

#### 118TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

# S. 3623

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include as a high-priority research and extension area research on microplastics in land-applied biosolids on farmland, and for other purposes.

#### IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

January 18, 2024

Mr. Merkley (for himself, Mr. Booker, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Whitehouse, and Mr. Wyden) 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 include as a high-priority research and extension area research on microplastics in land-applied biosolids on farmland, 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 "Research for Healthy
- 5 Soils Act".

### SEC. 2. MICROPLASTICS IN LAND-APPLIED BIOSOLIDS ON 2 FARMLAND. 3 Section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)) is amend-4 5 ed by adding at the end the following: 6 "(21) Microplastics in Land-Applied Bio-7 SOLIDS ON FARMLAND.—Research and extension 8 grants may be made under this section for the pur-9 poses of carrying out or enhancing research on the 10 agricultural impacts of plastic or plastic-coated par-11 ticles that are less than 5 millimeters in any dimen-12 sion (referred to in this paragraph as 'microplas-13 tics') in land-applied biosolids on farmland, includ-14 ing— "(A) by conducting surveys and collecting 15 16 data on microplastic concentration, particle 17 size, and chemical composition in land-applied 18 biosolids on farmland: 19 "(B) through the development or analysis 20 of wastewater treatment techniques to filter out 21 or biodegrade microplastics from biosolids in-22 tended to be used for agricultural purposes; "(C) by conducting an analysis of the im-23 24 pact on agricultural crops and soil health of microplastics in land-applied biosolids on farm-25

land;

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1	"(D) by conducting research to better un-
2	derstand how wastewater processing impacts
3	microplastics; and
4	"(E) by conducting research to better un-
5	derstand the fate, residence time, and transport
6	of microplastics on farmland.".
7	SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH
8	AND EXTENSION INITIATIVES.
9	Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
10	and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended by
11	striking "2023" each place it appears in subsection (e)(5),
10	1 (1)(D) (0)(D) 1 (0)
12	subsection $(f)(5)$ , paragraphs $(1)(B)$ , $(2)(B)$ , and $(3)$ of

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