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# CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP ACT

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## *~ Section-by-Section Summary ~*

### TITLE I—AGRICULTURE

#### Sec.101 Conservation reserve program

- Incrementally increases enrollment of land through CRP to 40 million acres by 2030, with 15 million acres to ultimately be enrolled through general CRP, and 20 million acres enrolled through continuous CRP.
- Incrementally increases enrollment of land through CRP grasslands initiative to 4.6M acres.
- Allows for longer term Continuous CRP contracts.

#### Sec.102 Environmental quality incentives program

- Authorizes EQIP incentive contracts to be used to enroll 5-10 year contracts devoted to certain soil health, nutrient management, grazing and pasture, or forestry management practices recognized by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service as being highly effective at reducing GHG emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration and will help producers adapt to increasing weather volatility (Referred to as "climate stewardship practices" and listed in Appendix 1).
- Existing EQIP program and funding remain unchanged.
- Estimated that supplemental EQIP funding provided by the Act would result in more than 100 million acres engaging in new stewardship practices.
- Increases funding for EQIP Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) to \$200 million per year.
- Increases funding for USDA's Soil Health Demonstration Trials to \$100 million per year.

#### Sec.103 Conservation stewardship program

- Makes climate stewardship practices eligible for new supplemental funding under CSP.
- Existing CSP program and funding remain unchanged.

#### Sec.104 Funding

- Increase mandatory funding for EQIP from \$1.75 billion in 2019 to \$7 B per year by 2024, with new funding dedicated to fund the climate stewardship practices defined in Section 102 and included in Appendix 1.
- Increase mandatory funding for CSP from \$700 million in 2019 to \$7 B per year by 2024, with new funding dedicated to fund CSP contracts comprised predominantly of conservation activities and bundles relating to the climate stewardship practices defined in Section 103 and included in Appendix 1.
- Doubles annual mandatory funding for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program from \$450M per year to \$900M per year.
- Sets aside 5% of the additional CSP and EQIP funding for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.
- Sets aside 5% of the additional CSP and EQIP funding for new and beginning farmers and ranchers.

## Sec.105 Regional conservation partnership program

- Triples mandatory funding for RCPP from \$300M per year to \$1B per year.

## Sec.106 Funding for research and support

- Doubles funding for formula and competitive agricultural research programs, with new funding dedicated to research focused on reducing emissions and increasing resilience in the agriculture sector, increasing soil health and sequestering more carbon.

## Sec.107 Conservation technical assistance

- Triples funding for the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program to help farmers and ranchers as they adopt practices to reduce emissions and respond to climate change.
- Gives priority to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers for conservation technical assistance provided with the additional funding.

## Sec.108 Rural Energy for America Program

- Increases funding from \$50M to \$3 billion per year to provide grants and loan guarantees for tens of thousands of farmers, ranchers and rural businesses to expand renewable energy production and make energy efficiency improvements.
- Gives funding priority to solar projects that include pollinator habitat.
- Sets aside 5% of the additional funding for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.
- Sets aside 5% of the funding for new and beginning farmers and ranchers.

## Sec.109 Local Agriculture Market Program

- Scales up funding for LAMP by a factor of ten to help small and mid-size farmers provide fresh nutritious food to more Americans, through farmers markets, local and regional food enterprises, value chain coordination, and regional food-shed planning.

## Sec.110 Soil Health Equipment Grant Program

- Establishes a program to award grants to agricultural producers to acquire equipment for the purpose of implementing climate stewardship practices to increase soil health.
- Gives priority to grants providing funding for equipment for projects to carry out non-chemical termination of cover crops and for on-farm composting facilities.
- Sets aside 5% of the allocated funds for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.
- Sets aside 5% of the allocated funds for new and beginning farmers and ranchers.

## Sec.111 Farm and ranch stress assistance network

- Expands funding to \$10 million annually and makes funding mandatory for a program to help farmers and ranchers cope with stressful occupations, with crisis hotlines, educational and outreach services, and other support.

## Sec.112 Assistance for community food projects

- Invests \$25 million annually targeted at urban farms and community gardens to promote climate resilience in low-income urban communities.

## TITLE II—FORESTS

## Sec.201 Reforestation Trust Fund

- Directs and funds the US Forest Service and the Department of Interior to reforest areas degraded by wildfire, pest infestation, invasive species, diseases, extreme weather, abandoned mine lands, orphaned oil and gas wells, and decommissioned logging roads and landings.
- Requires all reforestation to employ ecologically based practices that are informed by climate change science and that enhance forest health, resilience, and biodiversity.
- Dedicates funding through the Bureau of Indian Affairs for reforestation on Indian trust lands.

## Sec.202 Reforest America Grant Program

- Provides cost share grants to states, tribes, local governments, and non-profits to plant 1.6 billion trees by 2030 and over 6.5 billion trees by 2050.
- Dedicates funding to plant 100 million trees by 2030 in urban neighborhoods most in need of tree canopy cover, prioritizing communities of color and low-income communities.
- Requires prevailing wages be paid for all grant funded reforestation.

## Sec.203 Additional Funding for the Community Forest Program

- Increases funding for the Community Forest and Open Space Program by an additional \$100,000,000 annually.

## Sec.204 Forest Stewardship Practice Program

- Establishes a program to provide financial incentives for landowners to undertake forest management practices that increase carbon sequestration and storage on private forest land, prioritizing contracts that incentivize the largest amount of carbon sequestration and storage by increasing timber harvest intervals and by removing less carbon during timber harvest operations.

## Sec.205 Urban Wood Programs

- Creates jobs in disadvantaged communities and retains sequestered carbon by supporting the reuse of lumber from abandoned buildings through grants, technical assistance and research.

## Sec.206 Stewardship Corps

- Establishes a new civilian conservation corps to provide youth with training and experience while employing them in the reforestation and wetlands restoration of federal forests and wetlands.
- Directs the Secretary to prioritize recruitment of youth from low-income communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color.

## TITLE III—WETLANDS

### Sec.301 Definitions

- Defines coastal wetlands as “estuarine vegetated coastal habitat, including salt marsh, seagrass, mangrove, and other vegetated tidal habitats.”

### Sec.302 Coastal and Estuary Resilience Grant Program.

- Establishes a grant program administered by NOAA for states, tribes, local governments, and non-profits to conduct coastal wetland restoration that sequesters carbon or halts emissions.

## Sec.303 Data Collection

- Directs NOAA to maintain a coastal wetland restoration database to facilitate adaptive management and improved project design over the course of the program.

## Sec. 304 Outreach and Technical Assistance.

- Directs NOAA to provide technical assistance to organizations planning, designing, implementing, or monitoring coastal wetland restoration project work.

## Sec. 305 Annual Restoration and Funding

- Establishes targets and grant funding to restore 1.5 million acres of coastal wetlands by 2030 through the Coastal and Estuary Resilience Grant Program established in Section 302.

## Sec. 306 Prevailing wage requirement

- Requires prevailing wages be paid for all grant funded wetland restoration work.

## Sec. 307 Department of the Interior Coastal Wetland Restoration; Funding

- Provides funding to the US Fish & Wildlife Service to restore 240,000 acres and to the National Park Service to restore 620,000 acres of degraded coastal wetlands over 10 years.

# Appendix 1. Climate Stewardship Practices

Climate Stewardship Practices		Climate Stewardship Practices	
	Conservation Practice		Conservation Practice
Soil Health	Alley Cropping	Nitrogen Mgmt	Nutrient Management
	Biochar Incorporation		Grazing & Pasture
	Compost Applications		
	Conservation Activity Plans	Prescribed Grazing	
	Conservation Cover	Range Planting	
	Conservation Crop Rotation	Silvopasture Establishment	
	Contour Buffer Strips	Private Forests	Forest Stand Improvement
	Cover Crop		Riparian Forest Buffer
	Critical Area Planting		Riparian Herbaceous Buffer
	Cross Wind Trap Strips		
	Pollinator and/or Monarch Habitat Establishment		Tree and Shrub Establishment
	Field Border		Upland Wildlife Habitat
	Filter Strips		Windbreak Renovation
	Grassed Waterways		Windbreaks and Shelterbelts
	Hedgerow Planting		Woody Residue Treatment
	Herbaceous Wind Barriers		
	Irrigation Water Management		
	Mulching to Improve Soil Health		
	Multi-Story Cropping		
	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till		
	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till		
	Stripcropping		
	Vegetative Barriers		
	Wetland restoration		