

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1701

To promote exports of goods and services from and facilitation of business investment in rural areas of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2021

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Mr. TRONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To promote exports of goods and services from and facilitation of business investment in rural areas of the United States.

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 “Building Rural Invest-
5 ments, Development, and Growth for the Economy Act”
6 or the “BRIDGE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS RELATING TO ATTRACTING BUSINESS IN-**
8 **VESTMENT AND EXPORT PROMOTION.**

9 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Business investment in the United States
2 by both domestic and foreign firms, whether in the
3 form of new equipment or facilities or the expansion
4 of existing facilities, is a major engine of economic
5 growth and job creation. Increasing exports from
6 and investment in rural areas will expand the United
7 States economy and create United States jobs.

8 (2) Rural areas often have greater challenges in
9 attracting business investment, especially because
10 rural areas do not always have economic develop-
11 ment organizations to advance their local economic
12 interests. When a rural area does have a local eco-
13 nomic development organization, it may not have the
14 capacity or funding to compete effectively with larg-
15 er rivals worldwide.

16 (3) Due to their geographic location, rural
17 United States businesses often have limited access to
18 information and services that facilitate export suc-
19 cess.

1 **SEC. 3. PROMOTION OF EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES**
2 **FROM AND FACILITATION OF BUSINESS IN-**
3 **VESTMENT IN RURAL AREAS OF THE UNITED**
4 **STATES.**

5 The Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C.
6 4701 note) is amended by inserting after section 2306 the
7 following new section:

8 **“SEC. 2306A. PROMOTION OF EXPORTS OF GOODS AND**
9 **SERVICES FROM AND FACILITATION OF BUSI-**
10 **NESS INVESTMENT IN RURAL AREAS OF THE**
11 **UNITED STATES.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce and
13 the Secretary of State shall promote the export of goods
14 and services from rural areas of the United States, par-
15 ticularly by small businesses and medium-sized businesses,
16 and shall facilitate business investment in the United
17 States, particularly in rural areas.

18 “(b) RELATIONSHIP TO CHAMPIONING AMERICAN
19 BUSINESS THROUGH DIPLOMACY ACT.—The Secretary of
20 Commerce and the Secretary of State shall carry out sub-
21 section (a) in a manner consistent with the purposes of
22 the Championing American Business Through Diplomacy
23 Act (22 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.).

24 “(c) RURAL AREA DEFINED.—In this section the
25 term ‘rural area’ means an area with a population of less

- 1 than 50,000 inhabitants that is outside an urbanized area,
- 2 as determined by the most recent decennial census.”.

