

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3518

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Great Lakes basin initiative for agricultural nonpoint source pollution prevention.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2017

Mr. WALBERG (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Great Lakes basin initiative for agricultural nonpoint source pollution prevention.

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 “Great Lakes Agricul-
5 tural Stewardship Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES BASIN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICUL-**
2 **TURAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION PRE-**
3 **VENTION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Food Security Act of 1985
5 is amended by inserting after section 1240H the following
6 new section:

7 **“SEC. 1240I. GREAT LAKES BASIN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICUL-**
8 **TURAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION PRE-**
9 **VENTION.**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
11 tion with the Great Lakes States, shall establish a Great
12 Lakes basin initiative for agricultural nonpoint source pol-
13 lution prevention in accordance with this section.

14 “(b) INITIATIVE ELEMENTS.—

15 “(1) GRANTS TO STATES.—In implementing the
16 initiative, the Secretary shall provide grants to Great
17 Lakes States to fund the following:

18 “(A) Education and outreach, for pro-
19 ducers in the Great Lakes basin, regarding—

20 “(i) nonpoint pollution of ground and
21 surface water from agricultural activities;

22 “(ii) State verification programs; and

23 “(iii) the initiative.

24 “(B) Technical assistance, including train-
25 ing, to producers in the Great Lakes basin for
26 the implementation of activities that reduce or

1 prevent nonpoint pollution of ground and sur-
2 face water from agricultural activities.

3 “(C) Development and implementation of
4 voluntary State verification programs, with a
5 funding priority for voluntary State verification
6 programs that incorporate Department of Agri-
7 culture conservation planning and practice
8 standards.

9 “(2) FUNDING PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN PRO-
10 DUCERS.—In implementing the initiative, the Sec-
11 retary shall establish a funding priority within the
12 Great Lakes basin for payments to producers under
13 this chapter for producers that participate in the ini-
14 tiative with the purpose of achieving verification
15 through a State verification program.

16 “(c) USE OF EXISTING DATA.—In establishing the
17 initiative, the Secretary shall, where available, use existing
18 plans, models, and assessments.

19 “(d) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out activities
20 under the initiative, a State may collaborate with entities
21 that have agricultural or environmental expertise, includ-
22 ing academic or nonprofit organizations.

23 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) GREAT LAKES STATE.—The term ‘Great
25 Lakes State’ means any one of the States of Illinois,

1 Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio,
2 Pennsylvania, or Wisconsin.

3 “(2) INITIATIVE.—The term ‘initiative’ means
4 the Great Lakes basin initiative for agricultural
5 nonpoint source pollution prevention established
6 under subsection (a).

7 “(3) NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION.—The
8 term ‘nonpoint source pollution’ is used within the
9 meaning of that term under the Federal Water Pol-
10 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

11 “(4) STATE VERIFICATION PROGRAM.—The
12 term ‘State verification program’ means a program
13 established by a Great Lakes State to verify pro-
14 ducer implementation of practices approved by the
15 State to reduce nonpoint pollution of ground and
16 surface water from agricultural activities, which may
17 include verification by a third party approved by the
18 State or the Secretary.

19 “(f) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to carry
20 out this chapter, the Secretary shall carry out this section
21 using—

22 “(1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

23 “(2) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

24 “(3) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

25 “(4) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1240C of
2 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3) is
3 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
4 section:

5 “(d) SPECIAL RULE FOR GREAT LAKES BASIN.—In
6 evaluating applications of producers in the Great Lakes
7 basin under this chapter, the Secretary shall prioritize ap-
8 plications in accordance with section 1240I(b)(2).”.

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