

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1726

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to provide emergency relief to producers of livestock with herds adversely affected by Mexican gray wolves, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2023

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to provide emergency relief to producers of livestock with herds adversely affected by Mexican gray wolves, 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 “Wolf and Livestock
5 Fairness Act of 2023” or the “WOLF Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PAYMENT RATES.**

7 Section 1501(b)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014
8 (7 U.S.C. 9081(b)(2)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and
2 (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indent-
3 ing appropriately;

4 (2) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so re-
5 designated), by striking “Indemnity payments” and
6 inserting the following:

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
8 subparagraph (B), indemnity payments”; and

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

10 “(B) ATTACKS BY MEXICAN GRAY
11 WOLVES.—In the case of attacks on livestock by
12 Mexican gray wolves, indemnity payments to an
13 eligible producer on a farm under paragraph
14 (1) shall be made at a rate of 100 percent of
15 the market value of the affected livestock, as
16 determined by the Secretary, on the applicable
17 date described in clause (i) or (ii) of subpara-
18 graph (A).”.

19 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY RELIEF TO MITIGATE EFFECT OF**
20 **MEXICAN GRAY WOLVES.**

21 Section 1501(d) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
22 U.S.C. 9081(d)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(5) EMERGENCY RELIEF TO MITIGATE EFFECT
25 OF MEXICAN GRAY WOLVES.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, the
2 Secretary shall use funds made available under
3 paragraph (1) to provide emergency relief to
4 producers of livestock with herds adversely af-
5 fected by Mexican gray wolves, as determined
6 by the Secretary.

7 “(B) FORMULA.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
9 the Secretary shall develop a formula to deter-
10 mine the amount of emergency relief to provide
11 to a producer of livestock under subparagraph
12 (A), which shall take into consideration the fol-
13 lowing factors:

14 “(i) The herd size of the producer.

15 “(ii) The average annual number of
16 confirmed depredations by Mexican gray
17 wolves per producer in the State in which
18 the producer is located.

19 “(iii) The average annual increase in
20 management costs for producers due to
21 Mexican gray wolves during the preceding
22 5 years in the State in which the producer
23 is located.

24 “(iv) The average annual decrease in
25 birth rates of herds of producers due to

1 Mexican gray wolves during the preceding
2 5 years in the State in which the producer
3 is located.

4 “(v) The depredation prevention prac-
5 tices carried out by the producer, if any, as
6 reported through the wolf compensation
7 and prevention program established by sec-
8 tion 6202 of the Omnibus Public Land
9 Management Act of 2009 (7 U.S.C. 8351
10 note; Public Law 111–11).

11 “(C) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out
12 this paragraph, the Secretary shall consult with,
13 and request information from, as necessary, the
14 Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, the
15 Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health
16 Inspection Service, and the Director of the
17 United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

18 “(D) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1
19 year after the date on which emergency relief is
20 first provided under this paragraph, and annu-
21 ally thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to
22 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
23 Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
24 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate
25 a report on activities carried out under this

1 paragraph, which shall include an identification
2 of the following:

3 “(i) The amount of emergency relief
4 distributed to producers under this para-
5 graph.

6 “(ii) The number of producers receiv-
7 ing emergency relief under this para-
8 graph.”.

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