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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Plant Protection Act for purposes of mitigating the threat of invasive species, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WELCH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Plant Protection Act for purposes of mitigating the threat of invasive species, 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 “Invasive Species Pre-
5 vention and Forest Restoration Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING EMERGENCY AUTHORITY WITH RE-**
2 **SPECT TO INVASIVE SPECIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 442 of
4 the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7772) is amended by
5 striking “noxious weed threatens” and inserting “noxious
6 weed directly or indirectly threatens”.

7 (b) EMERGENCY DEFINED.—Section 442 of the
8 Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7772) is amended by add-
9 ing at the end the following new subsection:

10 “(d) EMERGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the
11 term ‘emergency’ means an outbreak of a plant pest or
12 noxious weed that the Secretary determines is occurring
13 at a time during which insufficient Federal funds are
14 available to timely achieve the arrest, control, eradication,
15 or prevention of the spread of such plant pest or noxious
16 weed.”.

17 (c) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—Subsection (b) of
18 section 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7772)
19 is amended by adding at the end the following: “Any funds
20 so transferred with respect to a designation of an emer-
21 gency under subsection (a) shall be transferred not later
22 than 60 days after the date on which such designation
23 is made.”.

24 **SEC. 3. FOREST RECLAMATION GRANTS.**

25 Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
26 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310

1 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following
2 new section:

3 **“SEC. 1473H. FOREST RECLAMATION GRANTS.**

4 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Sec-
5 retary, for purposes of addressing the critical threat to
6 numerous tree species posed by non-native plant pests and
7 noxious weeds, shall award competitive grants to eligible
8 institutions under which such eligible institutions—

9 “(1) conduct research to promote the restora-
10 tion of affected tree species, including research on—

11 “(A) biological control of plant pests or
12 noxious weeds threatening native tree species
13 heavily damaged by non-native pests;

14 “(B) exploration of genetic manipulation of
15 plant pests or noxious weeds;

16 “(C) enhancement of host-resistance mech-
17 anisms; and

18 “(D) development of other strategies for
19 restoring individual tree species; and

20 “(2) develop and disseminate to the public tools
21 and information based on the research conducted
22 under this section.

23 “(b) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—An entity eligible to
24 receive a grant under this section is any of the following:

25 “(1) An agency of the Federal Government.

1 “(2) A State cooperative institution.

2 “(3) A college or university offering a baccalaureate or higher degree in the study of food, forestry, and agricultural sciences.

3 “(4) A nonprofit entity described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code).

4 “(c) APPLICATION.—Each eligible institution seeking to receive a grant under this section shall submit a comprehensive forest restoration research program to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

5 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution receiving a grant under this section may use funds received through such grant only to conduct research intended to address specific questions related to the recovery of tree species native to the United States suffering severe levels of mortality caused by non-native plant pests or noxious weeds.

7 “(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An eligible institution receiving a grant under this section shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than 20 percent of the grant. Indirect costs charged against a grant award-

1 ed under this section shall not exceed 30 percent of
2 the total Federal funds provided under the grant
3 award.

4 “(3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—The
5 total amount of grant funding a grant recipient is
6 eligible to receive under this section shall not exceed
7 \$400,000 per year.

8 “(e) COOPERATION AMONG ELIGIBLE INSTITU-
9 TIONS.—The Secretary, to the maximum extent prac-
10 ticable, shall encourage eligible institutions to cooperate
11 in setting research priorities under this section.

12 “(f) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out this sub-
13 section, the Secretary shall—

14 “(1) establish a committee of experts composed
15 of representatives of the Forest Service, the Animal
16 and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Agricul-
17 tural Research Service, and State forestry agencies
18 to advise the Secretary on criteria appropriate for—

19 “(A) defining research topics eligible for
20 funding under this section;

21 “(B) reviewing grant proposals’ adherence
22 to the purposes specified in subsection (a)(1);
23 and

24 “(C) membership in scientific peer review
25 panels to review grant applications;

1 “(2) establish an advisory committee composed
2 of representatives of land-grant colleges and univer-
3 sities and affiliated State agricultural experiment
4 stations, the forest products industry, recreationists,
5 and conservation organizations to assist the com-
6 mittee of experts established under paragraph (1)
7 with respect to the responsibilities of such committee
8 specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of such
9 paragraph; and

10 “(3) submit, beginning one year after the date
11 on which the first grant is awarded under this sec-
12 tion, and annually thereafter, to the Committee on
13 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
14 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
15 of the Senate a report on the use of funds under
16 this section in the previous year.

17 “(g) FUNDING.—Of the funds available to the Com-
18 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make avail-
19 able to carry out this section—

20 “(1) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

21 “(2) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

22 “(3) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

23 “(4) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

24 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section and in section
25 1473I, the terms ‘plant pest’ and ‘noxious weed’ have the

1 meanings given such terms in section 403 of the Plant
2 Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7702).”.

3 **SEC. 4. FOREST RESTORATION IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.**

4 Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
5 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310
6 et seq.), as amended by section 3, is further amended by
7 adding at the end the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 1473I. FOREST RESTORATION IMPLEMENTATION**
9 **GRANTS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants
11 on a competitive basis under this section to eligible entities
12 to support—

13 “(1) the implementation of research conducted
14 pursuant to section 1473H; or

15 “(2) any other solution that the committee es-
16 tablished under subsection (f)(1) of such section de-
17 termines to be an effective solution to restore forest
18 tree species native to forests in the United States
19 that have suffered severe levels of mortality caused
20 by non-native plant pests or noxious weeds.

21 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-
22 ceive a grant under this section is any of the following:

23 “(1) A cooperating forestry school.

24 “(2) A land-grant college or university.

25 “(3) A State agricultural experimental station.

1 “(4) A non-profit, non-governmental organiza-
2 tion.

3 “(c) APPLICATION.—Each eligible institution seeking
4 to receive a grant under this section shall submit an appli-
5 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
6 containing such information as the Secretary may require.
7 Such application shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of
8 the Secretary that the entity has a program in effect with
9 a forest restoration strategy that incorporates a majority
10 of the following components:

11 “(1) Collection and conservation of native tree
12 genetic material.

13 “(2) Production of propagules of native trees in
14 numbers large enough for landscape scale restora-
15 tion.

16 “(3) Preparation of planting sites in former
17 habitats of the native tree species that is the subject
18 of the proposal.

19 “(4) Planting of native tree seedlings.

20 “(5) Post-planting maintenance of native trees.

21 “(d) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall se-
22 lect an eligible entity to receive a grant under this section
23 based on the degree to which the entity’s application ad-
24 dresses the following criteria:

1 “(1) Risk posed to the forests of the State in
2 which the work is to be conducted by non-native
3 plant pest or noxious weed species present in the
4 State.

5 “(2) The proportion of such State’s forest com-
6 posed of species vulnerable to non-native plant pests
7 or noxious weeds present in the United States.

8 “(3) The non-native plant pests or noxious
9 weeds’ rate of spread via natural or human-assisted
10 means.

11 “(4) The environmental and public health safe-
12 ty of the proposed project, as demonstrated by sup-
13 porting research.

14 “(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An eligible institu-
15 tion receiving a grant under this section shall provide
16 matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount
17 equal to not less than 10 percent of the grant. Indirect
18 costs charged against a grant awarded under this section
19 shall not exceed 30 percent of the total Federal funds pro-
20 vided under the grant award.

21 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
23 appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000
24 for each fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

1 “(2) LIMITATION.—Of the funds made available
2 under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, not more than
3 5 percent of such amounts may be used by the Sec-
4 retary for expenses related to administering the pro-
5 gram under this section.”.