



(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the Rural Energy for America Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the Rural Energy for America 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 “Rural Energy for
5 America Program (REAP) Improvement Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9007 of the Farm Secu-
3 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107)
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
7 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively,
8 and indenting appropriately;

9 (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph
10 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “The Sec-
11 retary” and inserting the following:

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

13 (C) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), in
14 the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so
15 redesignated), by inserting “(referred to in this
16 section as the ‘Program’)” after “Program”;
17 and

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

19 “(2) CLIMATE BENEFITS.—In carrying out the
20 Program, the Secretary shall promote the reduction
21 of greenhouse gas emissions in projects funded by
22 grants and other financial assistance under the Pro-
23 gram.”;

24 (2) in subsection (b)—

25 (A) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (D), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
4 (E) as subparagraph (G); and

5 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
6 (D) the following:

7 “(E) a producer cooperative;

8 “(F) a nongovernmental organization;
9 and”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking
12 “and” at the end;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
14 the period at the end and inserting “;
15 and”; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(G) the potential of the proposed program
19 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide
20 other climate benefits.”;

21 (3) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

23 (i) in clause (i), in the matter pre-
24 ceding subclause (I), by striking “pro-

1 ducers” and inserting “producers, producer
2 cooperatives, electric cooperatives,”; and

3 (ii) in clause (ii), in the matter pre-
4 ceding subclause (I), by striking “pro-
5 ducers” and inserting “producers, producer
6 cooperatives, and electric cooperatives”;

7 (B) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (F), by striking
9 “and” at the end;

10 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
11 (G) as subparagraph (H); and

12 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
13 (F) the following:

14 “(G) the potential of the renewable energy
15 system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and
16 result in other climate benefits; and”;

17 (C) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “25
18 percent” and inserting “50 percent”;

19 (4) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and
20 (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (i), respectively;

21 (5) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(d) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—The
24 Office of Rural Development shall develop a streamlined
25 application process, including within each tier described

1 in subsection (c)(4), under which an entity may apply for
2 a grant under subsection (b), financial assistance under
3 subsection (c), or both.”;

4 (6) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

5 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
6 “OUTREACH” and inserting “OUTREACH,
7 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EDUCATION”;

8 (B) by striking “that adequate” and in-
9 serting the following: “that—
10 “(1) adequate”;

11 (C) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by
12 striking the period at the end and inserting “;
13 and”; and

14 (D) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(2) outreach, technical assistance, and edu-
16 cation is provided to recipients of grants and other
17 financial assistance under the Program relating to
18 integrating renewable energy projects on land shared
19 with crops or livestock.”;

20 (7) by inserting after subsection (f) (as so re-
21 designated) the following:

22 “(g) STUDY.—

23 “(1) DEFINITION OF DUAL-USE ENERGY SYS-
24 TEM.—In this subsection, the term ‘dual-use energy
25 system’ means a system under which renewable en-

1 ergy production and agricultural production, includ-
2 ing crop or animal production, occur together on the
3 same piece of land.

4 “(2) STUDY.—The Secretary shall carry out a
5 study on dual-use energy systems.

6 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
7 date of enactment of the Rural Energy for America
8 Program (REAP) Improvement Act of 2021, the
9 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the
10 results of the study carried out under paragraph (2),
11 which shall include a recommendation as to whether
12 the scope of grants and other financial assistance
13 under the Program should be expanded to cover
14 projects that generate more energy without signifi-
15 cantly impacting farm operations or leading to the
16 conversion of existing farm land.

17 “(h) ENERGY GENERATED.—There shall not be any
18 restriction imposed on the quantity of energy that is gen-
19 erated under a project funded by a grant or other financial
20 assistance provided under the Program for the benefit of
21 the recipient of the grant or other financial assistance.”;
22 and

23 (8) in subsection (i) (as so redesignated)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
2 graph (A), by striking “expended—” and
3 all that follows through the period at the
4 end of subparagraph (E) and inserting
5 “expended, \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal
6 years 2021 through 2030.”;

7 (ii) by striking “Of the funds” and in-
8 serting the following:

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds”; and

10 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(B) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—In addition to
13 amounts made available under subparagraph
14 (A), there is appropriated to the Secretary to
15 carry out this section, out of funds in the
16 Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
17 \$1,000,000,000, to remain available until ex-
18 pended.”;

19 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking
20 “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph
21 (1)(A)”; and

22 (C) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(4) RESERVE FUND.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established a
25 reserve fund for the purpose of providing grants

1 and other financial assistance under the Pro-
2 gram relating to underutilized renewable energy
3 technologies.

4 “(B) FUNDS.—For each fiscal year, not
5 less than 15 percent of the funds made avail-
6 able under paragraphs (1)(A) and (3) to carry
7 out this section for that fiscal year shall be
8 transferred to the reserve fund established by
9 subparagraph (A).”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 9007 of
11 the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7
12 U.S.C. 8107) is amended by striking “subsection (f)” each
13 place it appears and inserting “subsection (i)”.