

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8909

To require the Natural Resources Conservation Service to review the national conservation practice standards, taking into consideration climate benefits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 9, 2020

Ms. BROWNLEY of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To require the Natural Resources Conservation Service to review the national conservation practice standards, taking into consideration climate benefits, 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 “Climate Agricultural
5 Conservation Practices Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE BENEFITS IN CON-**
2 **SERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS.**

3 Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985
4 (16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
7 as follows:

8 “(A) not later than 4 years after the date
9 of enactment of the Climate Agricultural Con-
10 servation Practices Act, and every 4 years
11 thereafter, complete a review of each conserva-
12 tion practice standard, including engineering
13 design specifications, in effect on the first day
14 of the 4-year period covered by such review;”;

15 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “;
16 and” and inserting a semicolon;

17 (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking the
18 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

20 “(E) evaluate the climate benefits of the
21 standards.”;

22 (2) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “conserva-
23 tion innovations and” and inserting “climate bene-
24 fits, conservation innovations, and”; and

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

1 “(5) CLIMATE BENEFIT DEFINED.—In this sub-
2 section, the term ‘climate benefit’ means—

3 “(A) a reduction in agricultural green-
4 house gas emissions;

5 “(B) an increase in carbon sequestration;
6 or

7 “(C) mitigation against, or adaptation to,
8 increased weather volatility.”.

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