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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to remove barriers to agricultural producers in accessing funds to carry out emergency measures under the emergency conservation program, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Ms. LETLOW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to remove barriers to agricultural producers in accessing funds to carry out emergency measures under the emergency conservation 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 “Emergency Conserva-  
5       tion Program Improvement Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

2 Section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978  
3 (16 U.S.C. 2201) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
6 “AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION  
7 MEASURES” after “FENCING”; and

8 (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
9 follows:

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a payment  
11 to an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for  
12 the repair or replacement of fencing, or for other  
13 emergency measures to rehabilitate farmland or to  
14 repair or replace a farmland or conservation struc-  
15 ture, the Secretary shall give the agricultural pro-  
16 ducer the option of receiving—

17 “(A) before carrying out such replacement  
18 or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of  
19 the payment for such replacement or rehabilita-  
20 tion, which shall be based on the fair market  
21 value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as  
22 determined by the Secretary; and

23 “(B) before carrying out such repair, not  
24 more than 50 percent of the payment for such  
25 repair, which shall be based on the fair market

1 value of the repair, as determined by the Sec-  
2 retary.”; and

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

4 “(c) WILDFIRES.—A wildfire that causes damage  
5 with respect to which a payment may be made under sub-  
6 section (a) includes any wildfire that is not caused natu-  
7 rally, including a wildfire that is caused by the Federal  
8 Government, if the damage is caused by the spread of the  
9 fire due to natural causes.”.

10 **SEC. 3. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORA-**  
11 **TION PROGRAM.**

12 Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978  
13 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
15 section (f); and

16 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an  
20 owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option  
21 of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency  
22 measures under this section, not more than 75 per-  
23 cent of the cost of the emergency measures, as de-  
24 termined by the Secretary based on the fair market  
25 value of the cost of the emergency measures using

1       the estimated cost of the applicable practice pub-  
2       lished in the Field Office Technical Guide of each  
3       State by the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-  
4       ice.

5           “(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds pro-  
6       vided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the  
7       end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on  
8       which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land  
9       receives those funds, the funds shall be returned  
10      within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the  
11      Secretary.”.