value chain
24 coordination—

25 “(A) in the region in which such producers
26 or businesses are located; and

1 “(B) with the Department of Agriculture,
2 other Federal, State, and Tribal agencies with
3 relevant resources, regional commissions, and
4 other Regional Food and Supply Chain Re-
5 source Centers;

6 “(3) providing technical assistance to such pro-
7 ducers and businesses;

8 “(4) providing grants or other financial assist-
9 ance to such producers and businesses looking to ex-
10 pand production or a business or start production or
11 a business in such region; and

12 “(5) carrying out such other activities as may
13 be specified by the Secretary.

14 “(b) FOCUS ON TRIBAL SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES.—At
15 least one Regional Food and Supply Chain Resource Cen-
16 ter established pursuant to subsection (a) shall provide co-
17 ordination, assistance, and capacity building support to
18 address supply chain issues faced by Indian tribes and
19 Tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian
20 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25
21 U.S.C. 5304)).

22 “(c) APPLICATION.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity (includ-
24 ing an entity representing a partnership) seeking to
25 enter into a cooperative agreement under this sec-

1 tion shall submit to the Secretary an application, at
2 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
3 formation as the Secretary may require, including
4 how the Regional Food and Supply Chain Resource
5 Centers established by such entity will address food
6 and agricultural supply chain issues faced by under-
7 served communities.

8 “(2) REGIONAL DIVERSITY.—In selecting eligi-
9 ble entities to enter into a cooperative agreement
10 under this section, the Secretary shall ensure the re-
11 gional diversity of such entities.

12 “(d) TERM.—The term of a cooperative agreement
13 entered into under this section shall be not less than 4
14 years.

15 “(e) COORDINATION.—A Regional Food and Supply
16 Chain Resource Center shall, as a condition on entering
17 into a cooperative agreement under this section, agree to
18 coordinate with other Regional Food and Supply Chain
19 Resource Centers, when appropriate.

20 “(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Beginning not later
21 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Amer-
22 ican Food Supply Chain Resiliency Act of 2023, and every
23 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
24 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and

1 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
2 the Senate a report on—

3 “(1) with respect to the activities carried out by
4 the Secretary under this section—

5 “(A) a description of such activities; and

6 “(B) the impact of such activities on sup-
7 ply chain issues faced by small-sized and me-
8 dium-sized producers of agricultural products;
9 and

10 “(2) with respect to the activities carried out by
11 the Regional Food and Supply Chain Resource Cen-
12 ters under this section—

13 “(A) a description of such activities;

14 “(B) the impact of such activities on sup-
15 ply chain issues faced by small-sized and me-
16 dium-sized producers of agricultural products
17 and agricultural businesses; and

18 “(C) any grants awarded by Regional Food
19 and Supply Chain Resource Centers to such
20 producers and businesses.

21 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
23 tity’ means—

24 “(A) a producer network or association;

25 “(B) a food council;

1 “(C) a federally recognized Indian Tribe
 2 (as determined pursuant to section 104 of the
 3 Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of
 4 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131));

5 “(D) a State government or regional au-
 6 thority;

7 “(E) an institution of higher education (as
 8 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
 9 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001);

10 “(F) a nonprofit organization;

11 “(G) an economic development corporation;

12 and

13 “(H) such other entities the Secretary de-
 14 termines appropriate.

15 “(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ has the mean-
 16 ing given such term in section 1404 of the National
 17 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Pol-
 18 icy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).”.

19 **SEC. 3. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTERS PROGRAM.**

20 Section 6402(a) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
 21 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b(a)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
 23 end;

24 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
 25 the end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:
2 “(4) research, technical assistance, support
3 services, outreach, and other services to strengthen,
4 maintain, and secure supply chains related to agri-
5 cultural inputs and agricultural products produced
6 in the United States.”.

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