

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8513

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a demonstration project to allow Tribal entities to purchase agricultural commodities under the commodity supplemental food program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2024

Mr. VASQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a demonstration project to allow Tribal entities to purchase agricultural commodities under the commodity supplemental food program, 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.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “CSFP Tribal Nutrition  
5       Sovereignty Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM**  
2 **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL OR-**  
3 **GANIZATIONS.**

4 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANI-  
5 ZATIONS.—

6 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

7 (A) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The term  
8 “demonstration project” means the demonstra-  
9 tion project established under paragraph (2).

10 (B) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.—The  
11 term “food distribution program” means the  
12 commodity supplemental food program under  
13 section 4 of the Agriculture and Consumer Pro-  
14 tection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note).

15 (C) INDIAN RESERVATION.—The term “In-  
16 dian reservation” has the meaning given the  
17 term “reservation” in section 3 of the Food and  
18 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

19 (D) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian  
20 tribe” has the meaning given such term in sec-  
21 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and  
22 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

23 (E) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
24 means the Secretary of Agriculture.

25 (F) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—  
26 The term “self-determination contract” has the

1 meaning given such term in section 4 of the In-  
2 dian Self-Determination and Education Assist-  
3 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) with modification as  
4 determined by the Secretary.

5 (G) TRIBAL ENTITY.—The term “Tribal  
6 entity” means—

- 7 (i) an Indian reservation;  
8 (ii) an Indian tribe; and  
9 (iii) a Tribal organization.

10 (H) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term  
11 “Tribal organization” has the meaning given  
12 such term in section 3 of the Food and Nutri-  
13 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

14 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the avail-  
15 ability of appropriations, the Secretary shall estab-  
16 lish a demonstration project under which 1 or more  
17 Tribal entities may enter into self-determination  
18 contracts to purchase agricultural commodities  
19 under the food distribution program for the Indian  
20 reservation of that Tribal entity.

21 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—

22 (A) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall  
23 consult with Tribal entities to determine the  
24 process under which each entity may participate  
25 in the demonstration project.

1 (B) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall select  
2 for participation in the demonstration project  
3 Tribal entities that—

4 (i) are successfully administering the  
5 food distribution program of the Tribal en-  
6 tity;

7 (ii) have the capacity to purchase ag-  
8 ricultural commodities in accordance with  
9 paragraph (4) for the food distribution  
10 program of the Tribal entity; and

11 (iii) meet any other criteria deter-  
12 mined by the Secretary, in consultation  
13 with the Secretary of the Interior and  
14 Tribal entities.

15 (4) PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COM-  
16 MODITIES.—Any agricultural commodities purchased  
17 by a Tribal entity under the demonstration project  
18 shall—

19 (A) be domestically produced;

20 (B) not result in a material increase in the  
21 amount of food in the food package of that  
22 Tribal entity compared to the amount of food  
23 that the Secretary authorized to be provided  
24 through the CSFP Guide Rate;

1           (C) be of similar or higher nutritional  
2 value as the type of agricultural commodities  
3 that would be supplanted in the existing food  
4 package for that Tribal entity or be an agricul-  
5 tural commodity with Tribal significance to that  
6 Tribal entity; and

7           (D) meet any other criteria determined by  
8 the Secretary.

9           (5) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
10 date on which funds are appropriated under para-  
11 graph (6), and annually thereafter, the Secretary  
12 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the  
13 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-  
14 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a  
15 report describing the activities carried out under the  
16 demonstration project during the preceding year.

17           (6) FUNDING.—

18           (A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
19 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
20 to the Secretary to carry out this subsection  
21 \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

22           (B) APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.—With  
23 respect to any funds made available under sub-  
24 paragraph (A), only funds appropriated in ad-

1 vance specifically to carry out this subsection  
2 shall be available to carry out this subsection.

3 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINA-  
4 TION CONTRACTS.—

5 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall ap-  
6 point an existing office of the Department of Agri-  
7 culture to administer tribal self-determination con-  
8 tracts, including—

9 (A) awarding of FNS nutrition program  
10 self-determination contracts to selected Tribal  
11 entities; and

12 (B) hiring contract officers and program  
13 staff in order to manage the selection of Tribal  
14 entities and execution of self-determination con-  
15 tracts.

16 (2) STAFFING MINIMUM FUNDING.—Notwith-  
17 standing any other provision of law, there is author-  
18 ized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$1,200,000  
19 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2028 for the  
20 payment of Department contract officers and pro-  
21 gram staff salaries and benefits.

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