

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3357

To prohibit the purchase or lease of agricultural land in the United States by persons associated with certain foreign governments, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2023

Mr. STRONG (for himself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMÉR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CARL, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GUEST, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, and Mr. FITZGERALD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To prohibit the purchase or lease of agricultural land in the United States by persons associated with certain foreign governments, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting America’s  
3 Agricultural Land from Foreign Harm Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “agricultural  
8 land” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
9 tion 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment  
10 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

11 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “agricultural  
12 land” includes land described in section 9(1) of  
13 the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure  
14 Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508(1)) that is used for  
15 ranching purposes.

16 (2) COVERED PERSON.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered per-  
18 son” has the meaning given the term “person  
19 owned by, controlled by, or subject to the juris-  
20 diction or direction of a foreign adversary” in  
21 section 7.2 of title 15, Code of Federal Regula-  
22 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of  
23 this Act), except that each reference to “foreign  
24 adversary” in that definition shall be deemed to  
25 be a reference to the Government of—

26 (i) Iran;

- 1 (ii) North Korea;  
2 (iii) the People’s Republic of China; or  
3 (iv) the Russian Federation.

4 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “covered per-  
5 son” does not include a United States citizen or  
6 an alien lawfully admitted for permanent resi-  
7 dence to the United States.

8 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9 the Secretary of Agriculture.

10 (4) UNITED STATES.—The term “United  
11 States” includes any State, territory, or possession  
12 of the United States.

13 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON PURCHASE OR LEASE OF AGRI-**  
14 **CULTURAL LAND IN THE UNITED STATES BY**  
15 **PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH CERTAIN FOR-**  
16 **EIGN GOVERNMENTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
18 sion of law, the President shall take such actions as may  
19 be necessary to prohibit the purchase or lease by covered  
20 persons of—

21 (1) public agricultural land that is owned by the  
22 United States and administered by the head of any  
23 Federal department or agency, including the Sec-  
24 retary, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Sec-  
25 retary of Defense; or

1           (2) private agricultural land located in the  
2           United States.

3           (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise  
4 all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the  
5 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50  
6 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out subsection (a).

7           (c) PENALTIES.—A person that knowingly violates,  
8 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a viola-  
9 tion of subsection (a) or any regulation, license, or order  
10 issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the  
11 penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section  
12 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act  
13 (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that com-  
14 mits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that  
15 section.

16          (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
17 tion may be construed—

18           (1) to prohibit or otherwise affect the purchase  
19 or lease of public or private agricultural land de-  
20 scribed in subsection (a) by any person other than  
21 a covered person;

22           (2) to prohibit or otherwise affect the use of  
23 public or private agricultural land described in sub-  
24 section (a) that is transferred to or acquired by a

1 person other than a covered person from a covered  
2 person; or

3 (3) to require a covered person that owns or  
4 leases public or private agricultural land described in  
5 subsection (a) as of the date of enactment of this  
6 Act to sell that land.

7 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON PARTICIPATION IN DEPARTMENT**  
8 **OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS BY PERSONS**  
9 **ASSOCIATED WITH CERTAIN FOREIGN GOV-**  
10 **ERNMENTS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
12 (b), notwithstanding any other provision of the law, the  
13 President shall take such actions as may be necessary to  
14 prohibit participation in Department of Agriculture pro-  
15 grams by covered persons that have full or partial owner-  
16 ship of agricultural land in the United States or lease agri-  
17 cultural land in the United States.

18 (b) EXCLUSIONS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to  
19 participation in any program—

20 (1) relating to—

21 (A) food inspection or any other food safe-  
22 ty regulatory requirements; or

23 (B) health and labor safety of individuals;

24 or

1           (2) administered by the Farm Service Agency,  
2           with respect to the administration of this Act or the  
3           Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of  
4           1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

5           (c) **PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP.**—To participate in a De-  
6           partment of Agriculture program described in subsection  
7           (b) (except for a program under this Act or the Agricul-  
8           tural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7  
9           U.S.C. 3501 et seq.)), a person described in subparagraph  
10          (A) of section 2(2) that is a person described in subpara-  
11          graph (B) of that section shall submit to the Secretary  
12          proof that the person is described in subparagraph (B)  
13          of that section.

14   **SEC. 5. AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLO-**  
15                                   **SURE.**

16          (a) **INCLUSION OF SECURITY INTERESTS AND**  
17          **LEASES IN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—

18               (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 9 of the Agricultural  
19          Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7  
20          U.S.C. 3508) is amended—

21                       (A) by redesignating paragraphs (4)  
22                       through (6) as paragraphs (5) through (7), re-  
23                       spectively; and

24                       (B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the  
25                       following:

1 “(4) the term ‘interest’ includes—

2 “(A) a security interest; and

3 “(B) a lease, without regard to the dura-  
4 tion of the lease;”.

5 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2 of  
6 the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act  
7 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501) is amended by striking “,  
8 other than a security interest,” each place it ap-  
9 pears.

10 (b) CIVIL PENALTY.—Section 3 of the Agricultural  
11 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C.  
12 3502) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “exceed 25  
14 percent” and inserting “be less than 15 percent, or  
15 exceed 30 percent,”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(c) LIENS.—On imposing a penalty under sub-  
18 section (a), the Secretary shall ensure that a lien is placed  
19 on the agricultural land with respect to which the violation  
20 occurred, which shall be released only on payment of the  
21 penalty.”.

22 (c) TRANSPARENCY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Agricultural  
24 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7  
25 U.S.C. 3506) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 7. PUBLIC DATA SETS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
3 date of enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,  
4 2023 (Public Law 117–328), the Secretary shall publish  
5 in the internet database established under section 773 of  
6 division A of that Act human-readable and machine-read-  
7 able data sets that—

8 “(1) contain all data that the Secretary pos-  
9 sesses relating to reporting under this Act from each  
10 report submitted to the Secretary under section 2;  
11 and

12 “(2) as soon as practicable, but not later than  
13 30 days, after the date of receipt of any report  
14 under section 2, shall be updated with the data from  
15 that report.

16 “(b) INCLUDED DATA.—The data sets established  
17 under subsection (a) shall include—

18 “(1) a description of—

19 “(A) the purchase price paid for, or any  
20 other consideration given for, each interest in  
21 agricultural land for which a report is sub-  
22 mitted under section 2; and

23 “(B) updated estimated values of each in-  
24 terest in agricultural land described in subpara-  
25 graph (A), as that information is made avail-  
26 able to the Secretary, based on the most re-



1           cently assessed value of the agricultural land or  
2           another comparable method determined by the  
3           Secretary; and

4           “(2) with respect to any agricultural land for  
5           which a report is submitted under section 2, updated  
6           descriptions of each foreign person who holds an in-  
7           terest in at least 1 percent of the agricultural land,  
8           as that information is made available to the Sec-  
9           retary, categorized as a majority owner or a minor-  
10          ity owner that holds an interest in the agricultural  
11          land.”.

12           (2) DEADLINE FOR DATABASE ESTABLISH-  
13          MENT.—Section 773 of division A of the Consoli-  
14          dated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–  
15          328), is amended, in the first proviso, by striking “3  
16          years” and inserting “2 years”.

17          (d) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN PERSON.—Section 9(3)  
18          of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of  
19          1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508(3)) is amended—

20                 (1) in subparagraph (C)(ii)(IV), by striking  
21                 “and” at the end;

22                 (2) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “and”  
23                 after the semicolon; and

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

1           “(E) any person, other than an individual  
2           or a government, that issues equity securities  
3           that are primarily traded on a foreign securities  
4           exchange within—

5                       “(i) Iran;

6                       “(ii) North Korea;

7                       “(iii) the People’s Republic of China;

8                       or

9                       “(iv) the Russian Federation;”.

10 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

11           (a) REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY ON FOREIGN  
12 OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE UNITED  
13 STATES.—

14                       (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
15           the date of enactment of this Act, and once every 2  
16           years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Con-  
17           gress a report describing—

18                               (A) the risks and benefits, as determined  
19                               by the Secretary, that are associated with for-  
20                               eign ownership or lease of agricultural land in  
21                               rural areas (as defined in section 520 of the  
22                               Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490));

23                               (B) the intended and unintended misrepre-  
24                               sentation of foreign land ownership in the an-  
25                               nual reports prepared by the Secretary describ-

1           ing foreign holdings of agricultural land due to  
2           inaccurate reporting of foreign holdings of agri-  
3           cultural land;

4           (C) the specific work that the Secretary  
5           has undertaken to monitor erroneous reporting  
6           required by the Agricultural Foreign Invest-  
7           ment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et  
8           seq.) that would result in a violation or civil  
9           penalty; and

10           (D) the role of State and local government  
11           authorities in tracking foreign ownership of ag-  
12           ricultural land in the United States.

13           (2) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—In car-  
14           rying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall estab-  
15           lish a plan to ensure the protection of personally  
16           identifiable information.

17           (b) REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL IN-  
18           TELLIGENCE ON FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AGRICUL-  
19           TURAL LAND IN THE UNITED STATES.—

20           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
21           the date of enactment of this Act, and once every 2  
22           years thereafter, the Director of National Intel-  
23           ligence shall submit to the congressional recipients  
24           described in paragraph (2) a report describing—

1 (A) an analysis of foreign malign influence  
2 (as defined in section 119C(e) of the National  
3 Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3059(e))) by  
4 covered persons that have foreign ownership in  
5 the United States agriculture industry; and

6 (B) the primary motives, as determined by  
7 the Director of National Intelligence, of foreign  
8 investors to acquire agricultural land.

9 (2) CONGRESSIONAL RECIPIENTS DESCRIBED.—

10 The report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted  
11 to—

12 (A) the Committee on Banking, Housing,  
13 and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

14 (B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-  
15 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

16 (C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of  
17 the Senate;

18 (D) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
19 the Senate;

20 (E) the Committee on Financial Services  
21 of the House of Representatives;

22 (F) the Committee on Agriculture of the  
23 House of Representatives;

24 (G) the Permanent Select Committee on  
25 Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

1 (H) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
2 the House of Representatives;

3 (I) the majority leader of the Senate;

4 (J) the minority leader of the Senate;

5 (K) the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
6 resentatives; and

7 (L) the minority leader of the House of  
8 Representatives.

9 (3) CLASSIFICATION.—The report under para-  
10 graph (1) shall be submitted in an unclassified form,  
11 but may include a classified annex.

12 (c) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-  
13 PORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
14 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
15 shall submit to Congress a report describing—

16 (1) a review of resources, staffing, and expertise  
17 for carrying out the Agricultural Foreign Investment  
18 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), and  
19 enforcement issues limiting the effectiveness of that  
20 Act; and

21 (2) any recommended necessary changes to that  
22 Act.

○