

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6780

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish research centers of excellence for alternative protein innovation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LIEU, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. GARCIA of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish research centers of excellence for alternative protein innovation, 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 “Producing Real Oppor-
5 tunities for Technology and Entrepreneurs Investing in
6 Nutrition Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Protein innovation that produces high-quality
4 foods using under-utilized biomass and biomanu-
5 facturing processes is an essential component of the
6 bioeconomy.

7 (2) The United States has produced several
8 groundbreaking biotechnological breakthroughs
9 across the last decade that can diversify the food
10 system.

11 (3) In recent years, multiple countries have dra-
12 matically increased public investments into alter-
13 native protein research and development.

14 (4) According to the Department of Agri-
15 culture, every \$1 of investment into agricultural re-
16 search results in \$20 of economic productivity.

17 (5) As of 2019, the plant-based food industry
18 supported over 55,000 jobs in the United States,
19 and the protein sector could create as many as
20 10,000,000 jobs globally by 2050.

21 (6) Diversifying the protein supply of the
22 United States will increase domestic supply chain re-
23 silience, decrease reliance on foreign grain and other
24 commodities, and provide more choices to American
25 consumers.

1 (7) The global demand for meat is predicted to
2 double by 2050, thus increasing the need for addi-
3 tional food sources.

4 (8) A diversified food system would improve
5 global and domestic food security.

6 (9) Protein innovation can strengthen national
7 security, improve supply chain resilience, and lower
8 the risk of bioterrorism.

9 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR FOOD**
10 **AND AGRICULTURE INNOVATION.**

11 Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
12 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended by
13 adding at the end the following:

14 “(e) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR FOOD AND AG-
15 RICULTURE INNOVATION.—

16 “(1) RECOGNITION.—The Secretary shall recog-
17 nize not fewer than 3 centers of excellence, one of
18 which will be led by an 1890 Institution (as defined
19 in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
20 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
21 7601)), to focus on the areas specified in paragraph
22 (2) relating to the advancement of emerging and in-
23 novative food and agriculture with an emphasis on
24 diversifying edible protein sources.

25 “(2) AREAS OF FOCUS.—

1 “(A) FOOD BIOMANUFACTURING RE-
2 SEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—A center of ex-
3 cellence recognized under paragraph (1) may
4 carry out research, development, and education
5 programs that support the quality, production,
6 or cost-effectiveness of emerging and innovative
7 foods that employ—

8 “(i) bioprocessing;

9 “(ii) biomanufacturing; and

10 “(iii) the conversion of biomass into
11 proteins and fats at scale.

12 “(B) STUDENT SUCCESS AND WORKFORCE
13 DEVELOPMENT.—A center of excellence recog-
14 nized under paragraph (1) may engage in ac-
15 tivities to ensure that students have the skills
16 and education needed to work in innovative
17 food and agriculture industries, including agri-
18 cultural science, technology, engineering, math-
19 ematics, and related fields of study.

20 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this subsection \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
23 2026 through 2030.

24 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
25 date of enactment of the Producing Real Opportuni-

1 ties for Technology and Entrepreneurs Investing in
2 Nutrition Act, and every year thereafter, the Sec-
3 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
4 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
5 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
6 ate a report describing—

7 “(A) the resources invested in the centers
8 of excellence recognized under paragraph (1);
9 and

10 “(B) the work being done by such centers
11 of excellence.”.

12 **SEC. 4. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

13 Section 2(b)(2)(E) of the Competitive, Special, and
14 Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)(2)(E))
15 is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating clauses (ii) through (v) as
17 clauses (iii) through (vi), respectively; and

18 (2) by inserting after clause (i) the following
19 new clause:

20 “(ii) tools and production methods
21 that increase the availability of edible pro-
22 tein sources using bioprocessing, biomanu-
23 facturing, and the conversion of under-uti-
24 lized biomass into high-value ingredients;”.

1 **SEC. 5. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAM.—The
3 Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Adminis-
4 trator of the Agricultural Research Service (referred to in
5 this section as the “Secretary”), shall establish a new na-
6 tional program dedicated to protein security that increases
7 rural prosperity and farmer profits, which is focused on—

8 (1) bioprocessing;

9 (2) biomanufacturing; and

10 (3) the conversion of under-utilized biomass
11 into high-value ingredients.

12 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program
14 under this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
15 2026 through 2030.

16 **SEC. 6. FOOD BIOMANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION**
17 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
20 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall estab-
21 lish a grant program to ensure that the United States has
22 a viable domestic food biomanufacturing and production
23 capability to support and sustain increased global demand
24 for protein.

25 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible to re-
26 ceive a grant under subsection (a) if—

1 (1) such entity is—

2 (A) a nonprofit or for-profit private entity;

3 (B) an institution of higher education;

4 (C) a National Laboratory;

5 (D) a State or local government; or

6 (E) a consortium of entities described in

7 subparagraphs (A) through (D); and

8 (2) such entity—

9 (A) is headquartered in the United States
10 and operates primarily within the United
11 States;

12 (B) is at least 51 percent owned and con-
13 trolled by 1 or more individuals who are citizens
14 of the United States; and

15 (C) deploys intellectual property and con-
16 tent that is owned by United States individuals.

17 (c) GRANTS.—

18 (1) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity that receives a
19 grant under this section shall use funds received
20 through the grant—

21 (A) to carry out 1 or more demonstration
22 projects for the advanced biomanufacturing,
23 production, or bioprocessing of edible proteins
24 and fats at scale;

1 (B) to construct 1 or more new commer-
2 cial-scale facilities for such advanced biomanu-
3 facturing, production, or bioprocessing; and

4 (C) to retool, retrofit, or expand 1 or more
5 existing facilities located in the United States
6 and determined qualified by the Secretary for
7 such advanced biomanufacturing, production, or
8 bioprocessing.

9 (2) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—The amount of a
10 grant awarded under this section shall be not less
11 than \$10,000,000 for an eligible entity carrying out
12 1 or more projects described in paragraph (1).

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
15 out the program under this section \$50,000,000 for each
16 of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

17 **SEC. 7. FOOD BIOWORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PRO-**
18 **GRAM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-
21 culture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”)
22 shall establish a competitive grant program to support
23 food biomanufacturing and bioprocessing workforce devel-
24 opment.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An entity is eligible to re-
2 ceive a grant under this section if the entity is—

3 (1) a governmental entity;

4 (2) a public, private, or cooperative organiza-
5 tion organized on a for-profit or nonprofit basis; or

6 (3) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of
7 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
8 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) on a Federal or State
9 reservation or any other federally recognized Indian
10 Tribe.

11 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity to which a grant is
12 made under this section may use the grant funds to—

13 (1) train new and existing employees on food
14 biomanufacturing and bioprocessing methods;

15 (2) establish a center for training, technology,
16 and trade that will provide training to employees in
17 food biomanufacturing and bioprocessing;

18 (3) provide higher-education scholarships to
19 students pursuing careers in food biomanufacturing
20 and bioprocessing, including at community colleges;

21 (4) conduct regional, community, and local eco-
22 nomic development planning and coordination for
23 the purpose of increasing food biomanufacturing and
24 bioprocessing;

1 (5) provide technical assistance to gain compli-
2 ance with Federal, State, or local regulations related
3 to food biomanufacturing and bioprocessing; or

4 (6) facilitate business and lending opportunities
5 related to food biomanufacturing and bioprocessing,
6 including identifying relevant information necessary
7 for obtaining—

8 (A) private capital investments;

9 (B) Federal and State loan guarantees;

10 (C) Federal and State direct grants; or

11 (D) other financial support mechanisms
12 from Federal and State entities.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
15 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

16 **SEC. 8. NATIONAL STRATEGY ON ALTERNATIVE PROTEINS.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY ON
18 ALTERNATIVE PROTEINS.—The Secretary of Agriculture
19 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall—

20 (1) establish a national strategy on protein se-
21 curity in coordination with the Secretaries concerned
22 that meets the requirements of subsection (c); and

23 (2) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
24 actment of this Act, finalize such strategy.

1 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—When developing the na-
2 tional strategy under subsection (a), the Secretaries con-
3 cerned shall consider—

4 (1) the best available science related to edible
5 protein diversification that is focused on bioproc-
6 essing, biomanufacturing, and the conversion of
7 under-utilized biomass into high-value ingredients;

8 (2) the strategic benefits of expanding research,
9 development, and production of protein diversifica-
10 tion relating to—

11 (A) national security and warfighter readi-
12 ness;

13 (B) agriculture opportunities for domestic
14 farmers;

15 (C) food and agricultural innovation;

16 (D) resilient supply chains; and

17 (E) cross-cutting scientific advancements;

18 (3) global competition and the economic bene-
19 fits of protein diversification relating to—

20 (A) future economic productivity;

21 (B) job creation in the biotechnology sec-
22 tor; and

23 (C) existing public investments and strate-
24 gies of competitor countries; and

1 (4) existing policies and programs offered by
2 the Federal and State governments that—

3 (A) fund open-access research and develop-
4 ment at higher-learning institutions and govern-
5 ment agencies;

6 (B) incentivize private sector research and
7 development;

8 (C) support new and existing food bio-
9 manufacturers;

10 (D) support farmers in the United States
11 that produce crops and feedstocks that support
12 protein diversification and food biomanufac-
13 turing; and

14 (E) represent a barrier for effective—

15 (i) open-access food biomanufacturing
16 research and development;

17 (ii) scale-up of food biomanufacturing;
18 and

19 (iii) regulatory oversight.

20 (c) CONTENTS.—The national strategy shall—

21 (1) use a whole-of-government approach to en-
22 sure that the United States remains the global lead-
23 er of food biomanufacturing, bioprocessing, and bio-
24 workforce development for future generations; and

25 (2) include—

1 (A) objectives to fulfill the purpose of the
2 national strategy specified in paragraph (1), in-
3 cluding interagency coordination;

4 (B) barriers to fulfill such purpose;

5 (C) solutions to the barriers identified in
6 subsection (b)(4)(E); and

7 (D) a plan for the implementation of the
8 national strategy.

9 (d) SECRETARIES CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this
10 section, the term “Secretaries concerned” means—

11 (1) the Secretary of Defense;

12 (2) the Secretary of Energy;

13 (3) the Secretary of Commerce;

14 (4) the Director of the National Science Foun-
15 dation;

16 (5) the Director of the National Institutes of
17 Health;

18 (6) the Commissioner of Food and Drugs;

19 (7) the Director of the Centers for Disease
20 Control and Prevention;

21 (8) the Administrator of the Environmental
22 Protection Agency; and

23 (9) the Director of the Office of Science and
24 Technology Policy.

1 **SEC. 9. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

2 Nothing in this Act, or an amendment made by this
3 Act, shall be construed to support the production of in-
4 sects for food or animal feed.

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