

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3623

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include as a high-priority research and extension area research on microplastics in land-applied biosolids on farmland, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 18, 2024

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include as a high-priority research and extension area research on microplastics in land-applied biosolids on farmland, 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 “Research for Healthy
5 Soils Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MICROPLASTICS IN LAND-APPLIED BIOSOLIDS ON**
2 **FARMLAND.**

3 Section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
4 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)) is amend-
5 ed by adding at the end the following:

6 “(21) MICROPLASTICS IN LAND-APPLIED BIO-
7 SOLIDS ON FARMLAND.—Research and extension
8 grants may be made under this section for the pur-
9 poses of carrying out or enhancing research on the
10 agricultural impacts of plastic or plastic-coated par-
11 ticles that are less than 5 millimeters in any dimen-
12 sion (referred to in this paragraph as ‘microplas-
13 tics’) in land-applied biosolids on farmland, includ-
14 ing—

15 “(A) by conducting surveys and collecting
16 data on microplastic concentration, particle
17 size, and chemical composition in land-applied
18 biosolids on farmland;

19 “(B) through the development or analysis
20 of wastewater treatment techniques to filter out
21 or biodegrade microplastics from biosolids in-
22 tended to be used for agricultural purposes;

23 “(C) by conducting an analysis of the im-
24 pact on agricultural crops and soil health of
25 microplastics in land-applied biosolids on farm-
26 land;

1 “(D) by conducting research to better un-
2 derstand how wastewater processing impacts
3 microplastics; and

4 “(E) by conducting research to better un-
5 derstand the fate, residence time, and transport
6 of microplastics on farmland.”.

7 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH**
8 **AND EXTENSION INITIATIVES.**

9 Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
10 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended by
11 striking “2023” each place it appears in subsection (e)(5),
12 subsection (f)(5), paragraphs (1)(B), (2)(B), and (3) of
13 subsection (g), and subsection (h) and inserting “2028”.

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