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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary will enter into cooperative agreements with State, local, or Tribal governments increase the purchase of local foods, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. BRESNAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary will enter into cooperative agreements with State, local, or Tribal governments increase the purchase of local foods, 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 “Local Farmers Feed-  
5       ing our Communities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LOCAL FARMERS FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES**  
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall  
4 establish a program under which the Secretary will enter  
5 into cooperative agreements (on a noncompetitive basis)  
6 with eligible entities—

7 (1) to help support covered local producers  
8 through building and expanding economic opportuni-  
9 ties;

10 (2) to establish and broaden partnerships with  
11 such covered local producers and the food distribu-  
12 tion community to ensure distribution of fresh and  
13 nutritious foods; and

14 (3) to strengthen such entity's local and re-  
15 gional food security and systems.

16 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity selected to  
17 enter into a cooperative agreement under this section shall  
18 use funds received through such agreement—

19 (1) to purchase unprocessed or minimally proc-  
20 essed local foods (including seafood, meat, milk and  
21 dairy products, eggs, produce, and poultry) from  
22 covered producers;

23 (2) to ensure that at least 25 percent of the  
24 total annual value of products purchased by the eli-  
25 gible entity comprises purchases from small-size pro-

1       ducers, mid-size producers, beginning farmers or  
2       ranchers, or veteran farmers or ranchers;

3           (3) to provide technical assistance supporting—

4               (A) covered local producers, including in  
5       obtaining food safety training and certifications;  
6       and

7               (B) efforts to grow the local agricultural  
8       value chain;

9           (4) to distribute such local foods to organiza-  
10      tions that have experience in food distribution to im-  
11      prove access to healthy and nutritious food; and

12          (5) to build and expand economic opportunity  
13      for covered local producers.

14      (c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

15          (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made avail-  
16      able to an eligible entity through a cooperative  
17      agreement under this section, an eligible entity may  
18      use not more than 25 percent of such amount—

19              (A) to cover administrative expenses; and

20              (B) to provide technical assistance de-  
21      scribed in subsection (b)(3);

22          (2) ALLOCATION FOR TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
23      ANCE.—Of the amount described in paragraph (1),  
24      an eligible entity shall use not less than 50 percent

1 to provide technical assistance described in sub-  
2 section (b)(3).

3 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ENTI-  
4 TIES.—The Secretary shall provide to eligible entities en-  
5 tering into a cooperative agreement under this section  
6 guidance, technical assistance, instruction, and monitoring  
7 throughout the life cycle of the cooperative agreement.

8 (e) AMOUNT OF ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts  
9 made available to carry out this section for each fiscal  
10 year, the Secretary shall—

11 (1) allocate 10 percent to Tribal governments,  
12 to be allocated using a funding formula determined  
13 by the Secretary; and

14 (2) of the amounts remaining after making the  
15 allocation under paragraph (1), allocate 1 percent to  
16 each State (other than Tribal governments); and

17 (3) after making the allocations under para-  
18 graphs (1) and (2), allocate the remaining amounts  
19 to each eligible entity (other than Tribal govern-  
20 ments) by applying the formula described in section  
21 214 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983  
22 (7 U.S.C. 7515).

23 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER; VET-  
25 ERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The terms “beginning

1 farmer or rancher” and “veteran farmer or rancher”  
2 have the meanings given such terms in section 2501  
3 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade  
4 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279).

5 (2) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term “covered  
6 producer” means a fisherman, farmer, producer,  
7 rancher, processor, or cooperative processor that  
8 is—

9 (A) within the geographic boundaries of  
10 the eligible entity in which the food will be de-  
11 livered; or

12 (B) not more than 400 miles from the de-  
13 livery destination of the food.

14 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
15 ty” means a State agency, commission, or depart-  
16 ment that is responsible for agriculture, procure-  
17 ment, food distribution, emergency response, or  
18 other similar activities within the State.

19 (4) MID-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term “medium-  
20 sized producer” means an individual whose annual  
21 gross cash farm income is equal to or exceeds  
22 \$350,000 and is less than \$999,999.

23 (5) SMALL-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term “small-  
24 sized producer” means one whose annual gross cash  
25 farm income is less than \$350,000.

1           (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
2           the several States, the District of Columbia, each  
3           territory or possession of the United States, and  
4           each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

5           (7) UNPROCESSED OR MINIMALLY PROCESSED  
6           LOCAL FOODS.—The term “unprocessed or mini-  
7           mally processed local foods” means food products  
8           means only those agricultural products that retain  
9           their inherent character. Such term includes—

10                   (A) fruits and vegetables (including 100  
11                   percent juices);

12                   (B) grain products, such as pastas and  
13                   rice;

14                   (C) meats (including whole carcasses,  
15                   pieces thereof, or ground meat);

16                   (D) protein sources that are meat alter-  
17                   natives (such as beans or legumes) and fluid  
18                   milk and other dairy foods (such as cheese and  
19                   yogurt); and

20                   (E) foods in a wide variety of minimal  
21                   processing states (such as whole, cut, or pu-  
22                   reed) or forms (such as fresh, frozen, canned,  
23                   or dried).

24           (g) FUNDING.—

1           (1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of  
2           the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary  
3           shall use to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for  
4           fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

5           (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
6           There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
7           this section \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
8           2026 through 2030, to remain available until ex-  
9           pended.