

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5915

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to improve the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 10, 2023

Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. BROWN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. JACKSON LEE) introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to improve the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, 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 “Supporting Urban and
5 Innovative Farming Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE**
2 **PRODUCTION.**

3 Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
4 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting
7 “controlled-environment agriculture, such as”
8 before “indoor”;

9 (B) in paragraph (4)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (F), by striking
11 “and” at the end;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking
13 the period at the end and inserting a semi-
14 colon; and

15 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(H) leveraging the Department and
18 State, Tribal, and local agencies to provide
19 technical assistance for business incorporation,
20 navigating local zoning, and managing farm
21 tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous par-
22 cels to growers implementing activities de-
23 scribed in paragraph (3);

24 “(I) leveraging the Department and State,
25 Tribal, and local agencies to promote conserva-
26 tion techniques unique to urban agriculture and

1 innovative production, including techniques that
2 address stormwater runoff and the impacted
3 nature of urban land and the subsurface of the
4 land; and

5 “(J) assisting urban, innovative, and con-
6 trolled-environment agriculture producers to
7 navigate Federal, State, Tribal, and local poli-
8 cies and regulations that impact business or op-
9 erations.”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(5) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may
13 enter into cooperative agreements with eligible
14 entities described in subparagraph (B) to sup-
15 port the implementation of responsibilities de-
16 scribed in paragraph (4).

17 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible en-
18 tity referred to in subparagraph (A) is—

19 “(i) a nonprofit organization;

20 “(ii) an agricultural cooperative;

21 “(iii) an Indian Tribe; or

22 “(iv) a producer network or associa-
23 tion.

24 “(C) PRIORITY.—In establishing coopera-
25 tive agreements under subparagraph (A), the

1 Director shall give priority to cooperative agree-
2 ments with eligible entities that—

3 “(i) serve geographic areas with high
4 concentrations of urban or suburban
5 farms;

6 “(ii) have established relationships
7 with, or a history of serving, socially dis-
8 advantaged populations;

9 “(iii) have experience working with in-
10 dividuals with limited English proficiency;
11 or

12 “(iv) demonstrate experience pro-
13 viding urban agriculture technical assist-
14 ance in their geographic region.”;

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking
17 “2023” and inserting “2028”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “the
19 date that” and all that follows through “para-
20 graph (2)(B)” and inserting “September 30,
21 2028”;

22 (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
23 following:

24 “(c) GRANTS.—

25 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall
2 award competitive grants to support the devel-
3 opment of urban and innovative agricultural
4 production that improves access to local foods
5 in areas where access to fresh, healthy food is
6 limited, including through community gardens,
7 urban farms, rooftop farms, urban agroforestry,
8 orchards, outdoor vertical production, green
9 walls, indoor farms, controlled-environment ag-
10 riculture, greenhouses, high-tech vertical tech-
11 nology, hydroponics, aeroponics, and
12 aquaponics.

13 “(B) MICROGRANTS.—An eligible entity
14 may use funds from a grant under subpara-
15 graph (A) to provide microgrants to urban and
16 innovative producers to support the growth of
17 the farm or farm business of the urban and in-
18 novative producer.

19 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to
20 receive a grant under paragraph (1)(A) is any of the
21 following:

22 “(A) A nonprofit organization.

23 “(B) A unit of local government.

24 “(C) A Tribal government.

1 “(D) An agricultural cooperative or other
2 agricultural business entity or a producer net-
3 work or association, including a community-
4 supported agriculture network or association.

5 “(E) Any school that serves any of grades
6 kindergarten through grade 12.

7 “(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under
8 subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), the Director
9 shall give priority to applications from eligible enti-
10 ties that plan to use the grant funds to provide
11 microgrants in accordance with subparagraph (B) of
12 that paragraph.”;

13 (4) in subsection (d)—

14 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
15 “PILOT PROJECTS” and inserting “PROJECTS”;

16 (B) in paragraph (1)(C), in the matter
17 preceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and in-
18 serting “2028”; and

19 (C) in paragraph (2)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

21 (I) by striking “shall carry out
22 pilot projects under which the Sec-
23 retary”; and

24 (II) by inserting “and construct
25 at-scale composting or anaerobic di-

1 gestion food waste-to-energy projects”
2 after “food waste reduction plans”;
3 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—
4 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
5 by striking “PILOT”;
6 (II) in the matter preceding
7 clause (i), by inserting “Indian
8 Tribes,” after “counties,”;
9 (III) by redesignating clauses (vi)
10 through (viii) as clauses (vii) through
11 (ix), respectively; and
12 (IV) by inserting after clause (v)
13 the following:
14 “(vi) develop food waste-to-energy op-
15 erations;”;
16 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
17 (C) through (E) as subparagraphs (D)
18 through (F), respectively;
19 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
20 (B) the following:
21 “(C) LIMITATION.—An entity that receives
22 assistance under this paragraph may not use
23 that assistance for an anaerobic digester that
24 uses manure as the majority of its undigested
25 biomass.”; and

1 (v) by striking “pilot” each place it
2 appears; and

3 (5) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(e) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the
6 Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to
7 carry out this section—

8 “(1) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

9 “(2) \$22,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

10 “(3) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

11 “(4) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

12 “(5) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2028.”.

13 **SEC. 3. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

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

17 (1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

18 (2) in clause (v), by striking the period at the
19 end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(vi) hydroponics, aquaponics,
22 aeroponics, and other production tech-
23 nologies used in controlled-environment ag-
24 riculture production.”.

1 **SEC. 4. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, AND**
2 **CERTIFICATION.**

3 Section 1672E(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
4 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g(a)) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “or” at the
7 end;

8 (2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
9 the end and inserting “; or”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(9) in collaboration with the Office of Urban
12 Agriculture and Innovative Production established
13 under section 222 of the Department of Agriculture
14 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923), advise
15 land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in
16 section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research,
17 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
18 U.S.C. 3103), minority-serving institutions (as de-
19 scribed in section 371(a) of the Higher Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)), junior or commu-
21 nity colleges (as that term is defined in section
22 312(f) of such Act), and vocational schools with re-
23 spect to career and technical education, including—

24 “(A) workforce development programs;

25 “(B) professional credentialing; and

1 “(C) the specialized curricula, developed in
2 coordination with the National Institute of
3 Food and Agriculture, non-profit organizations,
4 and trade associations.”.

5 **SEC. 5. DATA COLLECTION ON URBAN, INDOOR, AND**
6 **EMERGING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.**

7 Section 1672E of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
8 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
11 section (e);

12 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(d) DATA COLLECTION ON URBAN, INDOOR, AND
15 EMERGING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this subsection
18 and biennially thereafter, the Secretary, acting
19 through the Director of the National Agricultural
20 Statistics Service, shall prepare and transmit to the
21 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
22 of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of
23 the House of Representatives, and make publicly
24 available, a report containing data on urban, indoor,

1 and other emerging agricultural production, includ-
2 ing data on—

3 “(A) community gardens and farms lo-
4 cated in urban areas, suburbs, and urban clus-
5 ters;

6 “(B) rooftop farms, outdoor vertical pro-
7 duction, and green walls;

8 “(C) controlled environment agriculture,
9 indoor farms, greenhouses, and high-tech
10 vertical technology farms;

11 “(D) hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic
12 farm facilities;

13 “(E) other innovations in agricultural pro-
14 duction, as determined by the Secretary;

15 “(F) the locations of the facilities de-
16 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (E); and

17 “(G) demographic information on the own-
18 ers and operators of those facilities.

19 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this subsection \$14,000,000 for the period of fiscal
22 years 2024 through 2028.”; and

1 (3) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by in-
2 serting “(other than subsection (d))” after “this sec-
3 tion” each place it appears.

○