

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7663

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Great Lakes basin initiative for agricultural nonpoint source pollution prevention.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2022

Mr. WALBERG (for himself and Mr. RYAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Great Lakes basin initiative for agricultural nonpoint source pollution prevention.

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 “Great Lakes Agricul-
5 tural Stewardship Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES BASIN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICUL-**
2 **TURAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION PRE-**
3 **VENTION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 4 of sub-
5 title D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.) is amended by inserting after sec-
7 tion 1240H the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 1240H-1. GREAT LAKES BASIN INITIATIVE FOR AGRI-**
9 **CULTURAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION**
10 **PREVENTION.**

11 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
12 tion with the Great Lakes States, shall establish a Great
13 Lakes basin initiative for agricultural nonpoint source pol-
14 lution prevention in accordance with this section.

15 “(b) INITIATIVE ELEMENTS.—

16 “(1) GRANTS TO STATES.—In implementing the
17 initiative, the Secretary shall provide grants to Great
18 Lakes States to fund the following:

19 “(A) Education and outreach, for pro-
20 ducers in the Great Lakes basin, regarding—

21 “(i) nonpoint pollution of ground and
22 surface water from agricultural activities;

23 “(ii) State verification programs; and

24 “(iii) the initiative.

25 “(B) Technical assistance, including train-
26 ing, to producers in the Great Lakes basin for

1 the implementation of activities that reduce or
2 prevent nonpoint pollution of ground and sur-
3 face water from agricultural activities.

4 “(C) Development and implementation of
5 voluntary State verification programs, with a
6 funding priority for voluntary State verification
7 programs that incorporate Department of Agri-
8 culture conservation planning and practice
9 standards.

10 “(2) FUNDING PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN PRO-
11 DUCERS.—In implementing the initiative, the Sec-
12 retary shall establish a funding priority within the
13 Great Lakes basin for payments to producers under
14 this chapter for producers that participate in the ini-
15 tiative with the purpose of achieving verification
16 through a State verification program.

17 “(c) USE OF EXISTING DATA.—In establishing the
18 initiative, the Secretary shall, where available, use existing
19 plans, models, and assessments.

20 “(d) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out activities
21 under the initiative, a State may collaborate with entities
22 that have agricultural or environmental expertise, includ-
23 ing academic or nonprofit organizations.

24 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) GREAT LAKES BASIN.—The term ‘Great
2 Lakes basin’ means areas in the watershed of the
3 Great Lakes System, as such term is defined in sec-
4 tion 118 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
5 (33 U.S.C. 1268).

6 “(2) GREAT LAKES STATE.—The term ‘Great
7 Lakes State’ means any one of the States of Illinois,
8 Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio,
9 Pennsylvania, or Wisconsin.

10 “(3) INITIATIVE.—The term ‘initiative’ means
11 the Great Lakes basin initiative for agricultural
12 nonpoint source pollution prevention established
13 under subsection (a).

14 “(4) NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION.—The
15 term ‘nonpoint source pollution’ is used within the
16 meaning of that term under the Federal Water Pol-
17 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

18 “(5) STATE VERIFICATION PROGRAM.—The
19 term ‘State verification program’ means a program
20 established by a Great Lakes State to verify pro-
21 ducer implementation of practices approved by the
22 State to reduce nonpoint pollution of ground and
23 surface water from agricultural activities, which may
24 include verification by a third party approved by the
25 State or the Secretary.

1 “(f) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to carry
2 out this subchapter, the Secretary shall carry out this sec-
3 tion using—

4 “(1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

5 “(2) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

6 “(3) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

7 “(4) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.”.

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1240C of
9 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3) is
10 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 section:

12 “(d) SPECIAL RULE FOR GREAT LAKES BASIN.—In
13 evaluating applications of producers in the Great Lakes
14 basin under this subchapter, the Secretary shall prioritize
15 applications in accordance with section 1240H–1(b)(2).”.

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