

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize assistance for emergency measures in response to pine beetle outbreaks, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

\_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize assistance for emergency measures in response to pine beetle outbreaks, 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 “Emergency Pine Beetle  
5       Response Act of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO PINE**  
7       **BEETLE OUTBREAKS.**

8       Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978  
9       (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
2           section (f); and

3           (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5           “(e) EMERGENCY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO PINE  
6 BEETLE OUTBREAKS.—

7           “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8           “(A) ELIGIBLE ITEMIZED COSTS.—The  
9           term ‘eligible itemized costs’ means any ex-  
10          penses incurred by a timber service business in  
11          carrying out a contractual service associated  
12          with an outbreak response measure, including—

13               “(i) labor or hours for truck drivers or  
14               equipment operators;

15               “(ii) mileage or hours for use of  
16               equipment, such as transports, bulldozers,  
17               and skidders; and

18               “(iii) materials, such as gravel, grass  
19               seed, culverts, mats, and insecticides.

20           “(B) OUTBREAK RESPONSE MEASURE.—

21           The term ‘outbreak response measure’ means  
22           any measure necessary to address a pine beetle  
23           outbreak on nonindustrial private forest land,  
24           including—

25               “(i) timber harvesting or thinning;

1 “(ii) prescribed burning;  
2 “(iii) debris removal;  
3 “(iv) insecticide treatment;  
4 “(v) establishment of buffer areas;  
5 and

6 “(vi) such other measures as the Sec-  
7 retary determines to be appropriate.

8 “(C) TIMBER SERVICE BUSINESS.—The  
9 term ‘timber service business’ means a business  
10 that derives gross revenue from—

11 “(i) cutting or transporting timber  
12 from forest land; or

13 “(ii) inspecting, planting, pruning, or  
14 removing trees in a residential or commer-  
15 cial area.

16 “(2) ASSISTANCE FOR OWNERS OF NONINDUS-  
17 TRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LAND.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
19 make payments to an owner of nonindustrial  
20 private forest land that carries out an outbreak  
21 response measure to restore forest health and  
22 forest-related resources after the land is dam-  
23 aged by a pine beetle outbreak.

24 “(B) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Pay-  
25 ments made under subparagraph (A) shall not

1 exceed 85 percent of the total cost of the out-  
2 break response measures carried out by an  
3 owner of nonindustrial private forest land.

4 “(3) ASSISTANCE FOR TIMBER SERVICE BUSI-  
5 NESSES.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
7 make payments to a timber service business to  
8 cover the eligible itemized costs of the timber  
9 service business incurred in restoring forest  
10 health and forest-related resources on nonindus-  
11 trial private forest land after the land is dam-  
12 aged by a pine beetle outbreak.

13 “(B) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Pay-  
14 ments made under subparagraph (A) shall not  
15 exceed 50 percent of the total eligible itemized  
16 costs incurred by a timber service business.

17 “(4) ELIGIBILITY AND PROVISION OF PAY-  
18 MENTS.—

19 “(A) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a  
20 payment under paragraph (2) or (3), an owner  
21 of nonindustrial private forest land or a timber  
22 service business, respectively, shall submit to  
23 the applicable local office of the Farm Service  
24 Agency an application demonstrating that—

1 “(i) to the satisfaction of the local of-  
2 fice, the nonindustrial private forest land  
3 on which the outbreak response measures  
4 are carried out had tree cover immediately  
5 before the pine beetle outbreak;

6 “(ii) the nonindustrial private forest  
7 land is located in a county that the Sec-  
8 retary has designated as a primary natural  
9 disaster area due to drought, wildfire, hur-  
10 ricane or excessive winds, an ice storm or  
11 blizzard, a flood, or any other resource-im-  
12 pacting event during the preceding 12-  
13 month period; and

14 “(iii) forest pest surveys conducted by  
15 the Forest Service or a State forestry  
16 agency confirm pine beetle infestations on  
17 or within a reasonable distance from the  
18 nonindustrial private forest land on which  
19 the outbreak response measures are car-  
20 ried out.

21 “(B) IMPLEMENTATION BY LOCAL OF-  
22 FICES.—The local offices of the Farm Service  
23 Agency, in consultation with the applicable  
24 county committees of the Farm Service Agency,  
25 shall—

1 “(i) determine whether applicants for  
2 payments under paragraphs (2) and (3)  
3 are eligible for the payments; and

4 “(ii) provide payments to eligible ap-  
5 plicants.

6 “(5) EMERGENCY OUTBREAK PUBLIC ASSIST-  
7 ANCE GRANTS.—The Secretary may provide supple-  
8 mental grants to State, Tribal, and local govern-  
9 ments to aid in the response to, and the repair of  
10 damage caused by, pine beetle outbreaks.”.

11 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY LOANS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 321 of the Consolidated  
13 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961) is  
14 amended—

15 (1) by striking subsection (d);

16 (2) in subsection (c)—

17 (A) by inserting “(7 U.S.C. 2266(a))” be-  
18 fore the period at the end; and

19 (B) by striking “(c) The Secretary” and  
20 inserting the following:

21 “(d) FAMILY FARM SYSTEM.—The Secretary”;

22 (3) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
23 section (c);

1 (4) by striking the section designation and all  
2 that follows through “(a) The Secretary” in sub-  
3 section (a) and inserting the following:

4 **“SEC. 321. DEFINITIONS; ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this subtitle:

6 “(1) ABLE TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT CREDIT  
7 ELSEWHERE.—The term ‘able to obtain sufficient  
8 credit elsewhere’, with respect to an applicant,  
9 means that the applicant is able to obtain sufficient  
10 credit elsewhere to finance the actual needs of the  
11 applicant at a reasonable rate and terms, taking into  
12 consideration prevailing private and cooperative  
13 rates and terms in the community in or near which  
14 the applicant resides for loans for similar purposes  
15 and periods of time.

16 “(2) AQUACULTURE.—The term ‘aquaculture’  
17 means the husbandry of aquatic organisms under a  
18 controlled or selected environment.

19 “(b) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—The Secretary”; and

20 (5) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(e) LOANS TO OWNERS OF NONINDUSTRIAL PRI-  
22 VATE FOREST LAND.—

23 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

24 “(A) NONINDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST  
25 LAND.—The term ‘nonindustrial private forest

1 land' has the meaning given the term in section  
2 407(a) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978  
3 (16 U.S.C. 2206(a)).

4 “(B) OUTBREAK RESPONSE MEASURE.—  
5 The term ‘outbreak response measure’ has the  
6 meaning given the term in subsection (e)(1) of  
7 section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of  
8 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206).

9 “(2) LOANS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
10 sion of this subtitle, the Secretary may make an  
11 emergency loan to an owner of nonindustrial private  
12 forest land to carry out an outbreak response meas-  
13 ure.

14 “(3) AMOUNT.—The amount of an emergency  
15 loan under this subsection shall be not less than 75  
16 percent of the estimated total cost of the outbreak  
17 response measures to be carried out to address a  
18 pine beetle outbreak.

19 “(4) LOAN REPAYMENT OPTIONS.—In the case  
20 of an owner of nonindustrial private forest land that  
21 receives an emergency loan under this subsection  
22 and subsequently receives a cost-share payment  
23 under subsection (e)(2) of section 407 of the Agri-  
24 cultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206) with  
25 respect to the same pine beetle outbreak on the



1 same nonindustrial private forest land, the owner  
2 may, at the option of the owner, apply the amount  
3 of the cost-share payment to the remaining principal  
4 on the emergency loan under this subsection.”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) Section 531(a) of the Federal Crop Insur-  
7 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1531(a)) is amended—

8 (A) in paragraph (16), by striking “section  
9 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
10 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a))” and in-  
11 serting “section 321(b) of the Consolidated  
12 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
13 1961(b))”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (18), by striking “section  
15 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
16 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))”  
17 and inserting “section 2501(a) of the Food, Ag-  
18 riculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990  
19 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))”.

20 (2) Section 324(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm  
21 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1964(d)(1))  
22 is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “sec-  
23 tion 321(b) of this title” and inserting “section  
24 321(c)”.

1           (3) Section 901(a) of the Trade Act of 1974  
2           (19 U.S.C. 2497(a)) is amended—

3                 (A) in paragraph (5), by redesignating  
4                 clauses (i) through (iii) as subparagraphs (A)  
5                 through (C), respectively, and indenting the  
6                 subparagraphs appropriately;

7                 (B) in paragraph (16), by striking “section  
8                 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
9                 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a))” and in-  
10                serting “section 321(b) of the Consolidated  
11                Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
12                1961(b))”; and

13                (C) in paragraph (18), by striking “section  
14                2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
15                and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))”  
16                and inserting “section 2501(a) of the Food, Ag-  
17                riculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990  
18                (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))”.

19           (4) Section 582(d)(1) of the National Flood In-  
20           surance Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.  
21           5154a(d)(1)) is amended by striking “section 321(a)  
22           of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
23           Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a))” and inserting “section  
24           321(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-  
25           opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(b))”.