

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1262

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to release a reversionary interest in certain land in the Black River State Forest in Millston, Wisconsin, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 2, 2025

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to release a reversionary interest in certain land in the Black River State Forest in Millston, Wisconsin, 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. RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST, BLACK**
4 **RIVER STATE FOREST, WISCONSIN.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) DELI, INC.—The term “Deli, Inc.” means
7 Deli, Inc., a sphagnum moss production business lo-
8 cated in Millston, Wisconsin.

(2) DELI LAND.—The term “Deli land” means the approximately 37.27 acres of land owned or optioned to acquire, subject to the approval of the land exchange by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, and the Governor of the State, in 2 separate parcels, by Deli, Inc., located in Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and more particularly described as follows:

(A) The approximately 31.3-acre parcel (including land within the road right-of-way), together with any improvements—

(i) comprising the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 2 W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin;

(ii) excluding—

(I) land lying north of the railroad right-of-way; and

(II) a parcel 150 feet wide, with 50 feet lying to the northeast, and 100 feet to the southwest, of a line commencing at a point 5 feet east of the northwest corner of the quarter-quarter section described in clause (i), thence south 56° E. 39' a distance of

1 222 feet, thence south 57° E. 31' a
2 distance of 1359 feet; and

3 (iii) subject to—

4 (I) any public water use or ease-
5 ments on Lee Lake; and

6 (II) any easements or restrictions
7 of record, public roadways, zoning and
8 use ordinances, and the railroad right-
9 of-way.

10 (B) The approximately 5.97-acre parcel lo-
11 cated in the SW¹/₄SW¹/₄ of sec. 20, T. 20 N.,
12 R. 4 W., Town of Millston, Jackson County,
13 Wisconsin, comprising lot 7 of Certified Survey
14 Map No. 4483, as recorded in volume 19S of
15 the certified survey maps, page 334, as Docu-
16 ment No. 413440 in the Jackson County Reg-
17 ister of Deeds.

18 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
19 titled “Black River State Forest – Deli, Inc.” and
20 dated June 26, 2023.

21 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
22 of Wisconsin.

23 (5) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term “State
24 forest land” means the approximately 31.83 acres of
25 land located in the Black River State Forest in

1 Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and
2 more particularly described as follows:

3 (A) The 23.13-acre parcel—

4 (i) comprising the portion of the
5 $E^{1/2}SE^{1/4}$ of sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 2. W.,
6 Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wis-
7 consin, lying south of the Interstate 94
8 southern right-of-way; and

9 (ii) excluding a triangular parcel in
10 the southwest corner described as com-
11 mencing at the southwest corner, thence
12 east 260 feet, thence northwesterly to a
13 point on the west boundary thereof 200
14 feet north of the southwest corner, thence
15 south to the place of beginning.

16 (B) The 8.70-acre parcel comprising the
17 portion of the $NE^{1/4}NE^{1/4}$ of sec. 29, T. 20 N.,
18 R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson County,
19 Wisconsin, lying north of the railroad right-of-
20 way, forming a triangular piece, and more par-
21 ticularly described as commencing at the north-
22 east corner of that quarter-quarter section,
23 thence west 1010 feet to the north line of the
24 railroad right-of-way, thence southeasterly
25 along the boundary of the railroad to the east

1 line of that quarter-quarter section, thence
2 north on the east line 750 feet to the place of
3 beginning.

4 (b) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—

5 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (A) the State forest land is subject to a re-
7 versionary interest of the United States pursu-
8 ant to section 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones
9 Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)), requiring
10 that the State forest land be used for public
11 purposes in perpetuity; and

12 (B) the State and Deli, Inc. have agreed
13 that—

14 (i) the State will convey to Deli, Inc.
15 the State forest land in exchange for the
16 Deli land; and

17 (ii) after that exchange, the Deli land
18 will be added to Black River State Forest
19 in the State.

20 (2) RELEASE.—If the State offers, in a written
21 agreement, to convey to Deli, Inc., the State forest
22 land in exchange for the conveyance of the Deli land
23 by Deli, Inc. to the State—

1 (A) the reversionary interest of the United
2 States in the State forest land shall be released;
3 and

4 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture shall pro-
5 vide, as expeditiously as practicable, recordable
6 evidence of the release under subparagraph (A)
7 in the form of a quitclaim deed, which shall—

8 (i) convey any interest of the United
9 States in and to the State forest land,
10 without consideration; and

11 (ii) be provided to the State for re-
12 cording before the exchange deeds are re-
13 corded.

14 (3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary of Agri-
15 culture, in consultation with the State, may make
16 any necessary corrections to the legal description of
17 the State forest land for purposes of the quitclaim
18 deed described in paragraph (2)(B).

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