

119TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 2396

To unfreeze funding for contracts of the Department of Agriculture, to prohibit Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service office closures, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 27, 2025

Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RILEY of New York, and Mr. McGovern) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

- To unfreeze funding for contracts of the Department of Agriculture, to prohibit Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service office closures, 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 "Honor Farmer Con-
- 5 tracts Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FUNDING AND OF-
- 7 FICES.
- 8 The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

- (1) immediately after the enactment of this Act, unfreeze funding for and implement all written agreements and contracts entered into by the Secretary of Agriculture prior to the date of enactment of this Act;
 - (2) as rapidly as possible after the enactment of this Act, pay all past due amounts owed by the Secretary of Agriculture under agreements and contracts described in paragraph (1);
 - (3) not cancel any signed agreement or contract with a farmer or an entity providing assistance to farmers, unless the farmer or entity has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract; and
 - (4) not close any Farm Service Agency county office, Natural Resources Conservation Service field office, or Rural Development Local Service Center without providing written notice and justification to Congress not later than 60 days before the date on which the applicable office or center is intended to be closed.

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