

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2456

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide for the establishment of climate change mitigation bundles, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2021

Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. GALLAGHER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide for the establishment of climate change mitigation bundles, 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 “Farmers Fighting Cli-
5 mate Change Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION BUNDLES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240I(2)(B)(v) of the
8 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–
9 21(2)(B)(v)) is amended by inserting “climate change
10 and” before “increasing weather volatility”.

1 (b) RANKING OF APPLICATIONS.—Section
2 1240K(b)(1)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3839aa–23(b)(1)(A)) is amended—

4 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “; and” and in-
5 serting a semicolon;

6 (2) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);
7 and

8 (3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

9 “(iii) the degree to which the com-
10 bination of the benefits described in
11 clauses (i) and (ii) effectively target in-
12 creases in carbon sequestration or net re-
13 ductions in greenhouse gas emissions;
14 and”.

15 (c) IN GENERAL.—Section 1240L of the Food Secu-
16 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24) is amended by
17 adding at the end the following:

18 “(m) ESTABLISHMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITI-
19 GATION BUNDLES.—

20 “(1) AVAILABILITY.—In entering into conserva-
21 tion stewardship contracts under section 1240K, the
22 Secretary shall make State- or region-specific cli-
23 mate change mitigation bundles available to pro-
24 ducers in all regions of the country, including by
25 making available climate change mitigation bundles

1 appropriate to cropland, pastureland, rangeland, and
2 forest land.

3 “(2) FLEXIBILITY.—In designing climate
4 change mitigation bundles under this subsection, the
5 Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable,
6 allow producers to select from among conservation
7 activities meeting the requirements of paragraph
8 (3)(A) in order to tailor a climate change mitigation
9 bundle to the site-specific needs of the producer.

10 “(3) CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION BUNDLE
11 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘climate
12 change mitigation bundle’ means a grouping of con-
13 servation activities determined by the Secretary,
14 based on the best available science, to achieve sub-
15 stantial progress, when carried out together, to-
16 ward—

17 “(A) providing a net reduction of green-
18 house gas emissions; or

19 “(B) increasing carbon sequestration and
20 improving soil health.”.

21 (d) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
23 the first date on which climate change bundles are
24 made available to producers pursuant to section
25 1240L(m) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (as

1 added by this Act), the Secretary of Agriculture
2 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
3 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
4 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a
5 report on the activities carried out under such sec-
6 tion.

7 (2) CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall include in
8 the report submitted under paragraph (1)—

9 (A) a summary of feedback, from pro-
10 ducers that have adopted climate change miti-
11 gation bundles pursuant to such section
12 1240L(m), regarding barriers to adoption of
13 such bundles, the makeup of such bundles, pay-
14 ment rates for such bundles, technical assist-
15 ance relating to such bundles, and other rel-
16 evant information;

17 (B) data on such producers, disaggregated
18 by gender, race, age, and congressional district;

19 (C) an assessment of barriers to the adop-
20 tion by producers of climate change mitigation
21 bundles, as identified by the Secretary; and

22 (D) recommendations on steps to increase
23 the adoption of climate change mitigation bun-
24 dles by producers, including recommendations

- 1 for any statutory changes necessary to imple-
- 2 ment such steps.

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