

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6921

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize payments under the environmental quality incentives program to assist producers in implementing certain conservation practices along the southern border of Texas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2024

Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize payments under the environmental quality incentives program to assist producers in implementing certain conservation practices along the southern border of Texas, 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 “Southern Border
5 Farmers and Ranchers Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.**

2 Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3839aa-2) is amended by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 “(k) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
7 payments to producers under the program to imple-
8 ment conservation practices to address and repair
9 damage, to agricultural land and farming infrastruc-
10 ture on covered land of such producers, that contrib-
11 utes to natural resource concerns or problems.

12 “(2) CONTRACT TERM.—A contract to provide
13 payments under paragraph (1) shall have a term of
14 1 year.

15 “(3) COVERED LAND DEFINED.—In this sub-
16 section, the term ‘covered land’ means land in a
17 county at or near the southern border of Texas, in-
18 cluding the following counties:

19 “(A) Brewster.

20 “(B) Brooks.

21 “(C) Cameron.

22 “(D) Crockett.

23 “(E) Culberson.

24 “(F) Dimmit.

25 “(G) Duval.

26 “(H) Edwards.

1 “(I) El Paso.
2 “(J) Frio.
3 “(K) Hidalgo.
4 “(L) Hudspeth.
5 “(M) Jeff Davis.
6 “(N) Jim Hogg.
7 “(O) Jim Wells.
8 “(P) Karnes.
9 “(Q) Kenedy.
10 “(R) Kinney.
11 “(S) Kleberg.
12 “(T) La Salle.
13 “(U) Live Oak.
14 “(V) Maverick.
15 “(W) McMullen.
16 “(X) Pecos.
17 “(Y) Presidio.
18 “(Z) Reeves.
19 “(AA) Starr.
20 “(BB) Sutton.
21 “(CC) Terrell.
22 “(DD) Uvalde.
23 “(EE) Val Verde.
24 “(FF) Webb.
25 “(GG) Willacy.

1 “(HH) Zapata.

2 “(II) Zavala.”.

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