

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8472

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to support the expansion of freight rail infrastructure to support the transport of agricultural inputs and products to farms, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2024

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

A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to support the expansion of freight rail infrastructure to support the transport of agricultural inputs and products to farms, 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 “Freight for Farms
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUDING FREIGHT RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE IN**
2 **COMMUNITY FACILITIES LOANS AND**
3 **GRANTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 306(a) of the Consoli-
5 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
6 1926(a)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and essential
8 community facilities including necessary related
9 equipment” and inserting “and essential community
10 facilities (such as freight rail infrastructure that
11 supports access to agricultural and related entities)
12 including necessary related equipment”;

13 (2) in each of paragraphs (19)(A), (20)(B), and
14 (21)(A) by striking “essential community facilities”
15 and inserting “essential community facilities (such
16 as freight rail infrastructure that supports access to
17 agricultural and related entities)”; and

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

19 “(27) REQUIREMENTS FOR FREIGHT RAIL IN-
20 FRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of
22 sections 22905 and 22404 of title 49, United
23 States Code, shall apply to any project for
24 freight rail infrastructure that supports access
25 to agricultural and related entities for which a
26 loan or grant is awarded under this subsection.

1 “(B) REFERENCES.—For the purpose of
2 applying the requirements of such sections to
3 such projects—

4 “(i) references to the Secretary of
5 Transportation shall be deemed to refer to
6 the Secretary of Agriculture; and

7 “(ii) references to ‘this chapter’ shall
8 be deemed to refer to this subsection.”.

9 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
10 section (a) shall apply beginning on the date that is 60
11 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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