

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize assistance for emergency measures in response to pine beetle outbreaks, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize assistance for emergency measures in response to pine beetle outbreaks, 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 “Emergency Pine Beetle
5 Response Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO PINE**
7 **BEETLE OUTBREAKS.**

8 Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
9 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
2 section (f); and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(e) EMERGENCY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO PINE
6 BEETLE OUTBREAKS.—

7 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8 “(A) ELIGIBLE ITEMIZED COSTS.—The
9 term ‘eligible itemized costs’ means any ex-
10 penses incurred by a timber service business in
11 carrying out a contractual service associated
12 with an outbreak response measure, including—

13 “(i) labor or hours for truck drivers or
14 equipment operators;

15 “(ii) mileage or hours for use of
16 equipment, such as transports, bulldozers,
17 and skidders; and

18 “(iii) materials, such as gravel, grass
19 seed, culverts, mats, and insecticides.

20 “(B) OUTBREAK RESPONSE MEASURE.—

21 The term ‘outbreak response measure’ means
22 any measure necessary to address a pine beetle
23 outbreak on nonindustrial private forest land,
24 including—

25 “(i) timber harvesting or thinning;

1 “(ii) prescribed burning;
2 “(iii) debris removal;
3 “(iv) insecticide treatment;
4 “(v) establishment of buffer areas;
5 and

6 “(vi) such other measures as the Sec-
7 retary determines to be appropriate.

8 “(C) TIMBER SERVICE BUSINESS.—The
9 term ‘timber service business’ means a business
10 that derives gross revenue from—

11 “(i) cutting or transporting timber
12 from forest land; or

13 “(ii) inspecting, planting, pruning, or
14 removing trees in a residential or commer-
15 cial area.

16 “(2) ASSISTANCE FOR OWNERS OF NONINDUS-
17 TRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LAND.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 make payments to an owner of nonindustrial
20 private forest land that carries out an outbreak
21 response measure to restore forest health and
22 forest-related resources after the land is dam-
23 aged by a pine beetle outbreak.

24 “(B) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Pay-
25 ments made under subparagraph (A) shall not

1 exceed 85 percent of the total cost of the out-
2 break response measures carried out by an
3 owner of nonindustrial private forest land.

4 “(3) ASSISTANCE FOR TIMBER SERVICE BUSI-
5 NESSES.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
7 make payments to a timber service business to
8 cover the eligible itemized costs of the timber
9 service business incurred in restoring forest
10 health and forest-related resources on nonindus-
11 trial private forest land after the land is dam-
12 aged by a pine beetle outbreak.

13 “(B) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Pay-
14 ments made under subparagraph (A) shall not
15 exceed 50 percent of the total eligible itemized
16 costs incurred by a timber service business.

17 “(4) ELIGIBILITY AND PROVISION OF PAY-
18 MENTS.—

19 “(A) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a
20 payment under paragraph (2) or (3), an owner
21 of nonindustrial private forest land or a timber
22 service business, respectively, shall submit to
23 the applicable local office of the Farm Service
24 Agency an application demonstrating that—

1 “(i) to the satisfaction of the local of-
2 fice, the nonindustrial private forest land
3 on which the outbreak response measures
4 are carried out had tree cover immediately
5 before the pine beetle outbreak;

6 “(ii) the nonindustrial private forest
7 land is located in a county that the Sec-
8 retary has designated as a primary natural
9 disaster area due to drought, wildfire, hur-
10 ricane or excessive winds, an ice storm or
11 blizzard, a flood, or any other resource-im-
12 pacting event during the preceding 12-
13 month period; and

14 “(iii) forest pest surveys conducted by
15 the Forest Service or a State forestry
16 agency confirm pine beetle infestations on
17 or within a reasonable distance from the
18 nonindustrial private forest land on which
19 the outbreak response measures are car-
20 ried out.

21 “(B) IMPLEMENTATION BY LOCAL OF-
22 FICES.—The local offices of the Farm Service
23 Agency, in consultation with the applicable
24 county committees of the Farm Service Agency,
25 shall—

1 “(i) determine whether applicants for
2 payments under paragraphs (2) and (3)
3 are eligible for the payments; and

4 “(ii) provide payments to eligible ap-
5 plicants.

6 “(5) EMERGENCY OUTBREAK PUBLIC ASSIST-
7 ANCE GRANTS.—The Secretary may provide supple-
8 mental grants to State, Tribal, and local govern-
9 ments to aid in the response to, and the repair of
10 damage caused by, pine beetle outbreaks.”.

11 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY LOANS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 321 of the Consolidated
13 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961) is
14 amended—

15 (1) by striking subsection (d);

16 (2) in subsection (c)—

17 (A) by inserting “(7 U.S.C. 2266(a))” be-
18 fore the period at the end; and

19 (B) by striking “(c) The Secretary” and
20 inserting the following:

21 “(d) FAMILY FARM SYSTEM.—The Secretary”;

22 (3) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
23 section (c);

1 (4) by striking the section designation and all
2 that follows through “(a) The Secretary” in sub-
3 section (a) and inserting the following:

4 **“SEC. 321. DEFINITIONS; ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this subtitle:

6 “(1) ABLE TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT CREDIT
7 ELSEWHERE.—The term ‘able to obtain sufficient
8 credit elsewhere’, with respect to an applicant,
9 means that the applicant is able to obtain sufficient
10 credit elsewhere to finance the actual needs of the
11 applicant at a reasonable rate and terms, taking into
12 consideration prevailing private and cooperative
13 rates and terms in the community in or near which
14 the applicant resides for loans for similar purposes
15 and periods of time.

16 “(2) AQUACULTURE.—The term ‘aquaculture’
17 means the husbandry of aquatic organisms under a
18 controlled or selected environment.

19 “(b) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—The Secretary”; and

20 (5) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(e) LOANS TO OWNERS OF NONINDUSTRIAL PRI-
22 VATE FOREST LAND.—

23 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

24 “(A) NONINDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST
25 LAND.—The term ‘nonindustrial private forest

1 land' has the meaning given the term in section
2 407(a) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
3 (16 U.S.C. 2206(a)).

4 “(B) OUTBREAK RESPONSE MEASURE.—
5 The term ‘outbreak response measure’ has the
6 meaning given the term in subsection (e)(1) of
7 section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of
8 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206).

9 “(2) LOANS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
10 sion of this subtitle, the Secretary may make an
11 emergency loan to an owner of nonindustrial private
12 forest land to carry out an outbreak response meas-
13 ure.

14 “(3) AMOUNT.—The amount of an emergency
15 loan under this subsection shall be not less than 75
16 percent of the estimated total cost of the outbreak
17 response measures to be carried out to address a
18 pine beetle outbreak.

19 “(4) LOAN REPAYMENT OPTIONS.—In the case
20 of an owner of nonindustrial private forest land that
21 receives an emergency loan under this subsection
22 and subsequently receives a cost-share payment
23 under subsection (e)(2) of section 407 of the Agri-
24 cultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206) with
25 respect to the same pine beetle outbreak on the

1 same nonindustrial private forest land, the owner
2 may, at the option of the owner, apply the amount
3 of the cost-share payment to the remaining principal
4 on the emergency loan under this subsection.”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) Section 531(a) of the Federal Crop Insur-
7 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1531(a)) is amended—

8 (A) in paragraph (16), by striking “section
9 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
10 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a))” and in-
11 serting “section 321(b) of the Consolidated
12 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
13 1961(b))”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (18), by striking “section
15 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
16 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))”
17 and inserting “section 2501(a) of the Food, Ag-
18 riculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
19 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))”.

20 (2) Section 324(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm
21 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1964(d)(1))
22 is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “sec-
23 tion 321(b) of this title” and inserting “section
24 321(c)”.

1 (3) Section 901(a) of the Trade Act of 1974
2 (19 U.S.C. 2497(a)) is amended—

3 (A) in paragraph (5), by redesignating
4 clauses (i) through (iii) as subparagraphs (A)
5 through (C), respectively, and indenting the
6 subparagraphs appropriately;

7 (B) in paragraph (16), by striking “section
8 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
9 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a))” and in-
10 serting “section 321(b) of the Consolidated
11 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
12 1961(b))”; and

13 (C) in paragraph (18), by striking “section
14 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
15 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))”
16 and inserting “section 2501(a) of the Food, Ag-
17 riculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
18 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))”.

19 (4) Section 582(d)(1) of the National Flood In-
20 surance Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.
21 5154a(d)(1)) is amended by striking “section 321(a)
22 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
23 Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a))” and inserting “section
24 321(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
25 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(b))”.