

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish the
Strengthening Local Food Security Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to estab-
lish the Strengthening Local Food Security 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 “Strengthening Local
5 Food Security Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SECURITY PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
9 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
10 the following:

1 **“SEC. 210B. STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SECURITY PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) COLLABORATOR.—The term ‘collaborator’,
5 with respect to a project carried out under the Pro-
6 gram, means an individual or entity (including a pri-
7 vate entity, a for-profit entity, and a nonprofit enti-
8 ty) that—

9 “(A) is unaffiliated with the eligible unit of
10 government carrying out the project;

11 “(B) cooperates with respect to—

12 “(i) the application relating to the
13 project under subsection (e); and

14 “(ii) the conduct of the project; and

15 “(C) is not immediately connected to the
16 management of the project.

17 “(2) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term ‘covered
18 producer’ means, as determined by the Secretary—

19 “(A) a small or mid-sized fisher, farmer, or
20 rancher;

21 “(B) a beginning fisher, farmer, or ranch-
22 er;

23 “(C) a veteran fisher, farmer, or rancher;
24 and

25 “(D) an underserved fisher, farmer, or
26 rancher.

1 “(3) ELIGIBLE UNIT OF GOVERNMENT.—The
2 term ‘eligible unit of government’ means—

3 “(A) a State agency, commission, or de-
4 partment that is responsible for agriculture,
5 procurement, food distribution, emergency re-
6 sponse, or other similar activities within the
7 State;

8 “(B) the District of Columbia;

9 “(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

10 “(D) the United States Virgin Islands;

11 “(E) Guam; and

12 “(F) a Tribal government.

13 “(4) PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘partnership’
14 means a relationship involving close cooperation be-
15 tween or among individuals and entities (including
16 private, for-profit, and nonprofit entities) with speci-
17 fied, joint rights and responsibilities in the manage-
18 ment of a project carried out under the Program.

19 “(5) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means
20 the Strengthening Local Food Security Program es-
21 tablished under subsection (b).

22 “(6) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
23 the Secretary of Agriculture.

24 “(7) UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—The term
25 ‘underserved community’ means a community (in-

1 including an urban or rural community and a Tribal
2 community) that, as determined by the Secretary—

3 “(A) has limited access to affordable,
4 healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegeta-
5 bles, in grocery retail stores or farmer-to-con-
6 sumer direct markets; and

7 “(B) has—

8 “(i) a high rate of hunger or food in-
9 security; or

10 “(ii) a high poverty rate.

11 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
12 lish a program, to be known as the ‘Strengthening Local
13 Food Security Program’, under which the Secretary shall
14 enter into cooperative agreements with eligible units of
15 government for the purposes of—

16 “(1) purchasing food, including seafood,
17 produce, meat, eggs, dairy, and poultry, from local
18 and regional covered producers; and

19 “(2) distributing that food within the geo-
20 graphic boundaries of the eligible unit of govern-
21 ment, including to hunger relief organizations and
22 schools participating in school meal programs under
23 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
24 (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and the Child Nutrition
25 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

1 “(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program
2 are—

3 “(1) to maintain and improve food and agricul-
4 tural supply chain resiliency and expand economic
5 opportunities for covered producers;

6 “(2) to promote food security; and

7 “(3) to strengthen the food system for food
8 banks, schools, and childcare institutions.

9 “(d) NONCOMPETITIVE ALLOCATION.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

11 “(A) enter into cooperative agreements
12 with, and provide funding to, eligible units of
13 government under the Program on a non-
14 competitive basis;

15 “(B) of the amounts appropriated to carry
16 out the Program for each fiscal year—

17 “(i) allocate 10 percent to Tribal gov-
18 ernments, to be allocated using a funding
19 formula determined by the Secretary;

20 “(ii) of the amounts remaining after
21 making the allocation under clause (i), al-
22 locate 1 percent to each State; and

23 “(iii) after making the allocations
24 under clauses (i) and (ii), allocate the re-
25 maining amounts to each eligible unit of

1 government (excluding Tribal govern-
2 ments) by applying the formula described
3 in section 214 of Public Law 98–8 (7
4 U.S.C. 7515); and

5 “(C) in the case of an eligible unit of gov-
6 ernment that has not submitted to the Sec-
7 retary, by the date that is 1 year after the date
8 on which amounts are allocated to the eligible
9 unit of government under subparagraph (B), an
10 application under subsection (e) for spending
11 those amounts, redistribute those amounts to 1
12 or more other eligible units of government with
13 the capacity to spend those amounts.

14 “(2) ELIGIBLE UNITS OF GOVERNMENT IN
15 SAME STATE.—For purposes of allocating funding
16 under paragraph (1), 1 or more eligible units of gov-
17 ernment described in subsection (a)(3)(A) in the
18 same State shall be treated as 1 eligible unit of gov-
19 ernment.

20 “(e) APPLICATIONS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive
22 funding under this section, an eligible unit of gov-
23 ernment shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
24 tion, at such time, in such manner, and containing

1 such information as the Secretary shall require, by
2 regulation, including—

3 “(A) a plan that—

4 “(i) identifies—

5 “(I) the lead agency responsible
6 for carrying out the plan; and

7 “(II) community partners that
8 will contribute to the implementation
9 of the plan;

10 “(ii) describes the means by which the
11 funds will be used—

12 “(I) to grow a local food system;
13 and

14 “(II)(aa) to promote food secu-
15 rity;

16 “(bb) to increase the prevalence
17 of local, nutritious food in schools; or

18 “(cc) to carry out both items (aa)
19 and (bb); and

20 “(iii) meets the requirements of sub-
21 section (f); and

22 “(B) an assurance that—

23 “(i) the eligible unit of government
24 will comply with the requirements of the
25 plan; and

1 “(ii) the funds will supplement, not
2 supplant, funds provided by the eligible
3 unit of government in support of local
4 food, school meals, or hunger relief sys-
5 tems.

6 “(2) REVIEW.—The Secretary—

7 “(A) shall review each application sub-
8 mitted under paragraph (1) to ensure that the
9 plan included in the application will carry out
10 the purposes of the Program described in sub-
11 section (c); and

12 “(B) may accept or reject each application,
13 as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

14 “(f) REQUIREMENTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Under a cooperative agree-
16 ment entered into under the Program, an eligible
17 unit of government shall—

18 “(A) only purchase food—

19 “(i) from fishermen, farmers, pro-
20 ducers, and processors that are—

21 “(I) within the geographic bound-
22 aries of the eligible unit of govern-
23 ment in which the food will be deliv-
24 ered; or

1 “(II) not more than 400 miles
2 from the delivery destination of the
3 food; or

4 “(ii) through a subawardee described
5 in subsection (g)(1) that purchases food to
6 fulfill the subaward only from fishermen,
7 farmers, producers, and processors that
8 are—

9 “(I) within the geographic bound-
10 aries of the eligible unit of govern-
11 ment in which the food will be deliv-
12 ered; or

13 “(II) not more than 400 miles
14 from the delivery destination of the
15 food;

16 “(B) ensure that not less than 51 percent
17 of the total annual value of products purchased
18 by the eligible unit of government and any sub-
19 awardees comprises purchases from covered
20 producers;

21 “(C) give priority to distributing food to
22 underserved communities;

23 “(D) expend funding not later than 3
24 years after the date on which the funding is
25 provided to the eligible unit of government; and

1 “(E) subject to paragraph (2), use not
2 more than 25 percent of the amount allocated
3 to the eligible unit of government for Program
4 administration and technical assistance, which
5 may include support for—

6 “(i) participating producers;

7 “(ii) efforts to grow the local agricul-
8 tural value chain; and

9 “(iii) covered producers in obtaining
10 food safety training and certifications.

11 “(2) ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
12 ANCE.—Of the amount used for Program adminis-
13 tration and technical assistance under paragraph
14 (1)(E), an eligible unit of government shall allocate
15 not less than 35 percent for technical assistance.

16 “(g) SUBCONTRACTS AND SUBAWARDS.—To effec-
17 tuate the purposes of the Program described in subsection
18 (c), an eligible unit of government—

19 “(1) may enter into subcontracts (including
20 with other units of that government) and provide
21 subawards to support partnerships and collabo-
22 rators, subject to subsection (f)(1)(E); and

23 “(2) on entering into a subcontract or
24 subaward pursuant to paragraph (1), shall—

1 “(A) structure the subcontract or
2 subaward to be inclusive of all costs associated
3 with implementing the Program purposes, in-
4 cluding the costs of—

5 “(i) food products;

6 “(ii) aggregation and distribution;

7 “(iii) equipment or infrastructure up-
8 grades to support food safety compliance;
9 and

10 “(iv) personnel; and

11 “(B) require members of a partnership and
12 collaborators to demonstrate evidence of exist-
13 ing community or industry engagement.

14 “(h) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—To effectuate the
15 purposes of the Program described in subsection (c) and
16 ensure that the producers described in subsection
17 (f)(1)(B) can meaningfully participate in the Program, the
18 Secretary shall provide—

19 “(1) not less than 50 percent of the funding
20 awarded to an eligible unit of government in advance
21 of the distribution of food under the agreement en-
22 tered into under the Program; and

23 “(2) the remaining funding awarded to the eli-
24 gible unit of government not later than the midpoint

1 of the period of performance established in that
2 agreement.

3 “(i) FOOD SAFETY TRAINING AND CERTIFI-
4 CATION.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require
6 food purchased under a cooperative agreement en-
7 tered into under the Program to be purchased from
8 a farm that has undergone food safety training, or
9 received a relevant food safety certification, with re-
10 spect to production, packaging, handling, and stor-
11 age to minimize risks of food safety hazards.

12 “(2) TRAINING, PLANS, AND CERTIFI-
13 CATIONS.—If the Secretary imposes the requirement
14 described in paragraph (1)—

15 “(A)(i) compliance with the requirement
16 may be demonstrated by—

17 “(I) a receipt of food safety training,
18 including Good Agricultural Practices
19 training, or an equivalent food safety cur-
20 riculum; or

21 “(II) a relevant food safety certifi-
22 cation; but

23 “(ii) the Secretary shall not require such
24 compliance to be demonstrated by a Federal
25 certification; and

1 “(B) each eligible unit of government shall
2 provide technical assistance in obtaining the re-
3 quired food safety training or certification, in
4 accordance with subsection (f)(1)(E).

5 “(j) REPORTS.—An eligible unit of government that
6 enters into a cooperative agreement under the Program
7 shall submit to the Secretary, at such times as the Sec-
8 retary determines to be appropriate, reports that shall in-
9 clude data relating to the procurement and distribution
10 of food under the cooperative agreement.

11 “(k) FUNDING.—

12 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
13 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
14 shall use to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for
15 fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

16 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
17 addition to other funds and authorities available to
18 the Secretary, in order to carry out activities under
19 this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
20 \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
21 2029, to remain available until expended by the Sec-
22 retary.”.