

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5450

To increase the access of small farmers in Puerto Rico to Federal agriculture programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2018

Mr. SOTO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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

A BILL

To increase the access of small farmers in Puerto Rico to Federal agriculture programs, 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. INCREASING THE ACCESS OF SMALL FARMERS**

4 **IN PUERTO RICO WHO GROW SPECIALTY**

5 **CROPS TO FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL LOAN**

6 **PROGRAMS.**

7 The Secretary of Agriculture, through the Office of
8 Advocacy and Outreach, shall increase the access of small
9 farmers who grow specialty crops (as defined in section

1 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004)
2 in Puerto Rico to loans under the following programs:

3 (1) All microloan programs under the Consoli-
4 dated Farm and Rural Development Act.

5 (2) All programs for socially disadvantaged
6 farmers and ranchers under the Consolidated Farm
7 and Rural Development Act.

8 (3) All programs for beginning farmers under
9 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

10 (4) The emergency loan program under subtitle
11 C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
12 Act.

13 **SEC. 2. SMALL FARMING ON FEDERAL LANDS.**

14 The Secretary of the Interior shall develop a program
15 to allow small farmers to farm on Federal land in Puerto
16 Rico if the Secretary determines that—

17 (1) the Federal land is not environmentally sen-
18 sitive;

19 (2) farming on the Federal land will not harm
20 endangered native species or natural habitats; and

21 (3) the Federal land is suitable for such farm-
22 ing.

23 **SEC. 3. SMALL FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM.**

24 The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Di-
25 rector of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach, shall carry

- 1 out a training program to teach best farming practices
- 2 to small farmers in Puerto Rico.

