

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1539

To amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to make the native sod provisions applicable to the United States and to modify those provisions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 10, 2023

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

A BILL

To amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to make the native sod provisions applicable to the United States and to modify those provisions, 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 Prairie Con-
5 servation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CROP PRODUCTION ON NATIVE SOD.**

2 (a) FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE.—Section 508(o) of
 3 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(o)) is
 4 amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the fol-
 5 lowing:

6 “(3) NATIVE SOD CONVERSION CERTIFI-
 7 CATION.—

8 “(A) CERTIFICATION.—As a condition on
 9 the receipt of benefits under this subtitle, a pro-
 10 ducer that has tilled native sod acreage for the
 11 production of an insurable crop as described in
 12 paragraph (2)(A) shall certify to the Secretary
 13 that acreage using—

14 “(i) an acreage report form of the
 15 Farm Service Agency (FSA-578 or any
 16 successor form); and

17 “(ii) 1 or more maps.

18 “(B) CORRECTIONS.—Beginning on the
 19 date on which a producer submits a certifi-
 20 cation under subparagraph (A), as soon as
 21 practicable after the producer discovers a
 22 change in tilled native sod acreage described in
 23 that subparagraph, the producer shall submit to
 24 the Secretary any appropriate corrections to a
 25 form or map described in clause (i) or (ii) of
 26 that subparagraph.

1 “(C) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than
 2 January 1, 2024, and each January 1 there-
 3 after through January 1, 2028, the Secretary
 4 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of
 5 the House of Representatives and the Com-
 6 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 7 of the Senate a report that describes the tilled
 8 native sod acreage that has been certified under
 9 subparagraph (A) in each county and State as
 10 of the date of submission of the report.”.

11 (b) NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—
 12 Section 196(a)(4) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement
 13 and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333(a)(4)) is amend-
 14 ed by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the fol-
 15 lowing:

16 “(C) NATIVE SOD CONVERSION CERTIFI-
 17 CATION.—

18 “(i) CERTIFICATION.—As a condition
 19 on the receipt of benefits under this sec-
 20 tion, a producer that has tilled native sod
 21 acreage for the production of an insurable
 22 crop as described in subparagraph (B)(i)
 23 shall certify to the Secretary that acreage
 24 using—

1 “(I) an acreage report form of
2 the Farm Service Agency (FSA-578
3 or any successor form); and

4 “(II) 1 or more maps.

5 “(ii) CORRECTIONS.—Beginning on
6 the date on which a producer submits a
7 certification under clause (i), as soon as
8 practicable after the producer discovers a
9 change in tilled native sod acreage de-
10 scribed in that clause, the producer shall
11 submit to the Secretary any appropriate
12 corrections to a form or map described in
13 subclause (I) or (II) of that clause.

14 “(iii) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later
15 than January 1, 2024, and each January
16 1 thereafter through January 1, 2028, the
17 Secretary shall submit to the Committee
18 on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
19 tives and the Committee on Agriculture,
20 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-
21 port that describes the tilled native sod
22 acreage that has been certified under
23 clause (i) in each county and State as of
24 the date of submission of the report.”.

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