

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5487

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the regional conservation partnership program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2018

Mr. COSTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the regional conservation partnership program, 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 “Regional Conservation  
5 Partnership Program Improvement Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.**

7 Section 1271 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
8 U.S.C. 3871) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, in-  
2 cluding grant agreements under section  
3 1271C(d),” after “partnership agreements”;  
4 and

5 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “con-  
6 tracts with producers” and inserting “program  
7 contracts with eligible producers”; and  
8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), in the matter pre-  
10 ceeding subparagraph (A), by striking “use cov-  
11 ered programs” and inserting “carry out con-  
12 servation activities”;

13 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-  
14 ing the following:

15 “(2) To further the conservation, protection,  
16 restoration, and sustainable use of soil, water (in-  
17 cluding sources of drinking water), wildlife, agricul-  
18 tural land, and related natural resources on eligible  
19 land on a regional or watershed scale.”;

20 (C) in paragraph (3)—

21 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
22 graph (A), by inserting “eligible” before  
23 “producers”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
2 “installation” and inserting “adoption, in-  
3 stallation,”; and

4 (D) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(4) To encourage the flexible and streamlined  
6 delivery of conservation assistance to eligible pro-  
7 ducers through partnership agreements.

8 “(5) To encourage alignment of partnership  
9 projects with other Federal, State, and local agen-  
10 cies and programs addressing similar natural re-  
11 source concerns in a coordinated manner.

12 “(6) To engage eligible producers in conserva-  
13 tion projects to achieve greater conservation out-  
14 comes and benefits for eligible producers than would  
15 otherwise be achieved.

16 “(7) To advance conservation and rural commu-  
17 nity development goals simultaneously.”.

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19 Section 1271A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
20 U.S.C. 3871a) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1) by adding at the end the  
22 following:

23 “(E) The conservation reserve program es-  
24 tablished under subchapter B of chapter 1 of  
25 subtitle D.”;

1           (2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and in-  
2           serting the following:

3           “(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—The term ‘eligible  
4           activity’ means—

5                   “(A) an eligible activity under the statu-  
6                   tory authority for a covered program; and

7                   “(B) any other related activity that an eli-  
8                   gible partner determines will help achieve con-  
9                   servation benefits, subject to the approval of the  
10                  Secretary.

11          “(3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term ‘eligible land’  
12          means—

13                   “(A) eligible land under the statutory au-  
14                   thority for a covered program; and

15                   “(B) any other agricultural or nonindus-  
16                   trial private forest land or associated land on  
17                   which the Secretary determines an eligible ac-  
18                   tivity would help achieve conservation bene-  
19                   fits.”;

20          (3) in paragraph (4), in subparagraph (E), by  
21          inserting “management or” after “specific water”;

22          (4) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as  
23          paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively;

24          (5) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-  
25          lowing:

1           “(5) ELIGIBLE PRODUCER.—The term ‘eligible  
2 producer’ means a person, legal entity, or Indian  
3 tribe that is an owner or operator of eligible land.”;  
4 and

5           (6) by adding at the end the following:

6           “(8) PROGRAM CONTRACT.—The term ‘program  
7 contract’ means a contract established by the Sec-  
8 retary under section 1271C(a).”.

9 **SEC. 4. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.**

10       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1271B of the Food Secu-  
11 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b) is amended—

12           (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “eligible” be-  
13 fore “producers”;

14           (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
15 following:

16       “(b) MAXIMUM LENGTH.—

17           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
18 graph (2), the term of a partnership agreement shall  
19 not be longer than 5 years.

20       “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

21           “(A) CONCURRENT PROGRAM DEAD-  
22 LINE.—The Secretary may enter into a partner-  
23 ship agreement for a term that is longer than  
24 5 years if the eligible partner with which the  
25 Secretary enters into such agreement is a par-

1 participant in a State or Federal program that re-  
2 lates specifically to the project that is the sub-  
3 ject of the partnership agreement and such par-  
4 ticipation is for a term longer than 5 years.

5 “(B) SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—Upon re-  
6 quest by an eligible partner, the Secretary may  
7 extend the term of a partnership agreement  
8 with the eligible partner if the Secretary deter-  
9 mines that special circumstances outside the  
10 control of the eligible partner have created a  
11 delay in the implementation of a project that is  
12 a subject of the partnership agreement.”;

13 (3) in subsection (c)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

16 (I) by redesignating clauses (iii)  
17 and (iv) as clauses (iv) and (v), re-  
18 spectively; and

19 (II) by striking clauses (i) and  
20 (ii) and inserting the following:

21 “(i) 1 or more natural resource con-  
22 cerns that the project will address;

23 “(ii) the eligible activities to be con-  
24 ducted under the project to address the  
25 natural resource concerns;

1 “(iii) the implementation timeline for  
2 carrying out the project, including any in-  
3 terim milestones;”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
5 “eligible” before “producers”;

6 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
7 “a producer” each place it appears and in-  
8 serting “an eligible producer”;

9 (iv) in subparagraph (D), by inserting  
10 “or in-kind contributions” after “addi-  
11 tional funds”; and

12 (v) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
13 “of the project’s effects; and” and insert-  
14 ing the following: “of—

15 “(i) the progress made by the project  
16 in addressing each natural resource con-  
17 cern defined under subparagraph (A), in-  
18 cluding in a quantified form; and

19 “(ii) as appropriate, other environ-  
20 mental, economic, or social outcomes of the  
21 project; and”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) by striking “An eligible” and in-  
24 serting the following:

25 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible”; and

1                   (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
2                   lowing:

3                   “(B) FORM.—A contribution of an eligible  
4                   partner under this paragraph may be in the  
5                   form of—

6                               “(i) direct funding; or

7                               “(ii) in-kind support.

8                   “(C) TREATMENT.—Any amounts ex-  
9                   pended before the effective date of a partner-  
10                  ship agreement under this section by an eligible  
11                  partner for staff salaries for development of the  
12                  partnership agreement shall be considered to be  
13                  a part of the contribution of the eligible partner  
14                  under this paragraph.”;

15                  (4) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
16                  section (e);

17                  (5) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
18                  lowing:

19                  “(d) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall—

20                               “(1) establish a timeline for carrying out the  
21                               duties of the Secretary under a partnership agree-  
22                               ment, including—

23                                       “(A) entering into contracts with eligible  
24                                       producers;



1           “(B) providing financial assistance to eligi-  
2           ble producers; and

3           “(C) in the case of a partnership agree-  
4           ment that is a grant agreement under section  
5           1271C(d), providing the grant amounts to the  
6           eligible partner;

7           “(2) establish in each State a program coordi-  
8           nator for the State, who shall be responsible solely  
9           for providing assistance to eligible partners and eli-  
10          gible producers under the program;

11          “(3) establish guidance to assist eligible part-  
12          ners with carrying out the assessment required  
13          under subsection (c)(1)(E); and

14          “(4) provide to each eligible partner that has  
15          entered into a partnership agreement—

16                 “(A) a quarterly report describing the sta-  
17                 tus of each pending and obligated contract  
18                 under the project of the eligible partner; and

19                 “(B) an annual report describing how the  
20                 Secretary used amounts reserved by the Sec-  
21                 retary for that year for technical assistance  
22                 under section 1271D(f).”; and

23          (6) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by para-  
24          graph (4))—

25                 (A) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) by striking the paragraph designa-  
2 tion and heading and all that follows  
3 through “description of—” and inserting  
4 the following:

5 “(3) CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall develop  
6 a simplified application process that requires each  
7 application submitted under this subsection to in-  
8 clude a description of—”;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
10 “, including the covered programs to be  
11 used”; and

12 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting  
13 “or in-kind” after “financial”;

14 (B) in paragraph (4)—

15 (i) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by  
16 inserting “eligible” before “producers”  
17 each place it appears;

18 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs  
19 (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and  
20 (G), respectively; and

21 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
22 (D) the following:

23 “(E) develop and implement watershed or  
24 habitat plans to address 1 or more natural re-  
25 source concerns;” and

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

2 “(5) FUNDING RENEWALS.—If an eligible part-  
3 ner demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary  
4 that the eligible partner has made progress in ad-  
5 dressing 1 or more natural resource concerns de-  
6 fined in the partnership agreement, not earlier than  
7 1 year before the date of expiration of the partner-  
8 ship agreement, the eligible partner may request  
9 from the Secretary a renewal of the partnership  
10 agreement, including a renewal of funding, through  
11 an expedited approval process—

12 “(A) to continue to implement the partner-  
13 ship agreement;

14 “(B) to expand the scope of the partner-  
15 ship agreement;

16 “(C) to enroll additional eligible producers;  
17 or

18 “(D) to carry out other conservation activi-  
19 ties relating to the project, including the assess-  
20 ment of the project under subsection (e)(1)(E),  
21 as mutually agreed by the Secretary and the eli-  
22 gible partner.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1271E(a)  
24 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e(a))

1 is amended by striking “1271B(d)” each place it appears  
2 and inserting “1271B(e)”.

3 **SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1271C of the Food Secu-  
5 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c) is amended—

6 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**ELIGI-**  
7 **BLE**” before “**PRODUCERS**”;

8 (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-  
9 serting the following:

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into  
11 contracts with eligible producers to provide to such eligible  
12 producer financial or technical assistance to conduct eligi-  
13 ble activities on eligible land, subject to such terms and  
14 conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

15 “(b) AGGREGATED APPLICATIONS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of ad-  
17 dressing a natural resources concern that would be  
18 benefitted by the submission of an aggregated appli-  
19 cation, an eligible partner may submit to the Sec-  
20 retary, on behalf multiple eligible producers, such  
21 aggregated application for a contract for assistance  
22 under this section.

23 “(2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give pri-  
24 ority to such aggregated applications described in  
25 paragraph (1).”;

1 (3) in subsection (c)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “In ac-  
3 cordance with statutory requirements of the  
4 covered programs involved, the Secretary may  
5 make payments to a producer” and inserting  
6 “Subject to section 1271D, the Secretary may  
7 make payments to an eligible producer”;

8 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “eligi-  
9 ble” before “producers” each place it appears;  
10 and

11 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “partici-  
12 pating” and inserting “eligible”; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(d) FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH GRANT  
15 AGREEMENTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A contract entered into  
17 under this section may be a grant agreement entered  
18 into with an eligible partner in accordance with this  
19 subsection.

20 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Under a grant agree-  
21 ment under paragraph (1)—

22 “(A) using amounts made available to  
23 carry out this subtitle, the Secretary shall pro-  
24 vide to the eligible partner a grant;

1           “(B) the eligible partner shall carry out el-  
2           igible activities on eligible land (including by  
3           contracting with 1 or more producers, if the eli-  
4           gible partner determines the contracting to be  
5           appropriate), on the condition that the eligible  
6           activities directly or indirectly benefit agricul-  
7           tural producers (including forestry producers),  
8           to address natural resource concerns on a re-  
9           gional or watershed scale, such as—

10                   “(i) infrastructure investments relat-  
11                   ing to agricultural or nonindustrial private  
12                   forest production that would benefit mul-  
13                   tiple producers, such as a multiproducer ir-  
14                   rigation water delivery system;

15                   “(ii) projects addressing water quality  
16                   or quantity concerns in coordination with  
17                   producers, including the development and  
18                   implementation of watershed plans;

19                   “(iii) projects that use innovative ap-  
20                   proaches to leveraging the Federal invest-  
21                   ment in conservation with private financial  
22                   mechanisms, in conjunction with agricul-  
23                   tural production or forest resource man-  
24                   agement, such as—

1                   “(I) the provision of perform-  
2                   ance-based payments to eligible pro-  
3                   ducers; and

4                   “(II) support for an environ-  
5                   mental market;

6                   “(iv) projects that promote ground-  
7                   water replenishment;

8                   “(v) projects that facilitate pilot test-  
9                   ing of new conservation practices, tech-  
10                  nologies, or activities;

11                  “(vi) projects that promote the long-  
12                  term viability and sustainability of agricul-  
13                  tural land through innovative agricultural  
14                  land protection strategies and mechanisms,  
15                  including projects that support the transfer  
16                  of land to beginning farmers and ranchers,  
17                  veteran farmers and ranchers (as deter-  
18                  mined by the Secretary), socially disadvan-  
19                  taged farmers and ranchers, and limited  
20                  resource farmers and ranchers (as deter-  
21                  mined by the Secretary); and

22                  “(vii) other projects for which the  
23                  Secretary determines that the goals and  
24                  objectives of the program would be easier

1 to achieve through the grant agreement;  
2 and

3 “(C) the Secretary may provide technical  
4 and administrative assistance, as mutually  
5 agreed by the parties.

6 “(3) NONAPPLICABILITY OF ADJUSTED GROSS  
7 INCOME LIMITATION.—The adjusted gross income  
8 limitation described in section 1001D(b)(1) shall not  
9 apply to the receipt by an eligible partner of a grant  
10 under this subsection.

11 “(4) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not use  
12 more than 30 percent of funding made available to  
13 carry out the program for grant agreements.

14 “(5) REPORTS.—An eligible partner that enters  
15 into a grant agreement under this subsection shall  
16 submit to the Secretary—

17 “(A) any information that the Secretary  
18 requires to prepare the report under section  
19 1271E(b); and

20 “(B) an annual report that describes the  
21 status of the project carried out by the eligible  
22 partner, including a description of—

23 “(i) the use of the grant funds;

24 “(ii) any subcontracts awarded using  
25 grant funds;



1 “(iii) the eligible producers receiving  
2 funding using the grant funds;

3 “(iv)(I) the progress made by the  
4 project in addressing each natural resource  
5 concern defined in the grant agreement, in-  
6 cluding in a quantified form; and

7 “(II) as appropriate, other environ-  
8 mental, economic, or social outcomes of the  
9 project; and

10 “(v) any other reporting data the Sec-  
11 retary determines are necessary to ensure  
12 compliance with the program rules.”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
14 1271E(b)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
15 3871e(b)(4)) is amended in the matter preceding subpara-  
16 graph (A) by striking “1271C(b)(2)” and inserting  
17 “1271C(d)”.

18 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1271D of the Food Secu-  
20 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “for each of  
22 fiscal years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “for  
23 each fiscal year”;

24 (2) in subsection (c), by striking paragraphs (1)  
25 and (2) and inserting the following:

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—To ensure that additional  
2 resources are available to carry out the program, in  
3 addition to the funds made available under sub-  
4 section (a), for each fiscal year the Secretary shall  
5 reserve 7 percent of the funds and acres made avail-  
6 able for the following programs:

7           “(A) The conservation stewardship pro-  
8 gram established under subchapter B of chapter  
9 2 of subtitle D.

10           “(B) The environmental quality incentives  
11 program established under chapter 4 of subtitle  
12 D.

13           “(C) The agricultural conservation ease-  
14 ment program established under subtitle H.

15           “(2) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Any funds  
16 or acres reserved under paragraph (1) shall remain  
17 available for obligation only for the purposes of car-  
18 rying out the program until expended.

19           “(3) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—To the max-  
20 imum extent practicable, of projects receiving funds  
21 or acres reserved under paragraph (1) from a pro-  
22 gram described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of  
23 that paragraph, the percentage of projects that shall  
24 have purposes similar to the purposes of the applica-  
25 ble program from which funds or acres were re-

1 served shall be approximately equal to the percent-  
2 age of funds or acres reserved from the applicable  
3 program.”;

4 (3) in subsection (d)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “25 per-  
6 cent of the funds and acres to projects based on  
7 a State competitive process administered by the  
8 State Conservationist, with the advice of the  
9 State technical committee” and inserting the  
10 following: “40 percent of the funds and acres to  
11 projects based on a State or multistate competi-  
12 tive process administered, as applicable, by the  
13 State Conservationist or jointly by the State  
14 Conservationists of each State participating in  
15 the multistate process, with the advice of the  
16 applicable State technical committees”;

17 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

18 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
19 paragraph (2); and

20 (D) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated),  
21 by striking “35 percent” and inserting “60 per-  
22 cent”;

23 (4) in subsection (e)—

24 (A) by striking “None of the funds” and  
25 inserting the following:

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
2 graph (2), none of the funds”;

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

4           “(2) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND OUT-  
5 REACH.—Under a partnership agreement, the Sec-  
6 retary may advance reasonable amounts of funding  
7 for technical assistance to eligible partners to con-  
8 duct project development and outreach activities in  
9 a project area (including activities conducted before  
10 the effective date of the partnership agreement), in-  
11 cluding—

12           “(A) providing outreach and education to  
13 eligible producers for potential participation in  
14 the project;

15           “(B) developing a watershed or habitat  
16 plan;

17           “(C) establishing baseline metrics to sup-  
18 port the development of the assessment re-  
19 quired under section 1271B(c)(1)(E); or

20           “(D) providing technical assistance to eligi-  
21 ble producers.”; and

22           (5) by adding at the end the following:

23           “(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

24           “(1) IN GENERAL.—At the time of project se-  
25 lection, the Secretary shall identify and make pub-

1       lically available the amount that the Secretary shall  
2       use to provide technical assistance under the terms  
3       of the partnership agreement.

4               “(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit  
5       costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to  
6       costs specific and necessary to carry out the objec-  
7       tives of the partnership agreement.

8               “(3) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretary  
9       shall develop and implement strategies to encourage  
10       third-party technical service providers to provide  
11       technical assistance to eligible partners pursuant to  
12       a partnership agreement.”.

13       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1271F(a)  
14       of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(a))  
15       is amended by striking “1271D(d)(3)” and inserting  
16       “1271D(d)(2)”.

17       **SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATION.**

18       Section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
19       U.S.C. 3871e) (as amended by section 5(b)) is amended—

20               (1) in subsection (b)—

21                       (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
22               by striking “December 31, 2014” and inserting  
23               “December 31, 2018”;

1 (B) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by inserting  
2 “eligible” before “producers” each place it ap-  
3 pears;

4 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
5 through (4) as paragraphs (2) through (5), re-  
6 spectively; and

7 (D) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as  
8 so redesignated) the following:

9 “(1) a summary of—

10 “(A) the progress made towards address-  
11 ing the 1 or more natural resource concerns de-  
12 fined for the projects; and

13 “(B) any other related environmental, so-  
14 cial, or economic outcomes of the projects;”;  
15 and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(c) COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN REQUIRE-  
18 MENTS.—The Secretary may not provide assistance under  
19 the program to an eligible producer unless the eligible pro-  
20 ducer agrees, during the program year for which the as-  
21 sistance is provided—

22 “(1) to comply with applicable conservation re-  
23 quirements under subtitle B; and

24 “(2) to comply with applicable wetland protec-  
25 tion requirements under subtitle C.

1 “(d) MAINTAINING BENEFITS.—

2 “(1) CONSERVATION.—For any conservation  
3 practice standard developed or modified by an eligi-  
4 ble partner and any related activity described in sec-  
5 tion 1271A(2)(B), the Secretary shall ensure that  
6 the new or modified conservation practice standard  
7 or related activity—

8 “(A) is based on the best available science;

9 “(B) is implemented after consultation  
10 with the State conservationist (or a designee) to  
11 assess the anticipated effectiveness of the new  
12 or modified conservation practice; and

13 “(C) produces conservation benefits.

14 “(2) HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED PRO-  
15 DUCERS.—To the maximum extent practicable, in  
16 carrying out the program, the Secretary shall work  
17 with eligible partners to maintain eligible benefits  
18 available through the covered programs for histori-  
19 cally underserved eligible producers, as determined  
20 by the Secretary.

21 “(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue regu-  
22 lations to carry out the program.”.

23 **SEC. 8. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.**

24 Section 1271F of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
25 U.S.C. 3871f) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “producer”  
2 and inserting “program”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)(E), by inserting “eli-  
5 gible” before “producers”;

6 (B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as  
7 follows:

8 “(2) REVIEW OF DESIGNATIONS.—The Sec-  
9 retary may—

10 “(A) review designations of critical con-  
11 servation areas under this section not more  
12 than once every 5 years;

13 “(B) withdraw a designation of a critical  
14 conservation area only if—

15 “(i) the designated area no longer  
16 meets the conditions described in para-  
17 graph (1); and

18 “(ii) the withdrawal has been ap-  
19 proved by favorable resolutions of the Sen-  
20 ate Agriculture Committee and House Ag-  
21 riculture Committee.”; and

22 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “8” and  
23 inserting “10”;

24 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
25 section (d);



1           (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
2       lowing:

3       “(c) OUTREACH TO ELIGIBLE PARTNERS AND ELIGI-  
4       BLE PRODUCERS.—The Secretary shall provide outreach  
5       and education to eligible partners and eligible producers  
6       in critical conservation areas designated under this section  
7       to encourage the development of projects that address the  
8       highest-priority natural resource concerns in the highest-  
9       priority watersheds or regions within those critical con-  
10      servation areas, as determined by the Secretary.”; and

11           (5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

12               (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “pro-  
13              ducer” and inserting “program”; and

14               (B) by striking paragraph (3).

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