

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2862

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to remove nonnative plant species that contribute to drought conditions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to remove nonnative plant species that contribute to drought conditions, 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 “Drought Relief
5 through Innovative Projects Act of 2019” or the “DRIP
6 Act of 2019”.

7 **SEC. 2. NONNATIVE PLANT SPECIES REMOVAL GRANT PRO-**
8 **GRAM.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
2 ty” means a partnership between two or more enti-
3 ties that—

4 (A) shall include—

5 (i) at least 1 flood control district;

6 and

7 (ii) at least 1 city, county, township,
8 town, borough, parish, village, or other
9 general purpose political subdivision of a
10 State or Indian tribe (as defined in section
11 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
12 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
13 5304)); and

14 (B) may include any other entity (such as
15 a nonprofit organization or institution of higher
16 education), as determined by the Secretary.

17 (2) NONNATIVE PLANT SPECIES.—The term
18 “nonnative plant species” means a plant species
19 that—

20 (A) is nonnative or alien to an ecosystem;

21 and

22 (B) if introduced to that ecosystem, will
23 cause, or is likely to cause, economic harm, en-
24 vironmental harm, or harm to human health.

1 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Agriculture.

3 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
4 a grant program to award grants, on a competitive basis,
5 to eligible entities—

6 (1) to remove nonnative plant species in ripar-
7 ian areas that contribute to drought conditions;

8 (2) to replace those nonnative plant species
9 with native plant species; and

10 (3) to maintain and monitor riparian areas in
11 which nonnative plant species have been removed
12 and replaced.

13 (c) APPLICATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
15 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-
16 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in
17 such manner, and containing such information as
18 the Secretary may require, including—

19 (A) a plan for how the eligible entity will
20 use grant funds to carry out the activities de-
21 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (3) of sub-
22 section (b);

23 (B) a description of the manner in which
24 the eligible entity has carried out the consulta-
25 tion required under paragraph (2); and

1 (C) information demonstrating that each
2 native plant species described in subsection
3 (b)(2) will—

4 (i)(I) reduce flood risk;

5 (II) improve hydrology and water
6 storage capacities; or

7 (III) reduce fire hazard; and

8 (ii) protect and restore rivers and
9 streams and associated riparian habitats,
10 including fish and wildlife resources that
11 are dependent on those habitats.

12 (2) CONSULTATION.—An eligible entity seeking
13 a grant under this section shall consult with local
14 stakeholders, including conservation groups, to cre-
15 ate the plan described in paragraph (1)(A).

16 (d) REPORT.—An eligible entity that receives a grant
17 under this section shall submit to the Secretary a report
18 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-
19 mation as the Secretary may require, including informa-
20 tion on methodology and outcomes of nonnative plant spe-
21 cies removal and replacement efforts.

22 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

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- 1 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year
- 2 thereafter.

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