

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5381

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance in support of nurseries and seed orchards, to establish a grant program in support of nurseries and seed orchards, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance in support of nurseries and seed orchards, to establish a grant program in support of nurseries and seed orchards, 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 “Reforestation, Nurs-
5 eries, and Genetic Resources Support Act of 2023” or the
6 “RNGR Support Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD SUPPORT.**

2 (a) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER
3 ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED OR-
4 CHARDS.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through
5 the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

6 (1) partner with Federal and State agencies,
7 Indian Tribes, and private nurseries to provide
8 training, technical assistance, and research to nurs-
9 ery and tree establishment programs that support
10 natural regeneration, reforestation, agroforestry, and
11 afforestation;

12 (2) promote information sharing to improve
13 technical knowledge and practices and understand
14 demands, climate change impacts, and other issues
15 as necessary to address all facets of the reforestation
16 pipeline;

17 (3) provide technical and financial assistance to
18 international nursery and tree establishment pro-
19 grams through the Forest Service International Pro-
20 grams, the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, and
21 the International Institute of Tropical Forestry;

22 (4) collaborate with other relevant Federal de-
23 partments and agencies, including the Foreign Agri-
24 cultural Service of the Department of Agriculture,
25 the United States Agency for International Develop-
26 ment, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of

1 the Department of the Interior, and international or-
2 ganizations, including the Food and Agriculture Or-
3 ganization of the United Nations, to provide tech-
4 nical and financial assistance related to nurseries
5 and reforestation;

6 (5) coordinate the efforts of the Department of
7 Agriculture to—

8 (A) address the challenges associated with
9 the reforestation pipeline; and

10 (B) leverage economic development assist-
11 ance for work with private nurseries; and

12 (6) expand climate-informed reforestation sup-
13 ply chains through science and research, seed collec-
14 tion and storage, and nursery infrastructure and op-
15 erations.

16 (b) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD GRANTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
18 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
19 of Agriculture shall establish a program to provide
20 grants to eligible recipients to support nurseries and
21 seed orchards.

22 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The Secretary may
23 make a grant under this section to an eligible recipi-
24 ent for a project to do at least one of the following:

1 (A) Develop, expand, enhance, or improve
2 nursery production capacity or other infrastruc-
3 ture to—

4 (i) improve seed collection and stor-
5 age;

6 (ii) increase seedling production, stor-
7 age, and distribution; or

8 (iii) enhance seedling survival and
9 properly manage tree genetic resources.

10 (B) Establish or expand a nursery or seed
11 orchard, including by acquiring equipment for
12 such nursery or seed orchard.

13 (C) Develop or implement quality control
14 measures at nurseries or seed orchards.

15 (D) Promote workforce development within
16 any facet of the reforestation pipeline.

17 (E) Carry out such other activity as the
18 Secretary determines appropriate.

19 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
21 recipient” means—

22 (A) a State forestry agency;

23 (B) an Indian Tribe; and

24 (C) a private nursery that has experience
25 growing high-quality native trees of appropriate

1 genetic sources in bareroot or container
2 stocktypes specific for reforestation, restoration,
3 or conservation, including native plants and
4 seeds that are of cultural significance to Indian
5 Tribes.

6 (2) NURSERY.—The term “nursery” means a
7 tree or native plant nursery.

8 (3) SEED ORCHARD.—The term “seed orchard”
9 means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

10 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
11 the several States, the District of Columbia, the
12 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or
13 possession of the United States.

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

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