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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To expand opportunity for agricultural producers, increase consumer choice in food markets, and enhance American international competitiveness by establishing new programs for food innovation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MCGOVERN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To expand opportunity for agricultural producers, increase consumer choice in food markets, and enhance American international competitiveness by establishing new programs for food innovation, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Peas, Legumes, and Nuts Today Act” or the “PLANT
6 Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definition of covered commodity.
- Sec. 3. Marketing loans.
- Sec. 4. Market access program.
- Sec. 5. Operating loans.
- Sec. 6. Guaranteed operating loans.
- Sec. 7. Loans to private business enterprises.
- Sec. 8. Rural business development grants.
- Sec. 9. Rural cooperative development grants.
- Sec. 10. Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program.
- Sec. 11. Rural innovation stronger economy grant program.
- Sec. 12. Plant-based protein input research program.
- Sec. 13. Pulse crop health initiative.
- Sec. 14. Value-added producer grants.
- Sec. 15. Emerging protein production research, education, and extension initiative.
- Sec. 16. Plant-based food innovation initiatives.

3 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF COVERED COMMODITY.**

4 Section 1111 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
5 U.S.C. 9011) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (6)(A), by striking “and pea-
7 nuts” and inserting “peanuts, mushrooms, and fava
8 beans.”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (19)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking
11 “\$2.40” and inserting “\$3.00”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (K), by striking
13 “\$11.00” and inserting “\$13.75”;

14 (C) in subparagraph (L), by striking
15 “\$19.97” and inserting “\$24.93”;

16 (D) in subparagraph (M), by striking
17 “\$19.04” and inserting “\$23.80”;

1 (E) in subparagraph (N), by striking
2 “\$21.54” and inserting “\$26.93”; and
3 (F) by adding at the end the following:
4 “(P) For mushrooms, \$1.16 per pound.
5 “(Q) For fava beans, \$13.75 per hundred-
6 weight.”.

7 **SEC. 3. MARKETING LOANS.**

8 Section 1202(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
9 U.S.C. 9032(b)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “\$2.00” and
11 inserting “\$3.00”;

12 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking “\$6.15” and
13 inserting “\$7.65”;

14 (3) in paragraph (13), by striking “\$13.00”
15 and inserting “\$16.25”;

16 (4) in paragraph (14), by striking “\$10.00”
17 and inserting “\$12.50”;

18 (5) in paragraph (15), by striking “\$14.00”
19 and inserting “\$17.50”; and

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

21 “(21) In the case of mushrooms, \$1.16 per
22 pound.

23 “(22) In the case of fava beans, \$7.65 per hun-
24 dredweight.”.

1 **SEC. 4. MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM.**

2 Section 203(b) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978
3 (7 U.S.C. 5623(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and plant
5 protein products (as defined in section 223 of the
6 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
7 1994)” before “) through cost-share assistance”;
8 and

9 (2) in paragraph (8), by inserting “, including
10 entities involved in the development or promotion of
11 plant protein products (as defined in section 223 of
12 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act
13 of 1994)” after “entities”.

14 **SEC. 5. OPERATING LOANS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312(a) of the Consoli-
16 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1942(a)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (9)(B)(ii), by striking “or” at
19 the end:

20 (2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period
21 and inserting “; or”; and

22 (3) by adding the following:

23 “(11) supporting projects that facilitate the de-
24 velopment of plant protein products and connect
25 rural markets and economies.”.

1 (b) PLANT PROTEIN PRODUCT DEFINED.—Section
2 343(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended by
3 adding at the end the following:

4 “(14) PLANT PROTEIN PRODUCT.—The term
5 ‘plant protein product’ has the meaning given the
6 term in section 223 of the Department of Agri-
7 culture Reorganization Act of 1994.”.

8 **SEC. 6. GUARANTEED OPERATING LOANS.**

9 Section 312(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
10 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1942(b)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “or” at the
12 end;

13 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and
14 inserting “; or”; and

15 (3) by adding the following:

16 “(10) supporting projects that facilitate the de-
17 velopment of plant protein products and connect
18 rural markets and economies.”.

19 **SEC. 7. LOANS TO PRIVATE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.**

20 Section 310B(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
21 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)(2)) is amend-
22 ed—

23 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
24 the end;

1 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
2 and inserting “; and”; and

3 (3) by inserting at the end the following:

4 “(E) facilitating economic opportunity for
5 plant protein products, as well as relevant sup-
6 ply chains and processing capacity for plant
7 protein products.”.

8 **SEC. 8. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

9 Section 310B(c)(3)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and
10 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(3)(A)) is
11 amended—

12 (1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

13 (2) in clause (v), by striking “or” and inserting
14 “and”; and

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

16 “(vi) projects that support the devel-
17 opment of business enterprises related to
18 plant protein products; or”.

19 **SEC. 9. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

20 Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
21 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended by add-
22 ing at the end the following:

23 “(14) GRANTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN
24 PLANT PROTEIN CROPS.—The Secretary may make
25 grants under this section to nonprofit institutions to

1 support the development of pulse crops, vegetables,
2 legumes, and fungi, including fava beans, mush-
3 rooms, oats, and the pulse crop industry, including
4 by—

5 “(A) developing and disseminating science-
6 based tools and information, technical and mar-
7 keting assistance, job training and development;

8 “(B) developing new and innovative tech-
9 nologies to improve and utilize pulse crops as
10 an ingredient in food products; and

11 “(C) providing technical and nontechnical
12 assistance and education to food companies
13 using pulse crops, and value-added production
14 processes.”.

15 **SEC. 10. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**
16 **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

17 Section 310B(i)(2)(D) of the Consolidated Farm and
18 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)(2)(D)) is
19 amended by inserting “or plant protein products” after
20 “commodities”.

21 **SEC. 11. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY GRANT**
22 **PROGRAM.**

23 Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
24 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(6) GRANT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLANT-
4 BASED FOODS.—At least 1 grant awarded under
5 paragraph (1) shall be for the purposes of sup-
6 porting the development of plant protein products.”;

7 (2) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(vi), by inserting “,
8 including the development of new plant protein prod-
9 ucts” before the semicolon; and

10 (3) in subsection (j), by striking “\$10,000,000
11 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
12 serting “\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
13 through 2028”.

14 **SEC. 12. PLANT-BASED PROTEIN INPUT RESEARCH PRO-**
15 **GRAM.**

16 Section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
17 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended
18 by adding at the end the following:

19 “(21) PLANT-BASED PROTEIN INPUT RESEARCH
20 PROGRAM.—Research and extension grants may be
21 made under this section for the purpose of carrying
22 out or enhancing research to improve the
23 functionality, flavor, and nutritional value of the use
24 of soybeans, wheat, mushrooms, oats, sorghum, al-

1 monds, and other crops for the plant protein indus-
2 try.”.

3 **SEC. 13. PULSE CROP HEALTH INITIATIVE.**

4 Section 1672(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
5 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(e)) is amend-
6 ed—

7 (1) in paragraph (2)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
9 “and” at the end;

10 (B) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking
11 the period and inserting “; and”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(F) sharing technical and non-technical
14 assistance to plant protein producers.”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting after
16 “\$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through
17 2023” the following: “\$40,000,000 for each of fiscal
18 years 2024 through 2029”.

19 **SEC. 14. VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS.**

20 Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
21 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section
24 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
25 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))” and in-

1 serting “section 2501(a) of the Food, Agri-
2 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
3 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))”;

4 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “has the
5 meaning given the term in section 231(a) of the
6 Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7
7 U.S.C. 1632a(a))” and inserting “means any
8 farm in which the majority of the business is
9 owned by an operator and any individuals re-
10 lated to the operator by blood, marriage, or
11 adoption, including relatives who do not live in
12 the household of the operator. The term in-
13 cludes any farm organized as a sole proprietor-
14 ship, partnership, or family corporation. The
15 term does not include any farm organized as a
16 non-family corporation or cooperative, or any
17 farm with a hired manager”; and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(14) INDEPENDENT PRODUCER.—The term
20 ‘independent producer’ means an operator—

21 “(A) of a small or medium-sized farm or
22 ranch that is structured as a family farm; and

23 “(B) who produces and owns more than 20
24 percent of the agricultural commodity to which

1 value will be added as the subject of a project
2 proposed under subsection (d).”;

3 (2) in subsection (d)(5)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the
5 end the following: “In doing so, the Secretary
6 shall not exclude any producer that does not
7 own and produce from at least 50 percent of
8 their own agricultural commodity, or require
9 any producer to have been in production for a
10 minimum number of years to be eligible for par-
11 ticipation.”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking
13 “(as determined by the Secretary)” and

14 (C) in subparagraph (C)(i)(III), by insert-
15 ing “and whose net income does not exceed
16 \$1,000,000 or 125 percent of the county me-
17 dian income, whichever is greater” before the
18 semicolon;

19 (3) in subsection (f)(1)—

20 (A) by striking “or” at the end of subpara-
21 graph (A);

22 (B) by striking the period at the end of
23 subparagraph (B) and inserting “; or”; and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(C) operate small or medium-sized family
2 farms.”; and

3 (4) in subsection (i)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) by striking “\$50,000,000” and in-
6 serting “\$100,000,000”; and

7 (ii) by striking “2019” and inserting
8 “2024”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) by striking “\$20,000,000” and in-
11 serting “\$40,000,000”; and

12 (ii) by striking “2019” and inserting
13 “2024”; and

14 (C) in paragraph (3)(A)—

15 (i) in clause (i), by striking “35 per-
16 cent” and inserting “45 percent”; and

17 (ii) in clause (ii)(III), by inserting “,
18 including for plant protein products” be-
19 fore the period.

20 **SEC. 15. EMERGING PROTEIN PRODUCTION RESEARCH,**
21 **EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

22 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
23 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.) is amended
24 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 223. OFFICE OF PLANT-BASED FOODS AND INNOVA-**
2 **TIVE PRODUCTION.**

3 “(a) OFFICE.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
5 lish in the Department an Office of Plant-Based
6 Foods and Innovative Production.

7 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint a
8 senior official to serve as the Director of the Office
9 of Plant-Based Foods and Innovative Production
10 (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’).

11 “(3) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of
12 Plant-Based Foods and Innovative Production shall
13 be to encourage and promote plant-based protein
14 and plant-based food options and plant protein prod-
15 ucts, including the edible proteins made from plants
16 (such as vegetables, beans, and legumes), fungi, or
17 other nonanimal sources, through any of the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(A) The development, construction, or ac-
20 quisition of land, buildings, plants, equipment,
21 access streets and roads, parking areas, facility
22 construction, expansion, or production capacity
23 expansions.

24 “(B) Providing technical and nontechnical
25 assistance to plant-based food suppliers and
26 processors in product development.

1 “(C) Supporting other innovations in
2 plant-based protein and food products, as deter-
3 mined by the Secretary.

4 “(4) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall be
5 responsible for engaging in activities to carry out the
6 mission described in paragraph (3), including by—

7 “(A) managing programs and providing as-
8 sistance to plant-based companies and industry;

9 “(B) advising the Secretary with respect to
10 the promotion of plant protein products;

11 “(C) coordinating with the agencies and
12 officials of the Department to update relevant
13 programs;

14 “(D) engaging in stakeholder relations and
15 developing external partnerships;

16 “(E) identifying common State and munic-
17 ipal best practices for navigating local policies;

18 “(F) coordinating networks of existing
19 stakeholder organizations; and

20 “(G) collaborating with heads of other
21 Federal agencies, including the Commissioner
22 of Food and Drugs.

23 “(b) EMERGING PROTEIN AND INNOVATIVE PRODUC-
24 TION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
3 retary shall establish an Emerging Protein and In-
4 novative Production Advisory Committee (referred to
5 in this subsection as the ‘Committee’) to advise the
6 Secretary on—

7 “(A) the development of policies and out-
8 reach relating to protein-rich foods sourced
9 from plant ingredients and emerging agricul-
10 tural production practices; and

11 “(B) any other aspects of the implementa-
12 tion of this section.

13 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall
15 be composed of 12 members, of whom—

16 “(i) 4 shall be individuals who are ag-
17 ricultural producers, of whom—

18 “(I) 2 individuals shall be agri-
19 cultural producers located in a rural
20 area; and

21 “(II) 2 individuals shall be farm-
22 ers that use innovative technology;

23 “(ii) 2 shall be representatives from
24 an institution of higher education or exten-
25 sion program;

1 “(iii) 1 shall be an individual who rep-
2 resents a nonprofit organization, which
3 may include a public health, environ-
4 mental, or community organization;

5 “(iv) 1 shall be an individual who rep-
6 resents business and economic develop-
7 ment, which may include a business devel-
8 opment entity, a chamber of commerce, a
9 city government, or a planning organiza-
10 tion;

11 “(v) 1 shall be an individual with sup-
12 ply chain experience, which may include a
13 food aggregator, wholesale food distributor,
14 food hub, or an individual who has direct-
15 to-consumer market experience;

16 “(vi) 1 shall be an individual from a
17 financing entity; and

18 “(vii) 2 shall be individuals with re-
19 lated experience or expertise in research fo-
20 cused on protein-rich foods sourced from
21 plants and in products sourced from plants
22 as determined by the Secretary.

23 “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Sec-
24 retary shall appoint the members of the Com-

1 mittee not later than 180 days after the date of
2 enactment of this section.

3 “(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
5 subparagraph (B), a member of the Committee
6 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

7 “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the
8 members first appointed to the Committee—

9 “(i) 4 of the members, as determined
10 by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a
11 term of 3 years;

12 “(ii) 4 of the members, as determined
13 by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a
14 term of 2 years; and

15 “(iii) 4 of the members, as determined
16 by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a
17 term of 1 year.

18 “(C) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the
19 Committee—

20 “(i) shall not affect the powers of the
21 Committee; and

22 “(ii) shall be filled as soon as prac-
23 ticable in the same manner as the original
24 appointment.

1 “(D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An initial
2 appointee of the Committee may serve an addi-
3 tional consecutive term if the member is re-
4 appointed by the Secretary.

5 “(4) MEETINGS.—

6 “(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall
7 meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

8 “(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than
9 180 days after the date on which the members
10 are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the
11 Committee shall hold the first meeting of the
12 Committee.

13 “(5) DUTIES.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee
15 shall—

16 “(i) develop recommendations and ad-
17 vise the Director on policies, initiatives,
18 and outreach administered by the Office of
19 Emerging Protein and Innovative Produc-
20 tion;

21 “(ii) evaluate and review ongoing re-
22 search and extension activities relating to
23 protein-rich products sourced from plants
24 and the development of other plant-based
25 foods;

1 “(iii) identify new and existing bar-
2 riers to successful plant protein product
3 development and emerging agricultural
4 practices employed by plant protein pro-
5 ducers; and

6 “(iv) provide additional assistance and
7 advice to the Director as appropriate.

8 “(B) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year
9 after the date on which the Committee is estab-
10 lished, and every 2 years through 2028, the
11 Committee shall submit to the Secretary, the
12 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives, and the Committee on Agriculture,
14 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report
15 describing the recommendations developed
16 under subparagraph (A).

17 “(6) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

18 “(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the
19 Committee shall serve without compensation.

20 “(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of
21 the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses,
22 including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-
23 cordance with section 5703 of title 5, United
24 States Code.

25 “(7) TERMINATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B), the Committee shall terminate on
3 the date that is 5 years after the date on which
4 the members are appointed under paragraph
5 (2)(B).

6 “(B) EXTENSIONS.—Before the date on
7 which the Committee terminates, the Secretary
8 may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year
9 periods.

10 “(c) GRANTS.—The Director shall award competitive
11 grants to support the development of plant-based foods
12 and related innovative production to any of the following
13 eligible entities:

14 “(1) A nonprofit organization.

15 “(2) A unit of local government.

16 “(3) A Tribal government.

17 “(4) Any school that serves any of grades kin-
18 dergarten through grade 12.

19 “(5) A for-profit organization with fewer than
20 500 employees.

21 “(6) An institution of higher education, includ-
22 ing a land-grant college or university and a nonland-
23 grant college of agriculture (as those terms are de-
24 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural

1 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
2 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

3 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) The term ‘plant protein product’ means a
5 protein product made from a plant (such as a vege-
6 table, bean, or legume), fungi, or other nonanimal
7 source of protein.

8 “(2) The term ‘plant protein producer’ means a
9 producer of a plant protein product or any processed
10 or manufactured product thereof.

11 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 and the amendments made by this section \$25,000,000
14 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

15 **SEC. 16. PLANT-BASED FOOD INNOVATION INITIATIVES.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture
17 (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall select
18 not fewer than 5 eligible entities to host regionally-located
19 plant-based food product and business innovation initia-
20 tives for the purposes of—

21 (1) diversifying product markets to reduce risk
22 and developing higher-value use for such products;

23 (2) promoting business development that diver-
24 sifies the income of producers of plant-based food

1 products through processing and market innovation;
2 and

3 (3) encouraging the production and use of
4 plant-based food products and domestic ingredients
5 for such products.

6 (b) ENTITIES ELIGIBLE TO HOST INITIATIVE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an
8 entity is eligible to host an initiative under sub-
9 section (a) if such entity is a State department of
10 agriculture or other State entity, a nonprofit organi-
11 zation, or an institution of higher education (as de-
12 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
13 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that has—

14 (A) a capacity to provide consultation and
15 expertise necessary to advance the purpose and
16 activities of the proposed initiative; and

17 (B) expertise in grant distribution and
18 tracking.

19 (2) INELIGIBLE ENTITY.—Notwithstanding
20 paragraph (1), an animal protein checkoff program
21 shall not be eligible to host an initiative under sub-
22 section (a).

23 (3) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking to
24 host an initiative under subsection (a) shall submit
25 to the Secretary an application in such time, in such

1 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
2 retary may specify.

3 (c) CONSULTATION.—An entity that hosts an initia-
4 tive shall consult with the Secretary, and the Adminis-
5 trator of the Agricultural Marketing Service in carrying
6 out the initiative.

7 (d) PARTNERS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—An entity eligible to host an
9 initiative under subsection (a) may, for purposes of
10 hosting such initiative, partner with an organization
11 or entity with expertise or experience in proteins, in-
12 cluding the marketing, research, education, or pro-
13 motion of plant-based food product.

14 (2) TIMING.—A partnership established pursu-
15 ant to paragraph (1) may be established—

16 (A) prior to the submission of the applica-
17 tion under subsection (d); or

18 (B) after approval of the application, in
19 consultation with the Secretary.

20 (e) ACTIVITIES OF INITIATIVES.—

21 (1) ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS OF PLANT-
22 BASED FOOD PRODUCTS.—

23 (A) DIRECT ASSISTANCE.—An initiative
24 established under subsection (a) shall provide
25 directly to producers of plant-based food prod-

1 ucts assistance through private consultation or
2 widely available distribution. Such assistance
3 may be provided—

4 (i) by the entity that hosts the initia-
5 tive under subsection (d)(1);

6 (ii) through contracting with industry
7 experts;

8 (iii) through the provision of technical
9 assistance, such as informational websites,
10 webinars, conferences, trainings, plant
11 tours, and field days;

12 (iv) through research institutions; or

13 (v) through workforce development
14 programs.

15 (B) GRANTS.—An initiative may provide a
16 grant on a noncompetitive basis to an entity
17 that receives assistance under subparagraph (A)
18 to advance the business activities recommended
19 as a result of that assistance.

20 (2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance pro-
21 vided by an initiative established under subsection

22 (a) may include—

23 (A) business consulting, including business
24 plan development for plant-based food products,

1 strategic planning assistance, and distribution
2 and supply chain innovation;

3 (B) marketing and branding assistance, in-
4 cluding market messaging, packaging innova-
5 tion, consumer assessments, innovation in
6 emerging market opportunities, and evaluation
7 of regional, national, and international markets;

8 (C) assistance in product innovation, in-
9 cluding the development of value-added prod-
10 ucts, innovation in byproduct reprocessing and
11 use maximization, and product production
12 training, including in new, rare, or innovative
13 techniques; and

14 (D) other assistance, as determined by the
15 Secretary.

16 (3) GRANTS TO PLANT-BASED FOOD PRODUCT
17 BUSINESSES.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—An initiative shall pro-
19 vide grants on a competitive basis to new and
20 existing producers of plant-based food products
21 developing plant-based food products for the
22 purpose of—

23 (i) modernization, specialization, and
24 transition of equipment and facilities;

1 (ii) value chain and commodity inno-
2 vation and facility and process updates for
3 plant-based proteins producers;

4 (iii) product development, packaging,
5 and marketing of protein products; and

6 (iv) transitioning from a livestock or
7 dairy-based production to a plant-based
8 food product-based production.

9 (B) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants provided
10 under this paragraph shall not exceed
11 \$500,000, unless a greater amount is approved
12 by the Secretary.

13 (4) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—The Secretary
14 shall establish guidelines and procedures to prevent
15 any conflict of interest or the appearance of a con-
16 flict of interest by an initiative (including a partner
17 of the initiative) with respect to providing funding
18 under paragraph (1) or (3). An initiative shall agree,
19 as a condition on the receipt of funds under this sec-
20 tion, to comply with such guidelines and procedures.

21 (5) PRIORITY.—In providing direct assistance
22 under paragraph (1) and grants under paragraph
23 (3), an initiative shall give priority to—

24 (A) producers of plant-based food products
25 with limited access to other forms of assistance;

1 (B) employee-owned businesses;

2 (C) minority-owned and other businesses
3 owned by members of historically disadvantaged
4 communities;

5 (D) cooperatives;

6 (E) producers of plant-based food products
7 that add substantial value in processing or mar-
8 keting, such as whole-cut products and specialty
9 products; and

10 (F) institutions of higher education that
11 primarily serve minorities.

12 (6) REQUIREMENT.—A foreign person making
13 a direct investment (as those terms are defined in
14 section 801.2 of title 15, Code of Federal Regula-
15 tions (or successor regulations)) in the United
16 States is not eligible to receive direct assistance
17 under subsection (f)(1) or a grant under subsection
18 (f)(3).

19 (f) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

20 (1) MULTIYEAR FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.—In
21 distributing funds made available to carry out this
22 section, the Secretary shall seek to make awards in
23 multiyear funding allocations.

1 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Not less than 50 percent
2 of the funds made available under subsection (i)
3 shall be allocated to grants under subsection (f)(3).

4 (g) REPORT.—Not later than January 31, 2027, the
5 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on—

6 (1) the outcomes of the initiatives under this
7 section; and

8 (2) any related activities and opportunities that
9 the Secretary may pursue to further increase protein
10 innovation.

11 (h) ANIMAL PROTEIN CHECKOFF PROGRAM DE-
12 FINED.—In this section, the term “animal protein check-
13 off program” means a commodity promotion program
14 under a commodity promotion law (as defined in section
15 501 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform
16 Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7401)) with respect to commodities
17 consisting of, or produced using animal proteins.

18 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
20 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2028.