

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2354

To improve access to healthy foods, food processing, housing, forestry, agricultural research, and other agricultural programs, and Tribal self-determination relating to those programs, in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 18, 2023

Ms. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To improve access to healthy foods, food processing, housing, forestry, agricultural research, and other agricultural programs, and Tribal self-determination relating to those programs, in the State of Alaska, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Improving Agriculture, Research, Cultivation, Timber,  
6 and Indigenous Commodities (ARCTIC) Act”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

#### TITLE I—IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS

- Sec. 101. Improving micro-grants for food security program.
- Sec. 102. Grants and loans for food distribution in frontier communities.
- Sec. 103. Acceptance of SNAP benefits through online transactions for certain delivery costs.
- Sec. 104. Pilot program to purchase locally produced food.
- Sec. 105. Wild USA seafood label.
- Sec. 106. Market name for genetically engineered fish.
- Sec. 107. Market name for cultivated fish.

#### TITLE II—IMPROVING FOOD PROCESSING

- Sec. 201. Forgivable loans for small commercial food processing.

#### TITLE III—IMPROVING HOUSING

- Sec. 301. Denali Housing Fund.

#### TITLE IV—IMPROVING SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

- Sec. 401. Country of origin labeling for cooked crab.
- Sec. 402. Eligibility of wild-caught fish and shellfish.
- Sec. 403. Domestic seafood production.
- Sec. 404. Grant program to promote the reuse, recycling, and sustainable use of marine products from seafood industry.
- Sec. 405. Extension of credit to businesses providing services to producers or harvesters of aquatic products.

#### TITLE V—IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

- Sec. 501. Funding for agricultural research in States without Agricultural Research Service facilities.
- Sec. 502. Seaweed methane reduction research grants.
- Sec. 503. Urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production research, education, and extension initiative.
- Sec. 504. Reports and regulations on coastal seaweed farming.

#### TITLE VI—SUPPORTING FORESTRY

- Sec. 601. Community wood energy and wood innovation program.

#### TITLE VII—SUPPORTING UNITED STATES FLORICULTURE

- Sec. 701. Limitation on procurement.

#### TITLE VIII—IMPROVING TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINATION

- Sec. 801. Agricultural self-determination and self-governance.
- Sec. 802. Buy Indian Act modifications.
- Sec. 803. Water systems for Alaska Native villages and rural villages.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.**

2 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-  
3 retary of Agriculture.

4 **TITLE I—IMPROVING ACCESS TO**  
5 **HEALTHY FOODS**

6 **SEC. 101. IMPROVING MICRO-GRANTS FOR FOOD SECURITY**  
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 Section 4206 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of  
9 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7518) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (c), by striking “competitive  
11 distribution of subgrants” and inserting “distribu-  
12 tion of subgrants or other financial assistance”;

13 (2) in subsection (d), by striking paragraph (3);

14 (3) in subsection (e)—

15 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
16 “AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE” after  
17 “SUBGRANTS”;

18 (B) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A), in the matter  
20 preceding clause (i), by inserting “or other  
21 financial assistance provided” after  
22 “subgrant”;

23 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B);

24 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph  
25 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

1 (iv) in subparagraph (B) (as so reded-  
 2 icated), by inserting “or other financial  
 3 assistance provided” after “subgrant”;

4 (C) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
 6 graph (A), by striking “competitive dis-  
 7 tribution of subgrants under subsection  
 8 (c)” and inserting “distribution of sub-  
 9 grants or other financial assistance under  
 10 this section”; and

11 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
 12 “or other financial assistance provided”  
 13 after “subgrant”;

14 (D) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or  
 15 other financial assistance under this section”  
 16 after “subgrants”;

17 (E) in paragraph (4), in the matter pre-  
 18 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or other  
 19 financial assistance provided” after “subgrant”;  
 20 and

21 (F) in paragraph (5), by inserting “or  
 22 other financial assistance” after “subgrant”;  
 23 and

24 (4) in subsection (f)(1)—

1 (A) by inserting “or other financial assist-  
 2 ance” after “subgrant” each place it appears;  
 3 and

4 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “sub-  
 5 grants by eligible entities” and inserting  
 6 “subgrant or other financial assistance by the  
 7 eligible entity”.

8 **SEC. 102. GRANTS AND LOANS FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN**  
 9 **FRONTIER COMMUNITIES.**

10 Subtitle A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
 11 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) is amended by add-  
 12 ing at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 310J. GRANTS AND LOANS FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
 14 **IN FRONTIER COMMUNITIES.**

15 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—

16 “(1) ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY.—The term ‘eligible  
 17 community’ means—

18 “(A) a frontier community that—

19 “(i) is located in a noncontiguous  
 20 State;

21 “(ii) does not have a food bank or  
 22 food pantry as of the date of submission of  
 23 an application for a grant or loan under  
 24 this section; and

1 “(iii) is determined to be Frontier  
 2 Level 4 in accordance with the most recent  
 3 version of the Frontier and Remote Com-  
 4 munities Code developed by the Economic  
 5 Research Service; and

6 “(B) a rural community that—

7 “(i) is located in a noncontiguous  
 8 State;

9 “(ii) does not have a food bank or  
 10 food pantry as of the date of submission of  
 11 an application for a grant or loan under  
 12 this section; and

13 “(iii) is determined to be Frontier  
 14 Level 3 in accordance with the most recent  
 15 version of the Frontier and Remote Com-  
 16 munities Code developed by the Economic  
 17 Research Service.

18 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
 19 tity’ means—

20 “(A) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section  
 21 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
 22 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

23 “(B) a Tribal organization (as defined in  
 24 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and

1 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));  
 2 and

3 “(C) an organization described in section  
 4 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
 5 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)  
 6 of that Code.

7 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
 8 lish a program to provide grants and loans to eligible enti-  
 9 ties to establish food banks or food pantries in eligible  
 10 communities.

11 “(c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity that  
 12 receives a grant or loan under subsection (b) may use the  
 13 grant or loan for—

14 “(1) the construction or renovation of facilities;

15 “(2) wages and benefits for employees;

16 “(3) equipment to keep food and beverages cold  
 17 or frozen, as appropriate;

18 “(4) transportation of foods and beverages from  
 19 rural hub communities to outlying villages, including  
 20 by air, barge, or surface transportation; and

21 “(5) such other activities as the Secretary de-  
 22 termines to be appropriate.

23 “(d) INTEREST RATE.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)  
 25 and (3), the interest rate of a loan under subsection

(b) shall be established by the Secretary, for each quarter of the applicable fiscal year, based on the rate prescribed in Rural Development Instruction 440.1, exhibit B (or a successor instruction), as in effect on the date on which the loan is approved.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT.—The interest rate established under paragraph (1) shall be adjusted to the nearest  $\frac{1}{8}$  of 1 percent.

“(3) WRITTEN REQUEST.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), before the closing date of a loan under subsection (b), the eligible entity applying for the loan may submit to the Secretary a written request that the interest rate to be charged for the loan be equal to the lesser of—

“(i) the interest rate in effect on the date of the loan approval; and

“(ii) the interest rate in effect on the date of the loan closing.

“(B) TEMPORARY DEBT INSTRUMENTS.—

If a request submitted under subparagraph (A) is approved by the Secretary providing that the applicable interest rate shall be the interest rate in effect on the date of the loan closing, the interest rate charged on a loan involving multiple



1 advances of Federal funds using temporary  
 2 debt instruments shall be the interest rate in ef-  
 3 fect on the date on which the first applicable  
 4 temporary debt instrument is issued.

5 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 6 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
 7 \$100,000,000.”.

8 **SEC. 103. ACCEPTANCE OF SNAP BENEFITS THROUGH ON-**  
 9 **LINE TRANSACTIONS FOR CERTAIN DELIV-**  
 10 **ERY COSTS.**

11 Section 7(k) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008  
 12 (7 U.S.C. 2016(k)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(4)” and in-  
 14 serting “(5)”;

15 (2) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “except as  
 16 provided in paragraph (3),” before “ensure”;

17 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as  
 18 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

19 (4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
 20 lowing:

21 “(3) DELIVERY COSTS.—Benefits may be used  
 22 for the fees and charges described in paragraph  
 23 (2)(B) in the case of the purchase of foods that  
 24 must be delivered to, but not within, a rural hub

1 community or outlying village in a noncontiguous  
 2 State.”.

3 **SEC. 104. PILOT PROGRAM TO PURCHASE LOCALLY PRO-**  
 4 **DUCED FOOD.**

5 Section 203D of the Emergency Food Assistance Act  
 6 of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7507) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) by striking “distribution, to store, han-  
 9 dle or distribute” and inserting the following:  
 10 “distribution—

11 “(1) to store, handle, or distribute”;

12 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by  
 13 striking the period at the end and inserting “;  
 14 and”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(2) to purchase locally produced food in ac-  
 17 cordance with the pilot program established under  
 18 subsection (g).”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(g) PILOT PROGRAM TO PURCHASE LOCALLY PRO-  
 21 DUCED FOOD.—The Secretary shall establish a pilot pro-  
 22 gram under which the Secretary shall permit emergency  
 23 feeding organizations participating in the program author-  
 24 ized by this Act to use those funds to purchase locally pro-

1 duced food to supplement the commodities provided by the  
 2 Secretary under this Act.”.

3 **SEC. 105. WILD USA SEAFOOD LABEL.**

4 Title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946  
 5 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
 6 the following:

7 **“Subtitle H—Wild USA Seafood**  
 8 **Label**

9 **“SEC. 298A. DEFINITIONS.**

10 “In this subtitle:

11 “(1) FISH.—The term ‘fish’ means finfish, mol-  
 12 lusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of aquatic  
 13 animal and plant life other than aquatic mammals  
 14 and birds.

15 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
 16 the Secretary of Agriculture.

17 **“SEC. 298B. WILD USA SEAFOOD LABEL.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A retailer of fish or person en-  
 19 gaged in the business of supplying fish to a retailer may  
 20 label the fish as ‘wild USA seafood’, ‘wild American sea-  
 21 food’, or any equivalent designation only if—

22 “(1) the fish is—

23 “(A) naturally born in the wild; or

24 “(B) a hatchery-originated fish released in  
 25 the wild;

1           “(2) the fish is caught, taken, or harvested  
2       from—

3           “(A) waters within the exclusive economic  
4       zone (as defined in section 107 of title 46,  
5       United States Code); or

6           “(B) navigable waters (as defined in sec-  
7       tion 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control  
8       Act (33 U.S.C. 1362)); and

9           “(3) if the fish is caught, taken, or harvested  
10      by a vessel, that vessel is a vessel of the United  
11      States (as defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Ste-  
12      vens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act  
13      (16 U.S.C. 1802)).

14      “(b) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION.—

15           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The information described  
16      in subsection (a) may be provided to consumers by  
17      means of a label, stamp, mark, placard, or other  
18      clear and visible sign on the fish, or on the package,  
19      display, holding unit, or bin containing the fish, at  
20      the final point of sale to consumers.

21           “(2) LABELED COMMODITIES.—If fish is al-  
22      ready individually labeled for retail sale with the  
23      label described in subsection (a), the retailer shall  
24      not be required to provide any additional informa-  
25      tion to comply with this section.

1 **“SEC. 298C. ENFORCEMENT.**

2 “(a) WARNINGS.—If the Secretary determines that a  
3 retailer of fish or person engaged in the business of sup-  
4 plying fish to a retailer is in violation of section 298B,  
5 the Secretary shall—

6 “(1) notify the retailer or person of the deter-  
7 mination of the Secretary; and

8 “(2) provide the retailer or person a 30-day pe-  
9 riod, beginning on the date on which the retailer or  
10 person receives the notice under paragraph (1) from  
11 the Secretary, during which the retailer or person  
12 may take necessary steps to comply with section  
13 298B.

14 “(b) FINES.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may fine a  
16 retailer or person under paragraph (2) if, on comple-  
17 tion of the 30-day period described in subsection  
18 (a)(2), the Secretary determines that the retailer or  
19 person—

20 “(A) has not made a good faith effort to  
21 comply with section 298B; and

22 “(B) continues to willfully violate section  
23 298B with respect to the violation regarding  
24 which the retailer or person received a notifica-  
25 tion under subsection (a)(1).

1           “(2) NOTICE AND HEARING; AMOUNT.—After  
 2           providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing  
 3           before the Secretary with respect to the violation de-  
 4           scribed in paragraph (1), the Secretary may fine the  
 5           retailer or person in an amount equal to not more  
 6           than \$10,000 for each violation.

7   **“SEC. 298D. REGULATIONS.**

8           “The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as  
 9           are necessary to implement this subtitle.”.

10 **SEC. 106. MARKET NAME FOR GENETICALLY ENGINEERED**  
 11 **FISH.**

12           (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subtitle E of  
 13 title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7  
 14 U.S.C. 1639 et seq.), or any other provision of law, for  
 15 purposes of applying the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-  
 16 metic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), the acceptable market  
 17 name of any fish product that is genetically engineered  
 18 shall include the words “Genetically Engineered” or “GE”  
 19 prior to the existing acceptable market name.

20           (b) GENETICALLY ENGINEERED DESCRIBED.—For  
 21 purposes of this section, a fish product shall be considered  
 22 to be genetically engineered if the fish product has been  
 23 modified by recombinant DNA (rDNA) techniques, includ-  
 24 ing the entire lineage of fish that contain the rDNA modi-  
 25 fication.

1 **SEC. 107. MARKET NAME FOR CULTIVATED FISH.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subtitle E of  
 3 title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7  
 4 U.S.C. 1639 et seq.) or any other provision of law, for  
 5 purposes of applying the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-  
 6 metic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), the acceptable market  
 7 name of any fish product that is laboratory-grown shall  
 8 include the word “Cultivated” prior to the existing accept-  
 9 able market name.

10 (b) CULTIVATED DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this  
 11 section, a fish product shall be considered to be cultivated  
 12 if the fish product is derived from the harvested cells of  
 13 fish and grown in a laboratory setting.

14 **TITLE II—IMPROVING FOOD**  
 15 **PROCESSING**

16 **SEC. 201. FORGIVABLE LOANS FOR SMALL COMMERCIAL**  
 17 **FOOD PROCESSING.**

18 (a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-  
 19 tion, the term “eligible entity” means an individual or en-  
 20 tity that is an agricultural producer or owns or operates,  
 21 or seeks to own or operate, a commercial food processing  
 22 operation that—

23 (1) holds a commercial license issued by a non-  
 24 contiguous State; and

1           (2)(A) carries on a farming business (within the  
2           meaning of section 263A(e)(4) of the Internal Rev-  
3           enue Code of 1986); or

4           (B) conducts a commercial food processing op-  
5           eration that is a small business concern (as defined  
6           in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
7           632)).

8           (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
9           a program, to be known as the “Arctic Agriculture Accel-  
10          erator Loan Program”, to provide—

11           (1) loans to eligible entities to start or expand  
12          a small commercial food processing operation; and

13           (2) forgiveness of those loans in accordance  
14          with subsection (f).

15          (c) APPLICATIONS.—To apply for a loan under sub-  
16          section (b)(1), an eligible entity shall submit to the Sec-  
17          retary an application at such time, in such manner, and  
18          containing such information as the Secretary may require,  
19          including a description of activities described in subsection  
20          (d) that the eligible entity will carry out using the loan.

21          (d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity that  
22          receives a loan under subsection (b)(1) may use the loan  
23          funds for the purchase and installation of equipment, the  
24          construction or renovation of facilities, or any other activ-



1 ity to create or expand the capacity of the eligibility entity  
 2 to process, store, or distribute locally produced food.

3 (e) LOAN AMOUNTS.—The amount of a loan under  
 4 subsection (b)(1) shall be—

5 (1) \$150,000 in the case of an eligible entity  
 6 that owns or operates, or seeks to own or operate,  
 7 a small commercial food processing operation for  
 8 specialty crops or grains; and

9 (2) \$250,000 in the case of an eligible entity  
 10 that owns or operates, or seeks to own or operate,  
 11 a small commercial food processing operation for  
 12 meat, poultry, egg, aquaculture, or wild-caught fish  
 13 products.

14 (f) LOAN FORGIVENESS.—The Secretary shall forgive  
 15 the indebtedness of a borrower of a loan under subsection  
 16 (b)(1) if the Secretary determines that the borrower has  
 17 successfully carried out the activities described in the ap-  
 18 plication submitted by the borrower under subsection (c).

19 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
 20 authorized to be appropriated for the cost of loans and  
 21 forgiveness of loans to carry out this section \$10,000,000  
 22 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

## 23 **TITLE III—IMPROVING HOUSING**

### 24 **SEC. 301. DENALI HOUSING FUND.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
2       ty” means—

3                   (A) a nonprofit organization;

4                   (B) a limited dividend organization;

5                   (C) a cooperative organization;

6                   (D) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section  
7       4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
8       cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and

9                   (E) a public entity, such as a municipality,  
10       county, district, authority, or other political  
11       subdivision of a State.

12           (2) FEDERAL COCHAIR.—The term “Federal  
13       Cochair” means the Federal Cochair of the Denali  
14       Commission.

15           (3) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the  
16       Denali Housing Fund established under subsection  
17       (b)(1).

18           (4) LOW-INCOME.—The term “low-income”,  
19       with respect to a household means that the house-  
20       hold income is less than 150 percent of the Federal  
21       poverty level for the State of Alaska.

22           (5) MODERATE-INCOME.—The term “moderate-  
23       income”, with respect to a household, means that  
24       the household income is less than 250 percent of the  
25       Federal poverty level for the State of Alaska.

(6) RURAL ALASKA VILLAGE.—The term “rural Alaska village” means a rural community or Native village in Alaska that—

(A)(i) is located in an unorganized borough; and

(ii) has a population of fewer than 1,000 inhabitants; or

(B)(i) is located in a borough; and

(ii) is not connected by road to—

(I) Anchorage, Alaska; or

(II) Fairbanks, Alaska.

(b) DENALI HOUSING FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be established in the Treasury of the United States the Denali Housing Fund, to be administered by the Federal Cochair.

(2) SOURCE AND USE OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts allocated to the Federal Cochair for the purpose of carrying out this section shall be deposited in the Fund.

(B) USES.—The Federal Cochair shall use the Fund as a revolving fund to carry out the purposes of this section.

(C) INVESTMENT.—The Federal Cochair may invest amounts in the Fund that are not

1           necessary for operational expenses in bonds or  
2           other obligations, the principal and interest of  
3           which are guaranteed by the Federal Govern-  
4           ment.

5           (D) GENERAL EXPENSES.—The Federal  
6           Cochair may charge the general expenses of  
7           carrying out this section to the Fund.

8           (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
9           There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund  
10          \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through  
11          2029.

12          (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

13               (1) to encourage and facilitate the construction  
14               or rehabilitation of housing to meet the needs of low-  
15               income households and moderate-income households;  
16               and

17               (2) to provide housing for public employees.

18          (d) LOANS AND GRANTS.—

19               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair may  
20               provide grants and loans from the Fund to eligible  
21               entities under such terms and conditions the Federal  
22               Cochair may prescribe.

23               (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a grant or loan  
24               under paragraph (1) shall be for planning and ob-  
25               taining federally insured mortgage financing or

1       other financial assistance for housing construction or  
2       rehabilitation projects for low-income and moderate-  
3       income households in rural Alaska villages.

4       (e) PROVIDING AMOUNTS TO STATES FOR GRANTS  
5       AND LOANS.—The Federal Cochair may provide amounts  
6       to the State of Alaska, or political subdivisions thereof,  
7       for making the grants and loans described in subsection  
8       (d).

9       (f) LOANS.—

10           (1) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—A  
11       loan under subsection (d) for the cost of planning  
12       and obtaining financing (including the cost of pre-  
13       liminary surveys and analyses of market needs, pre-  
14       liminary site engineering and architectural fees, site  
15       options, application and mortgage commitment fees,  
16       legal fees, and construction loan fees and discounts)  
17       of a project described in that subsection may be for  
18       not more than 90 percent of that cost.

19           (2) INTEREST.—A loan under subsection (d)  
20       shall be made without interest, except that a loan  
21       made to an eligible entity established for profit shall  
22       bear interest at the prevailing market rate author-  
23       ized for an insured or guaranteed loan for that type  
24       of project.

25           (3) PAYMENT.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair  
 2           shall require payment of a loan made under this  
 3           section under terms and conditions the Sec-  
 4           retary may require by not later than the date  
 5           of completion of the project.

6           (B) CANCELLATION.—For a loan other  
 7           than a loan to an eligible entity established for  
 8           profit, the Secretary may cancel any part of the  
 9           debt with respect to a loan made under sub-  
 10          section (d) if the Secretary determines that a  
 11          permanent loan to finance the project cannot be  
 12          obtained in an amount adequate for repayment  
 13          of a loan made under subsection (d).

14       (g) GRANTS.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section  
 16          for expenses incidental to planning and obtaining fi-  
 17          nancing for a project described in this section that  
 18          the Federal Cochair considers unrecoverable from  
 19          the proceeds of a permanent loan made to finance  
 20          the project—

21                   (A) may not be made to an eligible entity  
 22                   established for profit; and

23                   (B) may not exceed 90 percent of those ex-  
 24                   penses.

1           (2) SITE DEVELOPMENT COSTS AND OFFSITE  
2 IMPROVEMENTS.—

3           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair  
4 may make grants and commitments for grants  
5 under terms and conditions the Federal Cochair  
6 may require to eligible entities for reasonable  
7 site development costs and necessary offsite im-  
8 provements, such as sewer and water line exten-  
9 sions, if the grant or commitment—

10                   (i) is essential to ensuring that hous-  
11 ing is constructed on the site in the future;  
12 and

13                   (ii) otherwise meets the requirements  
14 for assistance under this section.

15           (B) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—The amount of  
16 a grant under this paragraph may not—

17                   (i) with respect to the construction of  
18 housing, exceed 40 percent of the cost of  
19 the construction; and

20                   (ii) with respect to the rehabilitation  
21 of housing, exceed 10 percent of the rea-  
22 sonable value of the rehabilitation, as de-  
23 termined by the Federal Cochair.

24           (h) INFORMATION, ADVICE, AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
25 ANCE.—The Federal Cochair may provide, or contract

1 with public or private organizations to provide, informa-  
 2 tion, advice, and technical assistance with respect to the  
 3 construction, rehabilitation, and operation by nonprofit or-  
 4 ganizations of housing for low-income or moderate-income  
 5 households, or for public employees, in rural Alaska vil-  
 6 lages under this section.

## 7 **TITLE IV—IMPROVING SEAFOOD** 8 **INDUSTRY**

### 9 **SEC. 401. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING FOR COOKED** 10 **CRAB.**

11 Section 281(1) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of  
 12 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638(1)) is amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “The  
 14 term” and inserting “Except as provided in subpara-  
 15 graph (C), the term”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(C) INCLUSION.—The term ‘covered com-  
 18 modity’ includes crab that—

19 “(i) is wild fish; and

20 “(ii) has been cooked, including by  
 21 frying, broiling, grilling, boiling, steaming,  
 22 baking, and roasting.”.

### 23 **SEC. 402. ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND SHELL-** 24 **FISH.**

25 (a) FARM LOANS.—



1 (1) DEFINITIONS OF FARMER AND FARMING.—

2 Section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “farm-  
5 ing.” and inserting “farming or commercial  
6 fishing.”;

7 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “farm-  
8 ing.” and inserting “farming and commercial  
9 fishing.”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(14) COMMERCIAL FISHING.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘commercial  
13 fishing’ means fishing (as defined in section 3  
14 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation  
15 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) in  
16 which the fish harvested, either in whole or in  
17 part, are intended to enter commerce or enter  
18 commerce through sale, barter, or trade.

19 “(B) ASSOCIATED DEFINITION OF FISH.—

20 For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term  
21 ‘fish’—

22 “(i) means finfish, mollusks, crusta-  
23 ceans, and all other forms of aquatic ani-  
24 mal and plant life; but

25 “(ii) does not include—

1 “(I) marine mammals; or

2 “(II) birds.”.

3 (2) FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.—Section 303(a)  
4 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
5 Act (7 U.S.C. 1923(a)) is amended by adding at the  
6 end the following:

7 “(3) COMMERCIAL FISHERS.—A commercial  
8 fisher may use a direct or guaranteed loan under  
9 this subtitle for—

10 “(A) acquiring a commercial fishing per-  
11 mit; and

12 “(B) acquiring, operating, and maintaining  
13 a commercial fishing vessel.”.

14 (3) FARM OPERATING LOANS.—Section 312 of  
15 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act  
16 (7 U.S.C. 1942) is amended by adding at the end  
17 the following:

18 “(f) COMMERCIAL FISHERS.—A commercial fisher  
19 may use a direct or guaranteed loan under this subtitle  
20 for acquiring, operating, and maintaining a commercial  
21 fishing vessel.”.

22 (b) FARMERS’ MARKETS AND LOCAL FOOD PRO-  
23 MOTION PROGRAM.—Section 210A(d)(6) of the Agricul-  
24 tural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c(d)(6)) is  
25 amended by adding at the end the following:

1                   “(F) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH  
 2                   AND SHELLFISH.—For purposes of this para-  
 3                   graph, an agricultural commodity or product  
 4                   described in subsection (a)(12) shall include  
 5                   fish (as defined in paragraph (14)(B) of section  
 6                   343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
 7                   Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))).”.

8 **SEC. 403. DOMESTIC SEAFOOD PRODUCTION.**

9           (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10           (1) MARICULTURE.—The term “mariculture”  
 11           means shellfish and aquatic plants grown under con-  
 12           trolled conditions.

13           (2) RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term “rural  
 14           community” means a coastal community located in  
 15           a rural area (as defined in section 343(a) of the  
 16           Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7  
 17           U.S.C. 1991(a)).

18           (3) SEAFOOD.—The term “seafood” means  
 19           wild-caught finfish and shellfish.

20           (b) ACTION PLAN AND SELECTION OF COASTAL  
 21           COMMUNITIES.—

22           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
 23           after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
 24           retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Com-  
 25           merce, shall develop an action plan to facilitate in-

1        creased domestic processing of United States-caught  
2        seafood and mariculture.

3            (2) INCLUSIONS.—The action plan developed  
4        under paragraph (1) shall include—

5            (A) an identification of coastal commu-  
6        nities in which—

7            (i) commercial fishing is a significant  
8        economic driver; and

9            (ii) there exists a need, and voiced  
10       community desire, for the creation of new  
11       (or rehabilitation of existing) seafood proc-  
12       essing infrastructure to allow those com-  
13       munities—

14            (I) to effectively process the  
15       catch of the communities locally; and

16            (II) to provide for the local and  
17       domestic market;

18            (B) an identification of coastal commu-  
19       nities with existing or developing mariculture  
20       operations in which processing infrastructure is  
21       not sufficient to meet the needs of the  
22       mariculture operations;

23            (C) a consideration of the diversity of  
24       coastal communities, including geographic di-  
25       versity;

1 (D) an assessment of the number of coast-  
 2 al communities described in subparagraphs (A)  
 3 through (C) that qualify as rural communities;  
 4 and

5 (E) an analysis of the current domestic  
 6 seafood supply chain, including a carbon foot-  
 7 print.

8 (3) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES.—

9 The action plan developed under paragraph (1) shall  
 10 include a selection of 5 coastal communities across  
 11 the United States that would be eligible for the  
 12 grants and cooperative agreements under subsection  
 13 (c).

14 (4) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—In devel-  
 15 oping the action plan under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
 16 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Com-  
 17 merce, shall provide a meaningful stakeholder en-  
 18 gagement process that—

19 (A) prioritizes outreach and engagement  
 20 through methods that effectively reach residents  
 21 of rural communities described in subpara-  
 22 graphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (2); and

23 (B) provides an opportunity for public  
 24 comment regarding a draft of the action plan,  
 25 and incorporation of any comments received by

1           the date that is 60 days after the end of the  
2           public comment period.

3           (c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS TO  
4 SUPPORT LOCAL SEAFOOD PROCESSING.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available  
6           under subsection (f), the Secretary shall, for the pe-  
7           riod of fiscal years 2024 and 2025, make competi-  
8           tive grants or enter into cooperative agreements—

9                   (A) to support pilot projects for new sea-  
10           food or mariculture processing infrastructure in  
11           eligible communities selected under subsection  
12           (b)(3);

13                   (B) to support pilot projects for the reha-  
14           bilitation, repair, or retrofitting of existing sea-  
15           food or mariculture processing infrastructure in  
16           those eligible communities;

17                   (C) to host onsite local training, education,  
18           outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for  
19           working waterfront populations in those com-  
20           munities; or

21                   (D) to provide preference for community  
22           members from those eligible communities in the  
23           startup of pilot seafood or mariculture proc-  
24           essing facilities exclusively designed for serving

1 domestic and local markets, which shall in-  
 2 clude—

3 (i) entrepreneurship and business  
 4 training;

5 (ii) financial and risk management  
 6 training; and

7 (iii) food safety and recordkeeping.

8 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a  
 9 grant or enter into a cooperative agreement under  
 10 paragraph (1), the recipient of the grant or partici-  
 11 pant in the cooperative agreement shall be—

12 (A) a collaborative State, Tribal, local, or  
 13 regionally based network or partnership of pub-  
 14 lic or private entities; or

15 (B) an individual seafood or mariculture  
 16 processing company.

17 (3) PRIORITIES.—In making grants or entering  
 18 into cooperative agreements under paragraph (1),  
 19 the Secretary shall give priority to—

20 (A) projects that commit—

21 (i) to sell a substantial quantity of  
 22 seafood domestically, as determined by the  
 23 Secretary;

24 (ii) to meaningful local-hire practices,  
 25 as determined by the Secretary;

1 (iii) to avoiding additional overbur-  
 2 dening of rural communities, such as by  
 3 minimizing additional vehicular traffic; and

4 (iv) to supporting innovative transpor-  
 5 tation networks to minimize adverse im-  
 6 pacts on adjacent communities;

7 (B) projects that—

8 (i) colocate with, or supply, commu-  
 9 nity fish markets or community-based sea-  
 10 food distributors, such as local farmers’  
 11 markets;

12 (ii)(I) would retrofit or update exist-  
 13 ing infrastructure; and

14 (II) are zoned for mixed use, such as  
 15 a processing plant with an adjacent com-  
 16 munity fish market; or

17 (iii) include partnerships with schools  
 18 or organizations that address food security  
 19 and hunger; and

20 (C) community-based businesses and orga-  
 21 nizations with expertise in working with rural  
 22 communities and coastal communities.

23 (4) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In making grants  
 24 or entering into cooperative agreements under para-  
 25 graph (1), the Secretary shall evaluate, with respect



1 to applications for the grants or cooperative agree-  
2 ments—

3 (A) relevancy;

4 (B) technical merit;

5 (C) achievability, expertise, and track  
6 record; and

7 (D) equity and environmental justice im-  
8 pacts.

9 (5) REQUIREMENTS.—A grant or cooperative  
10 agreement under paragraph (1) shall be for an  
11 amount and term determined appropriate by the  
12 Secretary.

13 (6) INTERAGENCY FUNDING.—Any Federal  
14 agency may participate in any grant or cooperative  
15 agreement under paragraph (1) by contributing  
16 funds, if the contributing agency determines that the  
17 objectives of the grant or cooperative agreement will  
18 advance the authorized programs of the contributing  
19 agency.

20 (7) LIMITATION ON INDIRECT COSTS.—A recipi-  
21 ent of a grant or a party to a cooperative agreement  
22 under paragraph (1) may not use more than 10 per-  
23 cent of the funds received for the indirect costs of  
24 carrying out the grant or cooperative agreement.

1 (d) EVALUATION OF ACTION PLAN, GRANTS, AND  
2 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after  
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-  
4 sultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall submit to  
5 Congress a report evaluating the effectiveness of the ac-  
6 tion plan developed under subsection (b) and the grants  
7 and cooperative agreements made or entered into under  
8 subsection (c), including—

9 (1) an assessment of social and economic bene-  
10 fits resulting from projects carried out using those  
11 grants and cooperative agreements; and

12 (2) recommendations—

13 (A) to improve the effectiveness of the ac-  
14 tion plan and the grants and cooperative agree-  
15 ments; and

16 (B) to expand projects carried out using  
17 the grants and cooperative agreements to addi-  
18 tional coastal communities.

19 (e) EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE PROHIBITIONS.—

20 (1) PROHIBITION ON AUTHORIZING FINFISH  
21 AQUACULTURE.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
22 sion of law, no Federal agency shall permit, author-  
23 ize, or otherwise regulate commercial finfish aqua-  
24 culture operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone  
25 of the United States (as established by Proclamation

1       Numbered 5030, dated March 10, 1983), except in  
 2       accordance with a law authorizing such an action  
 3       that is enacted after the date of enactment of this  
 4       Act.

5           (2) PROHIBITION ON FUNDS TO PROMOTE  
 6       FINFISH AQUACULTURE.—No Federal funds avail-  
 7       able to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
 8       ministration shall be used to award grants to facili-  
 9       tate or otherwise regulate finfish aquaculture in  
 10      Federal waters.

11      (f) FUNDING.—

12           (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
 13      There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
 14      this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
 15      2024 and 2025.

16           (2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts  
 17      made available under paragraph (1)—

18                   (A) \$200,000 shall be used to carry out  
 19                   subsection (b) during fiscal year 2024, to be di-  
 20                   vided equally between the Secretary and the  
 21                   Secretary of Commerce;

22                   (B) \$200,000 shall be used to carry out  
 23                   subsection (d) during fiscal year 2025; and

24                   (C) the remaining amounts shall be used,  
 25                   subject to paragraphs (3) and (4)—

- 1 (i) to carry out subsection (c); or  
 2 (ii) for expenses relating to the ad-  
 3 ministration of this section.

4 (3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—A majority of the  
 5 amount made available to carry out subsection (c)  
 6 for any fiscal year shall be used to support coastal  
 7 communities that are rural communities.

8 (4) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more  
 9 than 5 percent of the amounts made available to  
 10 carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used  
 11 for expenses relating to the administration of this  
 12 section.

13 **SEC. 404. GRANT PROGRAM TO PROMOTE THE REUSE, RE-**  
 14 **CYCLING, AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE**  
 15 **PRODUCTS FROM SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.**

16 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to sup-  
 17 port projects that promote the reuse, recycling, and sus-  
 18 tainable use of marine products from the seafood industry.

19 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
 21 ty” means—

- 22 (A) an academic institution;  
 23 (B) a nonprofit organization; and  
 24 (C) a for-profit company.

1           (2) MARINE PRODUCT.—The term “marine  
2 product” means—

3           (A) chitin derived from marine animals, in-  
4 cluding crustaceans, mollusks, and the scales,  
5 shells, or waste of any marine animal;

6           (B) seaweed;

7           (C) marine waste from seafood; and

8           (D) any other product or byproduct of the  
9 seafood industry that, in the determination of  
10 the Secretary—

11           (i) would ultimately end in a landfill  
12 or other waste disposal facility if not re-  
13 used, recycled, or put to use in a manner  
14 consistent with the purpose of this section;  
15 and

16           (ii) demonstrates promise for reuse,  
17 recycling, or sustainable use.

18           (3) REUSE, RECYCLING, OR SUSTAINABLE  
19 USE.—The term “reuse, recycling, or sustainable  
20 use”, with respect to a marine product, includes use  
21 of the marine product—

22           (A) as a fertilizer;

23           (B) as a biostimulant;

24           (C) as a component in a plastic alternative;

25           (D) in soil amendment and remediation;

1 (E) in wastewater treatment; and

2 (F) for collagen extraction.

3 (c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

4 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-  
 5 tablish a program under which the Secretary shall  
 6 provide grants to eligible entities for projects that  
 7 involve the reuse, recycling, or sustainable use of 1  
 8 or more marine products from the seafood industry.

9 (2) SET-ASIDE.—The Secretary shall set aside  
 10 50 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry out  
 11 the program established under paragraph (1) to  
 12 make grants to eligible entities that are domiciled, or  
 13 have an operating location, in a State that, as deter-  
 14 mined by the Secretary, is among the States with  
 15 the greatest length of coastline.

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 17 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such  
 18 sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

19 **SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO BUSINESSES PRO-**  
 20 **VIDING SERVICES TO PRODUCERS OR HAR-**  
 21 **VESTERS OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS.**

22 (a) FARM CREDIT BANKS.—

23 (1) ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT AND FINANCIAL  
 24 SERVICES.—Section 1.9 of the Farm Credit Act of  
 25 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2017) is amended—

1 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at  
 2 the end;

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
 4 paragraph (4); and

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
 6 following:

7 “(3) persons furnishing to producers or har-  
 8 vesters of aquatic products services directly related  
 9 to their operating needs; or”.

10 (2) PURPOSES FOR EXTENSIONS OF CREDIT.—

11 Section 1.11(c)(1) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971  
 12 (12 U.S.C. 2019(c)(1)) is amended by inserting  
 13 “and to persons furnishing services directly related  
 14 to the operating needs of producers or harvesters of  
 15 aquatic products” after “needs”.

16 (b) PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.—Section  
 17 2.4(a) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C.  
 18 2075(a)) is amended—

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

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

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(4) persons furnishing to producers or har-  
 2 vesters of aquatic products services directly related  
 3 to their operating needs.”.

4 **TITLE V—IMPROVING**  
 5 **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

6 **SEC. 501. FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN**  
 7 **STATES WITHOUT AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**  
 8 **SERVICE FACILITIES.**

9 Subtitle B of title VI of the Agricultural Research,  
 10 Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.  
 11 7651 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 12 lowing:

13 **“SEC. 621. FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN**  
 14 **STATES WITHOUT AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**  
 15 **SERVICE FACILITIES.**

16 “There is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000  
 17 for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, to re-  
 18 main available until expended, for agricultural research at  
 19 1862 Institutions and State agriculture agencies in States  
 20 that do not have an Agricultural Research Service facility,  
 21 to address the research priorities of those States.”.



1 **SEC. 502. SEAWEED METHANE REDUCTION RESEARCH**  
 2 **GRANTS.**

3 Subtitle H of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-  
 4 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by inserting  
 5 after section 1673 (7 U.S.C. 5926) the following:

6 **“SEC. 1674. SEAWEED METHANE REDUCTION RESEARCH**  
 7 **GRANTS.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
 10 tity’ means an institution of higher education (as de-  
 11 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of  
 12 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

13 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
 14 the Secretary of Agriculture.

15 “(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall provide grants to  
 16 eligible entities for the research and development of the  
 17 suitability of cold-water seaweed species for reduction of  
 18 enteric methane through livestock feed additives.

19 “(c) RESEARCH PRIORITIES.—The Secretary shall  
 20 give priority in providing grants under subsection (b) for  
 21 the following types of research:

22 “(1) Research conducted on which varieties of  
 23 seaweed inhibit methane production.

24 “(2) Research conducted on which varieties of  
 25 seaweed that inhibit methane production can grow in  
 26 cold-water climates.

1           “(3) Research conducted on whether bromoform  
2           from seaweed causes any effects on the ozone.

3           “(4) Research conducted on what level of shelf-  
4           life seaweed could have if produced on a large scale.

5           “(5) Research conducted on whether, and to  
6           what extent, large-scale production of seaweed has  
7           environmental effects.

8           “(6) Research conducted on how seaweed af-  
9           fects livestock biology if used as livestock feed.

10          “(7) Research conducted on whether seaweed  
11          affects human health if used as livestock feed.

12          “(8) Research conducted on how knowledge of  
13          the ability of seaweed to inhibit methane production  
14          would affect the market value of seaweed products,  
15          including—

16               “(A) the largest entities or sectors that  
17               would potentially purchase seaweed products;

18               “(B) potential market prices for livestock  
19               feed containing seaweed additives; and

20               “(C) the potential role of greenhouse gas  
21               emission credits in supporting the reduction of  
22               enteric methane using seaweed.

23          “(d) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing grants under  
24          subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

1 “(1) select recipients on the basis of the quality  
2 of the proposed research project; and

3 “(2) award not less than 50 percent of funding  
4 to eligible entities in States that, as determined by  
5 the Secretary, are among the States with the great-  
6 est length of coastline.

7 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
9 essary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years  
10 2024 through 2028.”.

11 **SEC. 503. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRI-**  
12 **CULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDU-**  
13 **CATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

14 Section 1672E of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
15 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g) is amend-  
16 ed—

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “produc-  
19 tion;” and inserting “production or preserva-  
20 tion;”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (6), by inserting “, in-  
22 cluding those in circumpolar regions” before the  
23 semicolon; and

24 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” at  
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-  
4 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) areas designated as frontier or remote  
7 areas.”.

8 **SEC. 504. REPORTS AND REGULATIONS ON COASTAL SEA-**  
9 **WEED FARMING.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) COASTAL SEAWEED FARMING.—The term  
12 “coastal seaweed farming” means the onshore or  
13 nearshore propagation and harvesting of seaweed  
14 and products derived from seaweed that—

15 (A) does not use any—

16 (i) synthetic pesticide (as defined in  
17 section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fun-  
18 gicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C.  
19 136)); or

20 (ii) plastic, unless a suitable replace-  
21 ment does not exist; and

22 (B) does not produce finfish for commer-  
23 cial purposes.

24 (2) SEAWEED.—The term “seaweed” means  
25 any macroscopic, multicellular marine algae species.

1           (3) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
2 means—

3           (A) the Secretary; and

4           (B) the Secretary of Commerce, acting  
5 through the Under Secretary of Commerce for  
6 Oceans and Atmosphere.

7       (b) REPORTS.—

8           (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—

9           (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
10 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
11 retaries shall jointly submit to Congress, and  
12 publish on the websites of the Department of  
13 Agriculture and the National Oceanic and At-  
14 mospheric Administration, a preliminary report  
15 analyzing the following:

16           (i) The effects of coastal seaweed  
17 farming on—

18                       (I) surrounding communities;

19                       (II) the ecosystem; and

20                       (III) marine and coastal wildlife.

21           (ii) Best practices for cultivating and  
22 sourcing local seeds to propagate for coast-  
23 al seaweed farming, including practices  
24 based on traditional ecological knowledge.

1 (iii) Best practices, including practices  
 2 based on traditional ecological knowledge,  
 3 to prevent the escape or spread during  
 4 coastal seaweed farming of any organism  
 5 that would—

6 (I) alter the natural ecosystem;

7 or

8 (II) present a biofouling risk.

9 (iv) Best practices, including practices  
 10 based on traditional ecological knowledge,  
 11 relating to species selection, harvesting cy-  
 12 cles, spatial planning and siting, engineer-  
 13 ing and design, and environmental aspects  
 14 of coastal seaweed farming that—

15 (I) maximize benefits, and avoid  
 16 adverse effects, on the marine eco-  
 17 system and marine and coastal wild-  
 18 life;

19 (II) lead to optimal yields;

20 (III) account for the impact cli-  
 21 mate change may have on natural  
 22 habitats and coastal seaweed farming  
 23 operations;

24 (IV) minimize entanglements and  
 25 other harmful interactions between

1 marine life and nearshore seaweed  
2 farming infrastructure and gear;

3 (V) account for changes in mi-  
4 gration patterns of marine mammals  
5 and highly migratory species (as de-  
6 fined in section 3 of the Magnuson-  
7 Stevens Fishery Conservation and  
8 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802));  
9 and

10 (VI) account for, and avoid inter-  
11 ference with, competing uses, includ-  
12 ing vessel traffic and commercial and  
13 recreational fishing.

14 (v) The potential for growing seaweed  
15 for long-term carbon sequestration and  
16 best practices for measurement, reporting,  
17 and verification approaches for that grow-  
18 ing, specific to the sequestration reservoir.

19 (vi) The effects of cocultivation of bi-  
20 valves with seaweed on the ecosystem,  
21 ocean acidification, and hypoxia levels.

22 (vii) The effects of coastal seaweed  
23 farming on water quality.

1 (viii) Best practices for limiting the  
 2 use of plastic in coastal seaweed farming  
 3 gear.

4 (ix) The history and use of Indigenous  
 5 and traditional seaweed farming practices.

6 (x) Best practices for sustainable har-  
 7 vest and post-harvest processing of coastal  
 8 seaweed farming products, including—

9 (I) methods of reducing energy  
 10 costs; and

11 (II) methods based on traditional  
 12 ecological knowledge.

13 (xi) Scalable commercial applications  
 14 for value-added seaweed or products de-  
 15 rived from seaweed, including as feedstock  
 16 for animals and other agricultural, com-  
 17 mercial, and industrial applications.

18 (xii) Processes for processing, storage,  
 19 and transportation of seaweed that—

20 (I) are cost-effective and effi-  
 21 cient; and

22 (II) reduce carbon emissions  
 23 from transportation.



1 (xiii) Existing and potential markets  
 2 and market capacity for major cultivated  
 3 seaweed species.

4 (xiv) Baseline economic analyses and  
 5 business planning models for major cul-  
 6 tivated seaweed species.

7 (xv) The effects of water quality on  
 8 the quality of cultivated seaweed for  
 9 human consumption, including the absorp-  
 10 tion of toxic heavy metals and persistent  
 11 organic pollutants.

12 (xvi) Best practices for onshore sea-  
 13 weed farming issues that reduce energy re-  
 14 quirements to pump water, include man-  
 15 agement of effluent and spatial planning,  
 16 and address conflicting uses of the onshore  
 17 coastal zone.

18 (xvii) Best practices in efficient and  
 19 effective Federal and State regulatory sys-  
 20 tems for coastal seaweed farming.

21 (B) CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT.—

22 In preparing the report under subparagraph  
 23 (A), the Secretaries shall consult or engage, as  
 24 appropriate, with the following:

1 (i) The Interagency Working Group  
2 on Indigenous Traditional Ecological  
3 Knowledge, with respect to—

4 (I) the cultivation of kelp, sea-  
5 weed, and shellfish;

6 (II) the use of Tribal waters for  
7 coastal seaweed farming;

8 (III) the impact and benefits of  
9 coastal seaweed farming on Tribal  
10 waters; and

11 (IV) best practices for engaging  
12 with Indian Tribes (as defined in sec-  
13 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determina-  
14 tion and Education Assistance Act  
15 (25 U.S.C. 5304)) with respect to  
16 matters relating to coastal seaweed  
17 farming.

18 (ii) Indian Tribes (as so defined).

19 (iii) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
20 (as defined in section 2 of the Native  
21 American Graves Protection and Repatri-  
22 ation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)).

23 (iv) The Interagency Working Group  
24 on Research for Farming of Seaweeds and  
25 Seagrasses.

1 (v) The Interagency Working Group  
2 on Ocean Acidification.

3 (vi) The Joint Subcommittee on  
4 Aquaculture of the National Science and  
5 Technology Council.

6 (vii) Such other agencies as the Secre-  
7 taries determine to be appropriate.

8 (2) UPDATE.—Not later than 2 years after the  
9 date on which the report under paragraph (1) is  
10 submitted, the Secretaries shall submit to Congress  
11 an updated report based on pertinent information  
12 derived from Federal research programs and other  
13 sources of information.

14 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the  
15 date on which the preliminary report under subsection  
16 (b)(1) is published, the Secretaries, in consultation with  
17 the Chief of Engineers, shall promulgate and implement  
18 such regulations as the Secretaries determine to be appro-  
19 priate—

20 (1) to ensure that design, development, siting,  
21 species selection, operation, and production systems  
22 of coastal seaweed farming maximize potential bene-  
23 fits to, and avoid potential adverse effects on, the  
24 marine ecosystem, wildlife, and fisheries and sur-  
25 rounding communities;

1           (2) to establish evaluation metrics to measure  
 2           the impact and benefits of coastal seaweed farming  
 3           on—

4                   (A) the marine ecosystem, including ma-  
 5           rine wildlife, biodiversity, productivity, water  
 6           quality, and stored carbon; and

7                   (B) surrounding communities, including  
 8           relating to the equitable distribution of costs  
 9           and benefits (including economic and environ-  
 10          mental costs and benefits) within those commu-  
 11          nities; and

12          (3) to require monitoring and reporting relating  
 13          to—

14                   (A) any adverse effects on the marine eco-  
 15          system and wildlife, including entanglements of  
 16          marine life; and

17                   (B) any effects on commercial and rec-  
 18          reational fishing.

19          (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 20          are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretaries, to  
 21          be allocated between the Secretaries as the Secretaries de-  
 22          termine to be appropriate—

23                   (1) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024  
 24          and 2025 to complete the preliminary report under  
 25          subsection (b)(1);

1 (2) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, of which—

2 (A) \$1,000,000 shall be used for the up-  
3 dated report under subsection (b)(2); and

4 (B) \$2,000,000 shall be used to promul-  
5 gate and implement regulations pursuant to  
6 subsection (c); and

7 (3) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 to complete  
8 the updated report under subsection (b)(2).

9 **TITLE VI—SUPPORTING**  
10 **FORESTRY**

11 **SEC. 601. COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY AND WOOD INNOVA-**  
12 **TION PROGRAM.**

13 Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
14 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—

16 (A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the  
17 end;

18 (B) in clause (iii)(II), by striking the pe-  
19 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(iv) involves services and equipment  
22 for the processing and distribution of  
23 woody biomass materials.”;

24 (2) in subsection (c)—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by striking “make grants to cover”

2 and inserting the following: “make

3 grants—

4 “(A) to cover”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (A) (as so redes-

6 ignated), by striking the period at the end

7 and inserting “; and”; and

8 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-

9 lowing:

10 “(B) for the processing and distribution of

11 woody biomass products.”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or in

13 the case of processing and distribution of woody

14 biomass products for a school or hospital in a

15 low-income community,” after “community,”;

16 and

17 (3) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding

18 paragraph (1), by striking “or innovative wood prod-

19 uct facility project” and inserting “, an innovative

20 wood product facility project, or a project for the

21 processing and distribution of woody biomass prod-

22 ucts”.

# 1 **TITLE VII—SUPPORTING UNITED** 2 **STATES FLORICULTURE**

## 3 **SEC. 701. LIMITATION ON PROCUREMENT.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the  
 5 “American Grown Act”.

6 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
 8 agency” means—

9 (A) the Executive Office of the President;

10 (B) the Department of Defense; and

11 (C) the Department of State.

12 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-  
 13 tity” means—

14 (A) a foreign government; and

15 (B) an agent of a foreign principal (as de-  
 16 fined section 1 of the Foreign Agents Registra-  
 17 tion Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611)).

18 (3) CUT FLOWER.—The term “cut flower”  
 19 means a flower removed from a living plant for deco-  
 20 rative use.

21 (4) CUT GREEN.—The term “cut green” means  
 22 a green, foliage, or branch removed from a living  
 23 plant for decorative use.

24 (5) QUALIFYING AREA.—The term “qualifying  
 25 area” means—

- 1 (A) a State;
- 2 (B) the District of Columbia;
- 3 (C) a territory or possession of the United
- 4 States; and
- 5 (D) an area subject to the jurisdiction of
- 6 a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

7 (c) REQUIREMENT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated or oth-

9 erwise available to a covered agency may only be

10 used for the procurement of a cut flower or cut

11 green if the cut flower or cut green is grown in a

12 qualifying area.

13 (2) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall

14 apply to a procurement made or contracted for—

15 (A) in the United States; and

16 (B) on or after the date that is 1 year

17 after the date of enactment of this Act.

18 (d) GIFTS FOR DISPLAY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—A covered agency may only

20 accept a gift of a cut flower or cut green that is not

21 grown in a qualifying area from a covered entity for

22 the purpose of displaying the cut flower or cut green

23 if—



1 (A) the origin of the cut flower or cut  
 2 green is clearly displayed at the time of deliv-  
 3 ery; and

4 (B) at the time of delivery, the covered  
 5 agency procures an additional cut flower or cut  
 6 green that is grown in a qualifying area to dis-  
 7 play during the period of display of the gift.

8 (2) REQUIREMENT.—A covered agency that ac-  
 9 cepts a gift of a cut flower or cut green from a cov-  
 10 ered entity under paragraph (1) shall clearly display  
 11 the origin of the cut flower or cut green during the  
 12 period of display of the cut flower or cut green.

## 13 **TITLE VIII—IMPROVING TRIBAL** 14 **SELF-DETERMINATION**

### 15 **SEC. 801. AGRICULTURAL SELF-DETERMINATION AND** 16 **SELF-GOVERNANCE.**

17 (a) SELF-DETERMINATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF  
 18 AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—Title I of  
 19 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
 20 Act (25 U.S.C. 5321 et seq.) is amended by adding at  
 21 the end the following:

### 22 **“SEC. 112. SELF-DETERMINATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF** 23 **AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.**

24 “(a) AGRICULTURE SELF-DETERMINATION AUTHOR-  
 25 IZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into self-

1 determination contracts, in accordance with subsection  
 2 (c), with Tribal organizations, on the request of any In-  
 3 dian Tribe, by Tribal resolution—

4 “(1) to plan, conduct, and administer any func-  
 5 tion, service, or activity provided by the Forest Serv-  
 6 ice or the Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 7 for the Indian Tribe;

8 “(2) to carry out the food distribution program  
 9 on Indian reservations established under section 4(b)  
 10 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
 11 2013(b)) for any individual or household within the  
 12 jurisdiction of the Indian Tribe; or

13 “(3) subject to subsection (b), to carry out the  
 14 authority of the Food Safety and Inspection Service  
 15 under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.  
 16 601 et seq.) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of  
 17 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.).

18 “(b) FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE CON-  
 19 TRACTS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Before requesting to enter  
 21 into a self-determination contract described in sub-  
 22 section (a)(3), a Tribal organization shall adopt, by  
 23 Tribal resolution, a food and agriculture code ap-  
 24 proved by the Secretary of Agriculture, after which  
 25 the Secretary of Agriculture shall exercise the au-

1       thority of the Secretary of Agriculture under Public  
2       Law 87–718 (7 U.S.C. 1633) with respect to the In-  
3       dian Tribe governed by that Tribal organization.

4               “(2) RURAL WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND  
5       COMMUNITY FACILITIES LOANS AND GRANTS.—An  
6       Indian Tribe operating under a contract described in  
7       subsection (a)(3) shall be eligible for grant and loan  
8       programs under paragraphs (19) and (24) of section  
9       306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-  
10      opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

11      “(c) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—A self-de-  
12      termination contract entered into under subsection (a)  
13      shall have the same terms and conditions, and be subject  
14      to the same procedures, regulations, and requirements, as  
15      a self-determination contract entered into under section  
16      102, except that the Secretary of Agriculture and the De-  
17      partment of Agriculture shall be the appropriate Secretary  
18      and agency for purposes of a self-determination contract  
19      entered into under subsection (a).

20      “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Office of Self-  
21      Governance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall provide  
22      technical assistance with respect to self-determination con-  
23      tracts under subsection (a)—

24               “(1) to the Secretary of Agriculture; and

1           “(2) to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations  
2           that request that assistance.”.

3           (b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF  
4 SELF-GOVERNANCE.—

5           (1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the  
6           date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
7           conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a  
8           Tribal self-governance demonstration project for ap-  
9           propriate programs, services, functions, and activi-  
10          ties of the Department of Agriculture.

11          (2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after  
12          the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
13          shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

14                 (A) the results of the study conducted  
15                 under paragraph (1); and

16                 (B) a plan to establish an Office of Self-  
17                 Governance in the Department of Agriculture to  
18                 carry out—

19                         (i) the results of that study; and

20                         (ii) the amendment made by sub-  
21                         section (a).

22          (3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall de-  
23          velop the plan described in paragraph (2)(B) in con-  
24          sultation with Indian Tribes, the Office of Tribal  
25          Relations of the Department of Agriculture, and the

1 Tribal Advisory Committee established under section  
 2 309(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and  
 3 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of  
 4 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921(b)).

5 (4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 18  
 6 months after the date on which the Secretary sub-  
 7 mits the report under paragraph (2), the Secretary  
 8 shall implement the plan described in the report.

9 **SEC. 802. BUY INDIAN ACT MODIFICATIONS.**

10 Section 23 of the Act of June 25, 1910 (36  
 11 Stat. 861, chapter 431; 25 U.S.C. 47) (commonly known  
 12 as the “Buy Indian Act”), is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
 15 “and” at the end;

16 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
 17 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(C) the Secretary of Agriculture.”;

20 (2) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and the  
 22 Department of Health and Human Services”  
 23 and inserting “, the Department of Health and  
 24 Human Services, and the Department of Agri-  
 25 culture”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “and the  
 2 Indian Health Service” and inserting “, the In-  
 3 dian Health Service, and the Department of  
 4 Agriculture”; and

5 (3) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “Com-  
 6 mittee on Indian Affairs” and all that follows  
 7 through “House of Representatives” and inserting  
 8 “Committees on Indian Affairs and Agriculture, Nu-  
 9 trition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Commit-  
 10 tees on Natural Resources and Agriculture of the  
 11 House of Representatives”.

12 **SEC. 803. WATER SYSTEMS FOR ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES**  
 13 **AND RURAL VILLAGES.**

14 Section 306D(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
 15 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d(c)) is amended by in-  
 16 serting “and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consor-  
 17 tium” after “State of Alaska”.

○