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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to address forestry workforce development needs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. PEREZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to address forestry workforce development needs, 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 “Jobs in the Woods
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FORESTRY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 shall establish a competitive grant program to make
4 grants to eligible entities to carry out career path-
5 way training programs in eligible areas in accord-
6 ance with subsection (c).

7 (2) TERM; AMOUNT.—A grant made under this
8 section shall be—

9 (A) for a period of not greater than 4
10 years; and

11 (B) made in an amount—

12 (i) greater than or equal to \$500,000;

13 and

14 (ii) less than or equal to \$2,000,000.

15 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

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

21 (A) a demonstrated capacity to carry out a
22 career pathway training program in accordance
23 with subsection (c);

24 (B) a demonstration of need for such pro-
25 gram within a region;

1 (C) a projection of the extent of reach in-
2 tended for such program;

3 (D) a plan to ensure that such program is
4 sustainable; and

5 (E) a plan for the implementation of such
6 program.

7 (2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
8 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible
9 entities that—

10 (A) propose to carry out activities to ad-
11 dress the issues of an aging workforce and
12 youth migration;

13 (B) to engage students, intends to partner
14 with—

15 (i) a secondary school;

16 (ii) a vocational or technical school; or

17 (iii) a junior or community college;

18 and

19 (C) demonstrate the ability to assist with
20 forestry workforce placement and hiring.

21 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
22 a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to
23 carry out career pathway training programs with respect
24 to forestry operations and forestry products industries.

25 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term “career
2 pathway” has the meaning given the term in section
3 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
4 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

5 (2) ELIGIBLE AREA.—The term “eligible area”
6 means—

7 (A) a nonmetropolitan area that qualifies
8 as a low-income community (as defined in sec-
9 tion 45D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of
10 1986);

11 (B) an area that has access to or has a
12 plan to achieve broadband service (as defined in
13 section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of
14 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb)); and

15 (C) an area that has a population of
16 50,000 or fewer inhabitants.

17 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
18 ty” means a nonprofit organization, a State, an In-
19 dian Tribe, a local government, or an institution of
20 higher education.

21 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
22 term “institution of higher education” has the
23 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
24 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

1 (5) JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The
2 term “junior or community college” has the meaning
3 given such term in section 312(f) of the Higher
4 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f))

5 (6) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
6 ondary school” has the meaning given the term in
7 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
8 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

9 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Agriculture.

11 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.