

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5723

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide information and education tools to farmers on the cost savings, energy savings, water conservation, and carbon emissions reductions that can be realized through the use of energy-efficient pumping systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Ms. CARAVEO, and Ms. SLOTKIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide information and education tools to farmers on the cost savings, energy savings, water conservation, and carbon emissions reductions that can be realized through the use of energy-efficient pumping systems, 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 “Leveraging Efficiency
5 Awareness for Pumping Systems Act” or the “LEAPS
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) There are over 600,000 pumping systems
4 used for irrigation on agricultural land in the United
5 States, many of which still rely on fossil fuels.

6 (2) Improving the efficiency of agricultural irri-
7 gation pumping systems can save up to 22 billion
8 kilowatt hours of energy per year and eliminate 8.3
9 million metric tons of carbon emissions annually.

10 (3) Energy savings from electrifying agricul-
11 tural irrigation pumping systems can save farmers
12 and ranchers more than \$1.8 billion annually in en-
13 ergy costs.

14 (4) Pumping systems play a central role in the
15 watering of livestock and the management of animal
16 waste in every State.

17 (5) Pumping systems are a critical component
18 of the Nation's \$2,300,000,000 aquaculture indus-
19 try.

20 (6) Improving the efficiency of pumping sys-
21 tems used in raising livestock and fish can signifi-
22 cantly reduce energy use, save producers millions of
23 dollars annually, and provide meaningful reductions
24 in carbon emissions.

25 (7) Agricultural irrigation pumping systems uti-
26 lizing plastic piping can provide significant drought

1 relief benefits, dramatically reducing water losses
2 from evaporation and seepage; agriculture uses 37
3 percent of the Nation's surface and ground water,
4 30 percent of which is lost to seepage and evapo-
5 ration.

6 (8) Reducing the friction in piping used for ag-
7 ricultural irrigation and livestock watering can pro-
8 vide meaningful energy and cost savings; there are
9 potentially 2,500 kWh of energy savings for every 10
10 miles of plastic piping utilized in delivering water for
11 crops and livestock.

12 (9) Solar pumping systems can play an impor-
13 tant role in protecting riparian habitat and improv-
14 ing water quality in streams, rivers, lakes, and estu-
15 aries through providing alternative watering options
16 for livestock.

17 **SEC. 3. INFORMATION ON ENERGY-EFFICIENT PUMPING**
18 **SYSTEMS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
21 tion with pumping system experts, in order to educate
22 farmers on the benefits of energy-efficient pumping sys-
23 tems, shall develop and make publicly available on the
24 website of the Department of Agriculture easily accessible
25 information on cost savings, energy savings, water con-

1 servation, and carbon emissions reductions that can be re-
2 alized through the use of energy-efficient pumping sys-
3 tems.

4 (b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
5 Secretary shall include information on—

6 (1) pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls
7 that can provide energy savings and cost savings,
8 conserve water, and reduce carbon emissions; and

9 (2) Department of Agriculture programs that
10 provide farmers resources for acquiring energy-effi-
11 cient pumping systems and drought management in-
12 frastructure, including the environmental quality in-
13 centives program, the Rural Energy for America
14 Program, and the conservation stewardship pro-
15 gram.

16 **SEC. 4. ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRE-ASSESSMENT TOOL.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
19 tion with pumping system experts, in order to raise aware-
20 ness of the benefits of energy-efficient pumping systems
21 and increase participation in Department of Agriculture
22 programs that promote energy efficiency, shall develop
23 and make publicly available on the website of the Depart-
24 ment of Agriculture a user-friendly tool to—

1 (1) assist farmers in making a preliminary as-
2 sessment of the energy efficiency of existing pump-
3 ing systems; and

4 (2) provide an estimate of potential energy sav-
5 ings, cost savings, and carbon emissions reductions
6 that may be realized through pumping system im-
7 provements.

8 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

9 (1) EASE OF USE.—The Secretary shall ensure
10 that the tool made available under subsection (a)
11 provides a user with projected energy savings, pro-
12 jected cost savings, and projected carbon emissions
13 reductions through the input by the user of the fol-
14 lowing data relating to an existing pumping system:

15 (A) Pump type.

16 (B) Flow rating and actual flow.

17 (C) Pressure rating and actual pressure.

18 (D) Speed rating and actual speed.

19 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall en-
20 sure that the tool made available under subsection
21 (a)—

22 (A) in assessing the energy efficiency of a
23 pumping system, takes into consideration
24 pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls asso-
25 ciated with the pumping system; and

1 (B) in projecting the energy savings, cost
2 savings, and carbon emissions reductions that
3 may be realized through pumping system im-
4 provements, takes into consideration the cost of
5 electricity and the profile of the existing pump-
6 ing system.

7 **SEC. 5. ENERGY AUDITOR EDUCATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
10 tion with pumping system experts, in order to increase the
11 effectiveness of Department of Agriculture energy effi-
12 ciency programs, shall establish a process to educate per-
13 sons performing energy efficiency audits for the Depart-
14 ment of Agriculture on energy use and energy efficiency
15 in pumping systems.

16 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out subsection
17 (a), the Secretary shall consider the use of existing edu-
18 cation and training programs focused on energy use and
19 energy efficiency in pumping systems.

20 **SEC. 6. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVI-**
21 **TIES.**

22 Section 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of
23 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by in-
24 serting “and energy-efficient pumping systems” before “,
25 as determined”.

1 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (2) PUMPING SYSTEM.—The term “pumping
6 system” means any pumps, pipes, motors, drives,
7 and controls used to move water and other fluids on
8 farms, ranches, and aquaculture operations.

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