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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act with respect to the conservation loan and loan guarantee program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SPANBERGER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act with respect to the conservation loan and loan guarantee program.

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 “Healthy Soil, Resilient
5 Farmers Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 304(b) of the Consoli-
4 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1924(b)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or a soil
7 health transition plan” after “conservation plan”;
8 and

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

10 “(4) SOIL HEALTH TRANSITION LOAN.—The
11 term ‘soil health transition loan’ means a qualified
12 conservation loan with respect to which the applica-
13 ble qualified conservation project addresses provi-
14 sions of a soil health transition plan.

15 “(5) SOIL HEALTH TRANSITION PLAN.—The
16 term ‘soil health transition plan’ means a com-
17 prehensive, whole-farm plan, approved by the Sec-
18 retary, that, for a farming or ranching operation,
19 identifies the conservation activities that will be ad-
20 dressed with loan funds provided or guaranteed
21 under this section to assist the borrower in making
22 a transition to a farming or ranching production and
23 conservation system that includes one or more of the
24 following:

25 “(A) Cover cropping or other continuous
26 living cover systems.

1 “(B) Resource-conserving crop rotation, as
2 defined in section 1240L(d)(1) of the Food Se-
3 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24).

4 “(C) Advanced grazing management, in-
5 cluding management-intensive rotational graz-
6 ing, as defined in section 1240L(d)(1) of the
7 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–
8 24).

9 “(D) Certified organic production under
10 the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7
11 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).

12 “(E) Such other soil health management
13 systems, including systems to increase soil car-
14 bon levels, as the Secretary may designate.”.

15 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 304(c)(2) of the Consoli-
16 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1924(c)(2)) is amended by striking “subparagraphs (A)
18 and (B)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A), (B), and
19 (C)”.

20 (c) PRIORITY.—Section 304(d) of the Consolidated
21 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1924(d)) is
22 amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and
24 inserting a semicolon;

1 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(4) farmers or ranchers whose farm or ranch
5 land is subject to the jurisdiction of an Indian
6 tribe.”.

7 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—Section 304(f)
8 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
9 U.S.C. 1924(f)) is amended—

10 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting
11 the following:

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

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

14 “(2) SOIL HEALTH TRANSITION LOANS.—

15 “(A) LIMITATIONS PERMITTED.—In mak-
16 ing or guaranteeing soil health transition loans
17 under this section, the Secretary may limit eli-
18 gibility to individuals and entities described in
19 subsection (d).

20 “(B) WAIVER OF PRINCIPAL AND INTER-
21 EST.—The Secretary shall establish terms and
22 conditions for making or guaranteeing soil
23 health transition loans under this section that
24 waive principal and interest repayment for up
25 to three years from the date on which the loan

1 is made or guaranteed in order for the borrower
2 to make a satisfactory transition to the farming
3 or ranching production and conservation system
4 to be adopted under the soil health transition
5 plan.”.