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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To expand opportunity for agricultural producers, increase consumer choice in food markets, and enhance American international competitiveness by establishing new programs for food innovation, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MCGOVERN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To expand opportunity for agricultural producers, increase consumer choice in food markets, and enhance American international competitiveness by establishing new programs for food innovation, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Peas, Legumes, and Nuts Today Act” or the “PLANT  
6 Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
2 this Act is as follows:

- 3 Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- 4 Sec. 2. Definition of covered commodity.
- 5 Sec. 3. Marketing loans.
- 6 Sec. 4. Market access program.
- 7 Sec. 5. Operating loans.
- 8 Sec. 6. Guaranteed operating loans.
- 9 Sec. 7. Loans to private business enterprises.
- 10 Sec. 8. Rural business development grants.
- 11 Sec. 9. Rural cooperative development grants.
- 12 Sec. 10. Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program.
- 13 Sec. 11. Rural innovation stronger economy grant program.
- 14 Sec. 12. Plant-based protein input research program.
- 15 Sec. 13. Pulse crop health initiative.
- 16 Sec. 14. Value-added producer grants.
- 17 Sec. 15. Emerging protein production research, education, and extension initiative.
- 18 Sec. 16. Plant-based food innovation initiatives.

19 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF COVERED COMMODITY.**

20 Section 1111 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7  
21 U.S.C. 9011) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (6)(A), by striking “and pea-  
23 nuts” and inserting “peanuts, and mushrooms.”;  
24 and

25 (2) in paragraph (19)—

26 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
27 “\$2.40” and inserting “\$3.00”;

28 (B) in subparagraph (K), by striking  
29 “\$11.00” and inserting “\$13.75”;

30 (C) in subparagraph (L), by striking  
31 “\$19.97” and inserting “\$24.93”;

32 (D) in subparagraph (M), by striking  
33 “\$19.04” and inserting “\$23.80”;

1 (E) in subparagraph (N), by striking  
2 “\$21.54” and inserting “\$26.93”; and

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

4 “(P) For mushrooms, \$1.16 per pound.”.

5 **SEC. 3. MARKETING LOANS.**

6 Section 1202(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7  
7 U.S.C. 9032(b)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “\$2.00” and  
9 inserting “\$3.00”;

10 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking “\$6.15” and  
11 inserting “\$7.65”;

12 (3) in paragraph (13), by striking “\$13.00”  
13 and inserting “\$16.25”;

14 (4) in paragraph (14), by striking “\$10.00”  
15 and inserting “\$12.50”;

16 (5) in paragraph (15), by striking “\$14.00”  
17 and inserting “\$17.50”; and

18 (6) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(21) In the case of mushrooms, \$1.16 per  
20 pound.”.

21 **SEC. 4. MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM.**

22 Section 203(b) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978  
23 (7 U.S.C. 5623(b)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and plant  
25 protein products (as defined in section 223 of the

1 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of  
2 1994)” before “) through cost-share assistance”;  
3 and

4 (2) in paragraph (8), by inserting “, including  
5 entities involved in the development or promotion of  
6 plant protein products (as defined in section 223 of  
7 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act  
8 of 1994)” after “entities”.

9 **SEC. 5. OPERATING LOANS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312(a) of the Consoli-  
11 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
12 1942(a)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (9)(B)(ii), by striking “or” at  
14 the end:

15 (2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period  
16 and inserting “; or”; and

17 (3) by adding the following:

18 “(11) supporting projects that facilitate the de-  
19 velopment of plant protein products and connect  
20 rural markets and economies.”.

21 (b) PLANT PROTEIN PRODUCT DEFINED.—Section  
22 343(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended by  
23 adding at the end the following:

24 “(14) PLANT PROTEIN PRODUCT.—The term  
25 ‘plant protein product’ has the meaning given the

1 term in section 223 of the Department of Agri-  
2 culture Reorganization Act of 1994.”.

3 **SEC. 6. GUARANTEED OPERATING LOANS.**

4 Section 312(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
5 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1942(b)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “or” at the  
7 end:

8 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and  
9 inserting “; or”; and

10 (3) by adding the following:

11 “(10) supporting projects that facilitate the de-  
12 velopment of plant protein products and connect  
13 rural markets and economies.”.

14 **SEC. 7. LOANS TO PRIVATE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.**

15 Section 310B(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and  
16 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)(2)) is amend-  
17 ed—

18 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at  
19 the end;

20 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period  
21 and inserting “; and”; and

22 (3) by inserting at the end the following:

23 “(E) facilitating economic opportunity for  
24 plant protein products, as well as relevant sup-

1           ply chains and processing capacity for plant  
2           protein products.”.

3 **SEC. 8. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

4           Section 310B(c)(3)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and  
5 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(3)(A)) is  
6 amended—

7           (1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;

8           (2) in clause (v), by striking “or” and inserting  
9           “and”; and

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

11                   “(vi) projects that support the devel-  
12                   opment of business enterprises related to  
13                   plant protein products; or”.

14 **SEC. 9. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

15          Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
16 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended by add-  
17 ing at the end the following:

18                   “(14) GRANTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN  
19                   PLANT PROTEIN CROPS.—The Secretary may make  
20                   grants under this section to nonprofit institutions to  
21                   support the development of pulse crops, vegetables,  
22                   legumes, and fungi, including fava beans, mush-  
23                   rooms, oats, and the pulse crop industry, including  
24                   by—

1           “(A) developing and disseminating science-  
2           based tools and information, technical and mar-  
3           keting assistance, job training and development;

4           “(B) developing new and innovative tech-  
5           nologies to improve and utilize pulse crops as  
6           an ingredient in food products; and

7           “(C) providing technical and nontechnical  
8           assistance and education to food companies  
9           using pulse crops, and value-added production  
10          processes.”.

11 **SEC. 10. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**  
12                                   **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

13          Section 310B(i)(2)(D) of the Consolidated Farm and  
14 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)(2)(D)) is  
15 amended by inserting “or plant protein products” after  
16 “commodities”.

17 **SEC. 11. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY GRANT**  
18                                   **PROGRAM.**

19          Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
20 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—

21           (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the  
22          following:

23           “(6) GRANT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLANT-  
24          BASED FOODS.—At least 1 grant awarded under

1 paragraph (1) shall be for the purposes of sup-  
2 porting the development of plant protein products.”;

3 (2) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(vi), by inserting “,  
4 including the development of new plant protein prod-  
5 ucts” before the semicolon; and

6 (3) in subsection (j), by striking “\$10,000,000  
7 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-  
8 serting “\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024  
9 through 2028”.

10 **SEC. 12. PLANT-BASED PROTEIN INPUT RESEARCH PRO-**  
11 **GRAM.**

12 Section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
13 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended  
14 by adding at the end the following:

15 “(21) PLANT-BASED PROTEIN INPUT RESEARCH  
16 PROGRAM.—Research and extension grants may be  
17 made under this section for the purpose of carrying  
18 out or enhancing research to improve the  
19 functionality, flavor, and nutritional value of the use  
20 of soybeans, wheat, mushrooms, oats, sorghum, al-  
21 monds, and other crops for the plant protein indus-  
22 try.”.



1 **SEC. 13. PULSE CROP HEALTH INITIATIVE.**

2 Section 1672(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
3 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(e)) is amend-  
4 ed—

5 (1) in paragraph (2)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
7 “and” at the end;

8 (B) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking  
9 the period and inserting “; and”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(F) sharing technical and non-technical  
12 assistance to plant protein producers.”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting after  
14 “\$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through  
15 2023” the following: “\$40,000,000 for each of fiscal  
16 years 2024 through 2029”.

17 **SEC. 14. VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS.**

18 Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of  
19 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section  
22 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
23 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))” and in-  
24 serting “section 2501(a) of the Food, Agri-  
25 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990  
26 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “has the  
2 meaning given the term in section 231(a) of the  
3 Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7  
4 U.S.C. 1632a(a))” and inserting “means any  
5 farm in which the majority of the business is  
6 owned by an operator and any individuals re-  
7 lated to the operator by blood, marriage, or  
8 adoption, including relatives who do not live in  
9 the household of the operator. The term in-  
10 cludes any farm organized as a sole proprietor-  
11 ship, partnership, or family corporation. The  
12 term does not include any farm organized as a  
13 non-family corporation or cooperative, or any  
14 farm with a hired manager”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(14) INDEPENDENT PRODUCER.—The term  
17 ‘independent producer’ means an operator—

18 “(A) of a small or medium-sized farm or  
19 ranch that is structured as a family farm; and

20 “(B) who produces and owns more than 20  
21 percent of the agricultural commodity to which  
22 value will be added as the subject of a project  
23 proposed under subsection (d).”;

24 (2) in subsection (d)(5)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the  
2 end the following: “In doing so, the Secretary  
3 shall not exclude any producer that does not  
4 own and produce from at least 50 percent of  
5 their own agricultural commodity, or require  
6 any producer to have been in production for a  
7 minimum number of years to be eligible for par-  
8 ticipation.”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking  
10 “(as determined by the Secretary)”; and

11 (C) in subparagraph (C)(i)(III), by insert-  
12 ing “and whose net income does not exceed  
13 \$1,000,000 or 125 percent of the county me-  
14 dian income, whichever is greater” before the  
15 semicolon;

16 (3) in subsection (f)(1)—

17 (A) by striking “or” at the end of subpara-  
18 graph (A);

19 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
20 subparagraph (B) and inserting “; or”; and

21 (C) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(C) operate small or medium-sized family  
23 farms.”; and

24 (4) in subsection (i)—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by striking “\$50,000,000” and in-  
2 serting “\$100,000,000”; and

3 (ii) by striking “2019” and inserting  
4 “2024”;

5 (B) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) by striking “\$20,000,000” and in-  
7 serting “\$40,000,000”; and

8 (ii) by striking “2019” and inserting  
9 “2024”; and

10 (C) in paragraph (3)(A)—

11 (i) in clause (i), by striking “35 per-  
12 cent” and inserting “45 percent”; and

13 (ii) in clause (ii)(III), by inserting “,  
14 including for plant protein products” be-  
15 fore the period.

16 **SEC. 15. EMERGING PROTEIN PRODUCTION RESEARCH,**  
17 **EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

18 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-  
19 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.) is amended  
20 by adding at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 223. OFFICE OF PLANT-BASED FOODS AND INNOVA-**  
22 **TIVE PRODUCTION.**

23 “(a) OFFICE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-  
2           lish in the Department an Office of Plant-Based  
3           Foods and Innovative Production.

4           “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint a  
5           senior official to serve as the Director of the Office  
6           of Plant-Based Foods and Innovative Production  
7           (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’).

8           “(3) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of  
9           Plant-Based Foods and Innovative Production shall  
10          be to encourage and promote plant-based protein  
11          and plant-based food options and plant protein prod-  
12          ucts, including the edible proteins made from plants  
13          (such as vegetables, beans, and legumes), fungi, or  
14          other nonanimal sources, through any of the fol-  
15          lowing:

16               “(A) The development, construction, or ac-  
17               quisition of land, buildings, plants, equipment,  
18               access streets and roads, parking areas, facility  
19               construction, expansion, or production capacity  
20               expansions.

21               “(B) Providing technical and nontechnical  
22               assistance to plant-based food suppliers and  
23               processors in product development.

1           “(C) Supporting other innovations in  
2           plant-based protein and food products, as deter-  
3           mined by the Secretary.

4           “(4) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall be  
5           responsible for engaging in activities to carry out the  
6           mission described in paragraph (3), including by—

7                   “(A) managing programs and providing as-  
8                   sistance to plant-based companies and industry;

9                   “(B) advising the Secretary with respect to  
10                  the promotion of plant protein products;

11                  “(C) coordinating with the agencies and  
12                  officials of the Department to update relevant  
13                  programs;

14                  “(D) engaging in stakeholder relations and  
15                  developing external partnerships;

16                  “(E) identifying common State and munic-  
17                  ipal best practices for navigating local policies;

18                  “(F) coordinating networks of existing  
19                  stakeholder organizations; and

20                  “(G) collaborating with heads of other  
21                  Federal agencies, including the Commissioner  
22                  of Food and Drugs.

23           “(b) EMERGING PROTEIN AND INNOVATIVE PRODUC-  
24           TION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
2 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
3 retary shall establish an Emerging Protein and In-  
4 novative Production Advisory Committee (referred to  
5 in this subsection as the ‘Committee’) to advise the  
6 Secretary on—

7           “(A) the development of policies and out-  
8 reach relating to protein-rich foods sourced  
9 from plant ingredients and emerging agricul-  
10 tural production practices; and

11           “(B) any other aspects of the implementa-  
12 tion of this section.

13           “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

14           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall  
15 be composed of 12 members, of whom—

16           “(i) 4 shall be individuals who are ag-  
17 ricultural producers, of whom—

18           “(I) 2 individuals shall be agri-  
19 cultural producers located in a rural  
20 area; and

21           “(II) 2 individuals shall be farm-  
22 ers that use innovative technology;

23           “(ii) 2 shall be representatives from  
24 an institution of higher education or exten-  
25 sion program;

1           “(iii) 1 shall be an individual who rep-  
2           resents a nonprofit organization, which  
3           may include a public health, environ-  
4           mental, or community organization;

5           “(iv) 1 shall be an individual who rep-  
6           resents business and economic develop-  
7           ment, which may include a business devel-  
8           opment entity, a chamber of commerce, a  
9           city government, or a planning organiza-  
10          tion;

11          “(v) 1 shall be an individual with sup-  
12          ply chain experience, which may include a  
13          food aggregator, wholesale food distributor,  
14          food hub, or an individual who has direct-  
15          to-consumer market experience;

16          “(vi) 1 shall be an individual from a  
17          financing entity; and

18          “(vii) 2 shall be individuals with re-  
19          lated experience or expertise in research fo-  
20          cused on protein-rich foods sourced from  
21          plants and in products sourced from plants  
22          as determined by the Secretary.

23          “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Sec-  
24          retary shall appoint the members of the Com-



1 mittee not later than 180 days after the date of  
2 enactment of this section.

3 “(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
5 subparagraph (B), a member of the Committee  
6 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

7 “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the  
8 members first appointed to the Committee—

9 “(i) 4 of the members, as determined  
10 by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a  
11 term of 3 years;

12 “(ii) 4 of the members, as determined  
13 by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a  
14 term of 2 years; and

15 “(iii) 4 of the members, as determined  
16 by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a  
17 term of 1 year.

18 “(C) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the  
19 Committee—

20 “(i) shall not affect the powers of the  
21 Committee; and

22 “(ii) shall be filled as soon as prac-  
23 ticable in the same manner as the original  
24 appointment.

1           “(D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An initial  
2 appointee of the Committee may serve an addi-  
3 tional consecutive term if the member is re-  
4 appointed by the Secretary.

5           “(4) MEETINGS.—

6           “(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall  
7 meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

8           “(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than  
9 180 days after the date on which the members  
10 are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the  
11 Committee shall hold the first meeting of the  
12 Committee.

13           “(5) DUTIES.—

14           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee  
15 shall—

16                   “(i) develop recommendations and ad-  
17 vise the Director on policies, initiatives,  
18 and outreach administered by the Office of  
19 Emerging Protein and Innovative Produc-  
20 tion;

21                   “(ii) evaluate and review ongoing re-  
22 search and extension activities relating to  
23 protein-rich products sourced from plants  
24 and the development of other plant-based  
25 foods;

1           “(iii) identify new and existing bar-  
2           riers to successful plant protein product  
3           development and emerging agricultural  
4           practices employed by plant protein pro-  
5           ducers; and

6           “(iv) provide additional assistance and  
7           advice to the Director as appropriate.

8           “(B) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year  
9           after the date on which the Committee is estab-  
10          lished, and every 2 years through 2028, the  
11          Committee shall submit to the Secretary, the  
12          Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
13          resentatives, and the Committee on Agriculture,  
14          Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report  
15          describing the recommendations developed  
16          under subparagraph (A).

17          “(6) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

18                 “(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the  
19                 Committee shall serve without compensation.

20                 “(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of  
21                 the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses,  
22                 including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-  
23                 cordance with section 5703 of title 5, United  
24                 States Code.

25          “(7) TERMINATION.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
2 graph (B), the Committee shall terminate on  
3 the date that is 5 years after the date on which  
4 the members are appointed under paragraph  
5 (2)(B).

6           “(B) EXTENSIONS.—Before the date on  
7 which the Committee terminates, the Secretary  
8 may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year  
9 periods.

10          “(c) GRANTS.—The Director shall award competitive  
11 grants to support the development of plant-based foods  
12 and related innovative production to any of the following  
13 eligible entities:

14           “(1) A nonprofit organization.

15           “(2) A unit of local government.

16           “(3) A Tribal government.

17           “(4) Any school that serves any of grades kin-  
18 dergarten through grade 12.

19           “(5) A for-profit organization with fewer than  
20 500 employees.

21           “(6) An institution of higher education, includ-  
22 ing a land-grant college or university and a nonland-  
23 grant college of agriculture (as those terms are de-  
24 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural

1 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of  
2 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

3 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) The term ‘plant protein product’ means a  
5 protein product made from a plant (such as a vege-  
6 table, bean, or legume), fungi, or other nonanimal  
7 source of protein.

8 “(2) The term ‘plant protein producer’ means a  
9 producer of a plant protein product or any processed  
10 or manufactured product thereof.

11 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
12 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
13 and the amendments made by this section \$25,000,000  
14 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

15 **SEC. 16. PLANT-BASED FOOD INNOVATION INITIATIVES.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture  
17 (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall select  
18 not fewer than 5 eligible entities to host regionally-located  
19 plant-based food product and business innovation initia-  
20 tives for the purposes of—

21 (1) diversifying product markets to reduce risk  
22 and developing higher-value use for such products;

23 (2) promoting business development that diver-  
24 sifies the income of producers of plant-based food

1 products through processing and market innovation;  
2 and

3 (3) encouraging the production and use of  
4 plant-based food products and domestic ingredients  
5 for such products.

6 (b) ENTITIES ELIGIBLE TO HOST INITIATIVE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an  
8 entity is eligible to host an initiative under sub-  
9 section (a) if such entity is a State department of  
10 agriculture or other State entity, a nonprofit organi-  
11 zation, or an institution of higher education (as de-  
12 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of  
13 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that has—

14 (A) a capacity to provide consultation and  
15 expertise necessary to advance the purpose and  
16 activities of the proposed initiative; and

17 (B) expertise in grant distribution and  
18 tracking.

19 (2) INELIGIBLE ENTITY.—Notwithstanding  
20 paragraph (1), an animal protein checkoff program  
21 shall not be eligible to host an initiative under sub-  
22 section (a).

23 (3) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking to  
24 host an initiative under subsection (a) shall submit  
25 to the Secretary an application in such time, in such

1 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
2 retary may specify.

3 (c) CONSULTATION.—An entity that hosts an initia-  
4 tive shall consult with the Secretary, and the Adminis-  
5 trator of the Agricultural Marketing Service in carrying  
6 out the initiative.

7 (d) PARTNERS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—An entity eligible to host an  
9 initiative under subsection (a) may, for purposes of  
10 hosting such initiative, partner with an organization  
11 or entity with expertise or experience in proteins, in-  
12 cluding the marketing, research, education, or pro-  
13 motion of plant-based food product.

14 (2) TIMING.—A partnership established pursu-  
15 ant to paragraph (1) may be established—

16 (A) prior to the submission of the applica-  
17 tion under subsection (d); or

18 (B) after approval of the application, in  
19 consultation with the Secretary.

20 (e) ACTIVITIES OF INITIATIVES.—

21 (1) ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS OF PLANT-  
22 BASED FOOD PRODUCTS.—

23 (A) DIRECT ASSISTANCE.—An initiative  
24 established under subsection (a) shall provide  
25 directly to producers of plant-based food prod-

1           ucts assistance through private consultation or  
2           widely available distribution. Such assistance  
3           may be provided—

4                   (i) by the entity that hosts the initia-  
5                   tive under subsection (d)(1);

6                   (ii) through contracting with industry  
7                   experts;

8                   (iii) through the provision of technical  
9                   assistance, such as informational websites,  
10                  webinars, conferences, trainings, plant  
11                  tours, and field days;

12                  (iv) through research institutions; or

13                  (v) through workforce development  
14                  programs.

15           (B) GRANTS.—An initiative may provide a  
16           grant on a noncompetitive basis to an entity  
17           that receives assistance under subparagraph (A)  
18           to advance the business activities recommended  
19           as a result of that assistance.

20           (2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance pro-  
21           vided by an initiative established under subsection  
22           (a) may include—

23                   (A) business consulting, including business  
24                   plan development for plant-based food products,



1 strategic planning assistance, and distribution  
2 and supply chain innovation;

3 (B) marketing and branding assistance, in-  
4 cluding market messaging, packaging innova-  
5 tion, consumer assessments, innovation in  
6 emerging market opportunities, and evaluation  
7 of regional, national, and international markets;

8 (C) assistance in product innovation, in-  
9 cluding the development of value-added prod-  
10 ucts, innovation in byproduct reprocessing and  
11 use maximization, and product production  
12 training, including in new, rare, or innovative  
13 techniques; and

14 (D) other assistance, as determined by the  
15 Secretary.

16 (3) GRANTS TO PLANT-BASED FOOD PRODUCT  
17 BUSINESSES.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—An initiative shall pro-  
19 vide grants on a competitive basis to new and  
20 existing producers of plant-based food products  
21 developing plant-based food products for the  
22 purpose of—

23 (i) modernization, specialization, and  
24 transition of equipment and facilities;

1 (ii) value chain and commodity inno-  
2 vation and facility and process updates for  
3 plant-based proteins producers;

4 (iii) product development, packaging,  
5 and marketing of protein products; and

6 (iv) transitioning from a livestock or  
7 dairy-based production to a plant-based  
8 food product-based production.

9 (B) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants provided  
10 under this paragraph shall not exceed  
11 \$500,000, unless a greater amount is approved  
12 by the Secretary.

13 (4) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—The Secretary  
14 shall establish guidelines and procedures to prevent  
15 any conflict of interest or the appearance of a con-  
16 flict of interest by an initiative (including a partner  
17 of the initiative) with respect to providing funding  
18 under paragraph (1) or (3). An initiative shall agree,  
19 as a condition on the receipt of funds under this sec-  
20 tion, to comply with such guidelines and procedures.

21 (5) PRIORITY.—In providing direct assistance  
22 under paragraph (1) and grants under paragraph  
23 (3), an initiative shall give priority to—

24 (A) producers of plant-based food products  
25 with limited access to other forms of assistance;

1 (B) employee-owned businesses;

2 (C) minority-owned and other businesses  
3 owned by members of historically disadvantaged  
4 communities;

5 (D) cooperatives;

6 (E) producers of plant-based food products  
7 that add substantial value in processing or mar-  
8 keting, such as whole-cut products and specialty  
9 products; and

10 (F) institutions of higher education that  
11 primarily serve minorities.

12 (6) REQUIREMENT.—A foreign person making  
13 a direct investment (as those terms are defined in  
14 section 801.2 of title 15, Code of Federal Regula-  
15 tions (or successor regulations)) in the United  
16 States is not eligible to receive direct assistance  
17 under subsection (f)(1) or a grant under subsection  
18 (f)(3).

19 (f) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

20 (1) MULTIYEAR FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.—In  
21 distributing funds made available to carry out this  
22 section, the Secretary shall seek to make awards in  
23 multiyear funding allocations.

1           (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Not less than 50 percent  
2           of the funds made available under subsection (i)  
3           shall be allocated to grants under subsection (f)(3).

4           (g) REPORT.—Not later than January 31, 2027, the  
5 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on—

6           (1) the outcomes of the initiatives under this  
7           section; and

8           (2) any related activities and opportunities that  
9           the Secretary may pursue to further increase protein  
10          innovation.

11          (h) ANIMAL PROTEIN CHECKOFF PROGRAM DE-  
12 FINED.—In this section, the term “animal protein check-  
13 off program” means a commodity promotion program  
14 under a commodity promotion law (as defined in section  
15 501 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform  
16 Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7401)) with respect to commodities  
17 consisting of, or produced using animal proteins.

18          (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
19 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
20 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2028.