

## 115TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

## S. 2839

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to improve assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 15, 2018

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. JONES, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. Heinrich) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

## A BILL

- To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to improve assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers, 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 "Assist Socially Dis-
  - 5 advantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Act of
  - 6 2018".

1	SEC. 2. OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR SOCIALLY DIS-
2	ADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS AND
3	VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.
4	Section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
5	tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)) is amend-
6	ed—
7	(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking "agricul-
8	tural" and inserting "agricultural, forestry, and re-
9	lated";
10	(2) in paragraph (3)—
11	(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
12	through (D) as subparagraphs (E) through (G),
13	respectively;
14	(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
15	the following:
16	"(B) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF
17	GRANT, CONTRACT, OR AGREEMENT.—A grant,
18	contract, or agreement entered into under this
19	paragraph shall be—
20	"(i) for a term that is not more than
21	3 years; and
22	"(ii) in an amount that is not more
23	than \$200,000 for each year of the grant,
24	contract, or agreement.

1	"(C) Peer review.—The Secretary shall
2	establish a fair and efficient external peer re-
3	view process that—
4	"(i) the Secretary shall use in making
5	grants and entering into contracts and
6	other agreements under subparagraph (A);
7	and
8	"(ii) shall include a broad representa-
9	tion of peers of the eligible entity.
10	"(D) Input from eligible entities.—
11	The Secretary shall seek input from eligible en-
12	tities providing technical assistance under this
13	subsection not less than once each year to en-
14	sure that the program is responsive to the eligi-
15	ble entities providing that technical assist-
16	ance."; and
17	(C) in subsection (G) (as so redesignated),
18	by adding at the end the following:
19	"(v) The number of farms or ranches
20	started, maintained, or improved as a re-
21	sult of funds made available under the pro-
22	gram.
23	"(vi) Actions taken by the Secretary
24	in partnership with eligible entities to en-
25	hance participation in agricultural pro-

1	grams by veteran farmers or ranchers and
2	socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.
3	"(vii) The effectiveness of the actions
4	described in clause (vi)."; and
5	(3) in paragraph (4)—
6	(A) in subparagraph (A)—
7	(i) in the subparagraph heading, by
8	striking "2018" and inserting "2023";
9	(ii) in clause (ii), by striking "and" at
10	the end;
11	(iii) in clause (iii), by striking the pe-
12	riod at the end and inserting "; and"; and
13	(iv) by adding at the end the fol-
14	lowing:
15	"(iv) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal
16	years 2019 through 2023, to remain avail-
17	able until expended."; and
18	(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking
10	"2018" and inserting "2022"

1	SEC. 3. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SO-
2	CIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND
3	RANCHERS AND VETERAN FARMERS AND
4	RANCHERS.
5	Section 2501A of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
6	tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1) is amend-
7	ed—
8	(1) in the section heading, by inserting "AND
9	VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS" before the
10	period at the end;
11	(2) in subsection (a), by inserting "and veteran
12	farmers and ranchers" before "in programs";
13	(3) in subsection (b)—
14	(A) by striking the subsection designation
15	and heading and all that follows through "the
16	term" the first place it appears and inserting
17	the following:
18	"(b) Definitions.—In this section:
19	"(1) Socially disadvantaged farmer or
20	RANCHER.—The term"; and
21	(B) by adding at the end the following:
22	"(2) Veteran farmer or rancher.—The
23	term 'veteran farmer or rancher' has the meaning
24	given the term in section 2501(e)."; and
25	(4) in subsection (c)—
26	(A) in paragraph (1)—

1	(i) in the matter preceding subpara-
2	graph (A), by inserting "and veteran farm-
3	ers or ranchers" after "ranchers"; and
4	(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
5	"and gender" and inserting "gender, and
6	veteran status";
7	(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
8	through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), re-
9	spectively;
10	(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
11	following:
12	"(2) 5-YEAR REQUIREMENT.—Not later than
13	March 31, 2020, and every 5 years thereafter, for
14	each county and State in the United States, the Sec-
15	retary shall—
16	"(A) compile data on—
17	"(i) the number of base acres of each
18	program crop owned by farmers or ranch-
19	ers;
20	"(ii) payment yields for each program
21	crop made by farmers or ranchers;
22	"(iii) the number of fee waivers and
23	premium reductions provided to farmers or
24	ranchers under the noninsured crop dis-
25	aster assistance program established by

1	section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Im-
2	provement and Reform Act of 1996 (7
3	U.S.C. 7333);
4	"(iv) the number of loans guaranteed
5	by the Secretary to farmers or ranchers;
6	"(v) the allocation of grazing permits
7	by the Forest Service to farmers or ranch-
8	ers; and
9	"(vi) the race, ethnicity, gender, and
10	veteran status of each farmer or rancher
11	under clauses (i) through (v), subject to
12	appropriate privacy protections, as deter-
13	mined by the Secretary; and
14	"(B) organize the data compiled under
15	clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) ac-
16	cording to the categories described in clause (vi)
17	of that subparagraph.";
18	(D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesig-
19	nated)—
20	(i) by striking "and ethnicity" and in-
21	serting "ethnicity, and veteran status";
22	and
23	(ii) by striking "paragraph (1)" and
24	inserting "paragraphs (1) and (2)";

1	(E) in paragraph (4) (as so redesig-
2	nated)—
3	(i) by redesignating subparagraphs
4	(A) through (C) as clauses (i) through
5	(iii), respectively, and indenting appro-
6	priately;
7	(ii) by striking the paragraph designa-
8	tion and heading and all that follows
9	through "Using" and inserting the fol-
10	lowing:
11	"(4) Reports.—
12	"(A) In general.—Using";
13	(iii) in subparagraph (A) (as so redes-
14	ignated), in the matter preceding clause (i)
15	(as so redesignated), by striking "under
16	paragraph (1)" and inserting the following:
17	"under—
18	"(i) paragraph (1); and
19	"(ii) in a separate report, under para-
20	graph (2).
21	"(B) Contents.—Each report submitted
22	under subparagraph (A) shall contain data";
23	and
24	(iv) in subparagraph (B) (as so redes-
25	ignated), in the matter preceding clause (i)

1	(as so redesignated), by striking "that
2	paragraph" and inserting "paragraphs (1)
3	and (2), as applicable,"; and
4	(F) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated),
5	by striking "the report described in paragraph
6	(3)" and inserting "the reports described in
7	paragraph (4)".

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