119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''CRP Improvement and Flexibility Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT.—Section 1231(d)(6)(A)(i) of

the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(6)(A)(i)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(IV) land that will be enrolled under the State acres for wildlife enhancement practice established by the Secretary; and''.

(b) EMERGENCY HAYING DURING THE PRIMARY NESTING SEASON; CONDITIONS ON HAYING AND GRAZING.—Section 1233(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3833(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)—

(A) by redesignating subclauses (I) through (VI) as subclauses (II) through (VII), respectively;

(B) by inserting before subclause (II) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(I) emergency haying in response to a localized or regional drought, flooding, wildfire, or other emergency, on all practices, during the final 2 weeks of, and outside of, the primary nesting season, on not

more than 50 percent of contract acres, as identified in the site-specific plan, when—

''(aa) the county is designated as D2 (severe drought) or greater according to the United States Drought Monitor;

''(bb) there is at least a 40 percent loss in forage production in the county; or

''(cc) the Secretary, in coordination with the State technical committee, determines that the program can assist in the response to a natural disaster event without permanent damage to the established cover;'';

(C) in subclause (II) (as so redesignated), in the matter preceding item (aa), by striking ''emergency haying, emergency grazing, or other emergency use'' and inserting ''emergency grazing or other emergency use''; and

(D) in subclause (III) (as so redesignated), by striking ''payments'' and inserting ''the con-

ditions described in item (aa), (bb), or (cc) of subclause (I) are met or payments''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(B) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) DAMAGE TO COVER FOR WILDLIFE POPULATIONS.—Haying or grazing described in paragraph (1) shall not be permitted on land subject to a contract under the conservation reserve program, or under a particular practice, if haying or grazing during the final 2 weeks of the primary nesting season under that practice, as applicable, would cause long-term damage to vegetative cover for wildlife populations supported by the applicable practice on that land.''.

(c) COST SHARING PAYMENTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) COST SHARING PAYMENTS; OTHER FEDERAL COST SHARE ASSISTANCE.—Section 1234(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''establishing water'' and inserting the following: ''establishing—

''(A) water'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) grazing infrastructure, including interior cross fencing, perimeter fencing, and water infrastructure (such as rural water connections, water wells, pipelines, and water tanks), under each contract, for all practices, if grazing is included in the conservation plan and addresses a resource concern.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''land'' and inserting ''activities required by the contract entered into under this subchapter''.

(2) REENROLLMENT OF LAND WITH GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE.—Section 1231(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) LAND WITH GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE.—On the expiration of a contract entered into under

this subchapter that covers land that includes grazing infrastructure established with cost sharing assistance under section 1234(b)(1)(B)—

"(A) the Secretary shall consider that land to be planted for purposes of subsection (b)(1)(B); and

"(B) that land shall be eligible for reenrollment in the conservation reserve, subject to the requirements of this subchapter.".

(d) MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FOR ACTIVITIES NOT RELATING TO HAYING OR GRAZING.—

(1) DEFINITION OF MANAGEMENT.—Section 1232(a)(5) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3832(a)(5)) is amended by inserting "(as defined in section 1231A(a))" after "management".

(2) MANAGEMENT PAYMENTS.—Section 1234(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(b)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) MANAGEMENT PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall make cost sharing payments to an owner or operator under this subchapter for any management activity described in section 1232(a)(5), except for those management activities relating to haying or grazing.".

(e) PAYMENT LIMITATION FOR RENTAL PAYMENTS.—Section 1234(g)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(g)(1)) is amended by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$125,000''.