Emergency Pine Beetle Response Act of 2025
Section-by-Section Summary

Assistance for Private Landowners

- Cost-share payments to landowners to cover 85 percent of the cost to implement "outbreak response measures."
- Eligible measures include, but are not limited to: timber harvesting or thinning, prescribed burning, debris removal, insecticide treatment, establishment of buffer areas, and any other activity the Secretary deems necessary to respond to pine beetle infestations.

Incentives for Timber Service Businesses

- Cost-share payments to "timber service businesses" to cover 50 percent of itemized costs associated with working on sites affected by pine beetles.
- Applies to any business that derives gross revenue from cutting or transporting timber, or inspecting, planting, pruning, or removing trees from residential or commercial areas.
- Eligible costs covered are expenses incurred by a timber service business in carrying out contractual services associated with outbreak response measures, such as:
    - Labor or hours for truck drivers or equipment operators;
    - Mileage or hours for use of equipment, such as transports, bulldozers, and skidders; and
    - Materials, such as gravel, grass seed, culverts, mats, and insecticides.

Streamlined Delivery Process

- Authorizes USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office Committees to administer program assistance immediately following natural disaster designations and confirmed pine beetle infestations.
    - Existing USDA programs require authorization from the FSA National Office, which can be burdensome and time-consuming.

Advanced Financing for Landowners

- Makes affected landowners eligible for USDA Emergency Loans in order to provide them with immediate access to financing to cover the costs of necessary actions following a pine beetle outbreak.
    - Upon receipt of a cost-share payment, landowners would have the option to apply it to the remaining principal of their loan.

Grants to State, Tribal, and Local Governments

- Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to award grants directly to state and local governments to aid in the response to, and repair damage caused by pine beetle outbreaks.