



SHIMP FOR PRESIDENT 2028

AMERICAN FARMERS AND FOOD SECURITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2029

LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION DRAFT

A proposal to protect productive American farmland, strengthen domestic agricultural independence, improve pesticide and chemical-residue safeguards, expand food-safety testing, protect farmers from agricultural sabotage, and preserve the Nation's long-term capacity to feed itself.

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Independent Candidate for President - 2028

ACCOUNTABILITY | INTEGRITY | RULE OF LAW

Prepared as a campaign legislative discussion draft. This is not enacted law. Constitutional, appropriations, committee-jurisdiction, criminal-law, federalism, and technical drafting review would be required before introduction.

H. R. ____

DISCUSSION DRAFT

To protect agricultural land and agricultural commerce; strengthen the safety and resilience of the domestic food supply; reduce unreasonable risks from pesticide and chemical residues; establish stronger testing, transparency, and farmer assistance programs; prohibit specified agricultural sabotage and intentional food contamination; establish federal rights and remedies protecting qualifying agricultural land from prohibited governmental acquisition; and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2029

Mr./Ms. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and, in addition, to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Transportation and Infrastructure, and such other committees as may be appropriate, for consideration of provisions within their respective jurisdictions.

A BILL

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- (a) **SHORT TITLE.** - This Act may be cited as the "**American Farmers and Food Security Protection Act of 2029**".
- (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.** - The table of contents for this Act is as follows: Title I - National Agricultural Security and Farmland Protection; Title II - Food Safety, Pesticides, and Chemical Residues; Title III - American Agricultural Independence and Farmer Support; Title IV - Agricultural Sabotage, Contamination, and Enforcement; Title V - Oversight, Transparency, and General Provisions.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

- (a) **FINDINGS.** - Congress finds that agriculture and the production, processing, transportation, and sale of food are essential components of interstate and foreign commerce and of the national security of the United States; that the permanent loss of productive agricultural land can reduce domestic food-producing capacity; that farmers require access to effective crop-protection tools but consumers and agricultural workers also require science-based protection from unreasonable pesticide risks; and that deliberate contamination, destruction, or sabotage of agricultural products and infrastructure can threaten human life and interstate commerce.
- (b) **PURPOSES.** - The purposes of this Act are to preserve productive agricultural capacity; protect farmers and ranchers from prohibited coercive or destructive conduct; strengthen lawful safeguards governing pesticide residues and agricultural chemicals; expand domestic food production and processing capacity; reduce critical foreign dependencies; and provide effective civil and criminal enforcement consistent with the Constitution.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

- (1) **Agricultural land** means privately or tribally held cropland, orchard, vineyard, pasture, rangeland, farm woodland integral to an agricultural operation, or other land principally devoted to the commercial production of food, fiber, feed, livestock, or agricultural commodities.
- (2) **Qualifying agricultural land** means agricultural land that is actively used for agricultural production or is subject to a conservation easement or other legally recognized agricultural-preservation restriction.
- (3) **Agricultural operation** includes a farm, ranch, orchard, greenhouse, nursery, apiary, aquaculture operation, agricultural storage or packing facility, and an on-farm processing or distribution facility.
- (4) **Agricultural sabotage** means intentional conduct, without lawful authority, that damages, destroys, contaminates, disables, or materially disrupts an agricultural operation or agricultural product and that affects interstate or foreign commerce.

(5) **Secretary** means the Secretary of Agriculture unless otherwise specified.

TITLE I - NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AND FARMLAND PROTECTION

SEC. 101. NATIONAL POLICY TO PRESERVE PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND.

It shall be the policy of the United States to protect the long-term viability of the domestic food supply by preventing unnecessary conversion or involuntary loss of productive working agricultural land and by strengthening voluntary agricultural land conservation programs.

SEC. 102. FEDERAL ACQUISITION AND CONDEMNATION OF QUALIFYING AGRICULTURAL LAND.

- (a) **GENERAL RULE.** - No Federal department or agency may acquire qualifying agricultural land through eminent domain for conversion to a nonagricultural use unless Congress has expressly authorized the project or the head of the acquiring agency makes the findings required by subsection (b).
- (b) **REQUIRED FINDINGS.** - The agency shall establish, in a public written determination supported by the administrative record, that: (1) the acquisition serves a compelling and specifically identified public necessity; (2) no reasonably available nonagricultural alternative would accomplish the project with materially less loss of productive farmland; (3) the acquisition is limited to the minimum acreage necessary; and (4) all constitutionally required just compensation will be paid.
- (c) **EMERGENCY EXCEPTION.** - Subsection (a) shall not prevent temporary emergency use necessary to respond to an imminent threat to life, national defense, catastrophic disaster, or an agricultural or public-health emergency, provided that permanent acquisition remains subject to this section.
- (d) **PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.** - An owner or operator of affected qualifying agricultural land may seek declaratory and injunctive relief in an appropriate United States district court.

SEC. 103. FEDERAL RIGHT AGAINST PROHIBITED STATE OR LOCAL ACQUISITION.

- (a) **FEDERAL RIGHT.** - An owner of qualifying agricultural land that produces, sells, or supplies agricultural commodities in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce shall have a federal right to be free from a State or local governmental taking whose primary purpose is the transfer or conversion of that land to a private nonagricultural commercial use, except as provided in subsection (c).
- (b) **ENFORCEMENT.** - The Attorney General or an affected owner may bring a civil action for declaratory or prospective injunctive relief to enforce the federal right created by this section. The court may award reasonable attorney's fees to a prevailing private plaintiff.
- (c) **EXCEPTIONS.** - This section shall not prohibit acquisition demonstrated to be necessary for a public road, bridge, water, sewer, flood-control, utility, public-safety, or national-security project when the governmental entity proves that feasible alternatives were considered and that the taking is no broader than reasonably necessary; nor shall it prohibit action necessary to abate an imminent threat to life or health.
- (d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.** - Nothing in this section makes the lawful exercise of eminent-domain authority, standing alone, a criminal offense. Fraud, bribery, extortion, deprivation of rights, obstruction, false statements, or other independently criminal conduct may be investigated and prosecuted under otherwise applicable federal law when all statutory elements are satisfied.

SEC. 104. AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION EXPANSION.

- (a) The Secretary shall expand voluntary assistance for permanent and long-term agricultural land easements, with priority for prime farmland, family farms, threatened agricultural regions, and land important to regional food security.
- (b) The Secretary shall establish an expedited application pathway for small and midsized producers seeking voluntary farmland-preservation assistance.
- (c) No landowner shall be compelled to convey a federal conservation easement as a condition of receiving unrelated disaster assistance.

TITLE II - FOOD SAFETY, PESTICIDES, AND CHEMICAL RESIDUES

SEC. 201. NATIONAL PESTICIDE AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL SAFETY REVIEW.

- (a) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall establish a risk-prioritized review of pesticide active ingredients, tolerances, exemptions, and agricultural chemical uses associated with significant dietary exposure, occupational exposure, environmental persistence, or credible new evidence of serious health risk.
- (b) Nothing in this Act shall require cancellation of a pesticide solely because a detectable residue is present. Regulatory action shall be based on applicable statutory safety standards, exposure, toxicity, residue levels, and reliable scientific evidence.
- (c) Where existing law authorizes suspension, cancellation, restriction, or modification of a registration or tolerance and the applicable legal standard is met, the responsible agency shall act expeditiously.

SEC. 202. STRENGTHENED DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED FOOD RESIDUE TESTING.

- (a) The Food and Drug Administration, in coordination with USDA and EPA, shall establish a substantially expanded, risk-based pesticide and chemical-residue testing program for domestic and imported foods.
- (b) Priority shall be given to commodities with prior violations, high consumption by children, repeated import alerts, credible contamination information, or chemicals of elevated toxicological concern.
- (c) The agencies shall develop interoperable laboratory methods and data standards and shall publish aggregate results at least quarterly, including domestic-versus-imported compliance information, while protecting confidential commercial information as required by law.
- (d) Food containing pesticide residues above a lawful tolerance, or residues for which no tolerance or exemption applies, shall be subject to existing enforcement authorities and any additional remedies provided by this Act.

SEC. 203. FARMER TRANSITION AND SAFER CROP-PROTECTION ASSISTANCE.

- (a) The Secretary shall establish grants, cost-sharing, technical assistance, and demonstration projects to help producers adopt integrated pest management, precision application, biological controls, reduced-risk pesticides, soil-health practices, and other effective methods that reduce unnecessary chemical exposure without sacrificing farm viability.
- (b) Priority shall be given to small and mid-sized farms and to producers required to transition because of a federal cancellation or material restriction of a previously lawful agricultural chemical.
- (c) No producer acting in good-faith compliance with then-applicable federal and State law shall be publicly characterized by a federal agency as having intentionally poisoned consumers absent evidence supporting such a characterization.

SEC. 204. RAPID RESPONSE TO CREDIBLE FOOD-CONTAMINATION THREATS.

The Secretary, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the Attorney General shall maintain procedures for rapid sampling, trace-back, evidence preservation, recall coordination, public notification, and criminal referral when credible evidence indicates intentional or reckless contamination of food entering interstate or foreign commerce.

TITLE III - AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL INDEPENDENCE AND FARMER SUPPORT

SEC. 301. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INDEPENDENCE STRATEGY.

- (a) Within 180 days after enactment, the Secretary shall publish a National Agricultural Independence Strategy identifying material foreign dependencies and domestic capacity gaps involving food commodities, seed, fertilizer and fertilizer inputs, veterinary products, agricultural machinery and parts, crop-protection inputs, cold storage, slaughter and processing capacity, transportation, and other critical agricultural inputs.
- (b) The strategy shall establish measurable ten-year objectives to increase resilient domestic capacity without imposing production quotas on individual farmers.

SEC. 302. DOMESTIC PROCESSING, STORAGE, AND DISTRIBUTION CAPACITY.

The Secretary may provide competitive grants, loan guarantees, and cooperative agreements to expand regional meat and food processing, grain and cold storage, produce packing, farm-to-market logistics, and other infrastructure that increases competition, reduces bottlenecks, and improves the ability of American producers to reach American consumers.

SEC. 303. SMALL AND FAMILY FARM RESILIENCE.

- (a) The Secretary shall establish a streamlined resilience program for small and family-owned agricultural operations, including assistance for equipment modernization, water efficiency, energy resilience, soil improvement, disaster hardening, on-farm storage, and market access.
- (b) The Secretary shall minimize unnecessary paperwork and shall provide a single application portal, to the extent practicable, for programs created by this Act.

SEC. 304. FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

To the maximum extent consistent with trade obligations, procurement law, availability, cost, and emergency needs, executive agencies purchasing food for federal institutions and programs shall give preference to agricultural commodities grown, raised, harvested, or substantially processed in the United States.

TITLE IV - AGRICULTURAL SABOTAGE, CONTAMINATION, AND ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 401. AGRICULTURAL SABOTAGE AFFECTING INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

- (a) OFFENSE. - Whoever, without lawful authority and with intent to cause substantial economic loss, bodily injury, death, or substantial disruption of the food supply, intentionally damages, destroys, disables, contaminates, or renders materially unusable an agricultural facility, agricultural product, livestock herd, crop, irrigation system, agricultural storage system, or essential agricultural equipment, where the conduct or affected property is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.
- (b) AGGRAVATED RESULT. - If serious bodily injury results, imprisonment may be for not more than 30 years; if death results, the defendant may be imprisoned for any term of years or for life.
- (c) THREATS AND ATTEMPTS. - A credible threat or attempt to commit an offense under subsection (a), made with the requisite intent and affecting interstate or foreign commerce, shall be punishable as provided by Congress in the conforming amendment to title 18.
- (d) EXCLUSIONS. - This section does not prohibit peaceful protest, picketing, journalism, whistleblowing, labor activity, lawful competition, lawful inspection, regulatory enforcement, ordinary trespass not involving the conduct specified in subsection (a), or other activity protected by the Constitution or federal law.

SEC. 402. INTENTIONAL FOOD TAMPERING AND CONTAMINATION.

- (a) The Attorney General shall issue prosecutorial guidance concerning the use of 18 U.S.C. 1365 and other applicable federal criminal statutes when food or agricultural products affecting interstate or foreign commerce are intentionally tampered with, tainted, or dangerously mislabeled.
- (b) Nothing in this Act expands criminal liability for ordinary negligence, lawful pesticide use within applicable requirements, or a good-faith agricultural practice that does not satisfy the elements of a federal offense.
- (c) The Attorney General shall coordinate with FDA and USDA, which possess investigative authority under 18 U.S.C. 1365 for consumer products regulated by those agencies.

SEC. 403. OFFICIAL CORRUPTION OR FRAUD INVOLVING AGRICULTURAL LAND.

- (a) The Attorney General shall prioritize investigation of credible allegations that a public official or private participant used bribery, extortion, fraud, falsified evidence, obstruction, or other independently unlawful means to obtain or facilitate the involuntary transfer of qualifying agricultural land.
- (b) Nothing in this section authorizes arrest, prosecution, or punishment unless the government can establish every element of an offense enacted by Congress and all constitutional requirements.

SEC. 404. CIVIL REMEDIES FOR AGRICULTURAL SABOTAGE.

A person who suffers direct physical damage to an agricultural operation from conduct constituting an offense under section 401 may bring a civil action against the person who committed the conduct for actual damages, reasonable remediation costs, and, where authorized by the court for willful conduct, appropriate additional damages, together with reasonable attorney's fees.

TITLE V - OVERSIGHT, TRANSPARENCY, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SECURITY COORDINATING COUNCIL.

The Secretary shall chair an interagency council including representatives of EPA, FDA, DOJ, DHS, HHS, Commerce, Transportation, the United States Trade Representative, and other appropriate agencies to coordinate food-supply resilience, agricultural infrastructure protection, contamination response, and implementation of this Act.

SEC. 502. PUBLIC AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND RESILIENCE DASHBOARD.

USDA shall maintain a public dashboard containing, to the extent lawful and practicable, national and regional indicators concerning productive farmland loss, agricultural processing capacity, major supply dependencies, pesticide-residue compliance trends, grants and loans awarded under this Act, and progress toward domestic agricultural resilience objectives.

SEC. 503. PROTECTION OF FARMERS' DUE PROCESS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS.

No benefit created by this Act may be denied, suspended, or recouped without notice and an opportunity for review consistent with applicable law. Nothing in this Act diminishes the protections of the Fourth or Fifth Amendments or authorizes warrantless entry onto private agricultural property beyond authority otherwise provided by law.

SEC. 504. RELATION TO STATE LAW; PREEMPTION.

- (a) Except where this Act expressly creates a federal right or establishes a federal standard, nothing in this Act shall preempt a State law that provides equal or greater protection to farmers, farmland, food safety, public health, or property rights and that is otherwise consistent with federal law.
- (b) Sections 103 and 401 shall apply according to their terms. Congress intends the federal right created by section 103 to be enforceable against conflicting governmental action to the extent permitted by the Constitution and the laws of the United States.
- (c) No provision shall be construed to commandeer a State legislature or executive officer to administer a federal regulatory program.

SEC. 505. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act, including laboratory capacity, farmer transition assistance, farmland preservation, domestic processing and storage infrastructure, and agricultural-security enforcement, subject to annual appropriations Acts.

SEC. 506. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or the application of a provision to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of its provisions to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected.

SEC. 507. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided, this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment. The heads of affected agencies shall issue necessary implementing regulations not later than 1 year after enactment.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING NOTES

This discussion draft intentionally separates **civil farmland protection** from **criminal misconduct**. It does not declare every State or local exercise of eminent domain to be an existing federal crime. Instead, it creates a proposed federal right for qualifying agricultural land tied to interstate or foreign agricultural commerce, supplies prospective federal remedies, and preserves prosecution for bribery, extortion, fraud, obstruction, deprivation of rights, food tampering, or other crimes when their actual statutory elements are satisfied.

The pesticide provisions also distinguish between the **presence** of a pesticide residue and an **unsafe or unlawful** residue. Existing federal law uses EPA tolerances and statutory safety findings, while FDA monitors and enforces residue requirements in food. The bill strengthens review, testing, transparency, and transition assistance rather than asserting that every detectable residue is poisonous.

Selected legal and program authorities considered:

- Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act section 408 and the Food Quality Protection Act pesticide-safety framework.
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.
- 18 U.S.C. § 1365, Tampering with consumer products.
- USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and Agricultural Land Easements.
- U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 8, clause 3; Article VI; Fifth and Tenth Amendments; and federal preemption/anti-commandeering principles.

This draft should be reviewed by the House or Senate Office of Legislative Counsel, Congressional Budget Office, Congressional Research Service, USDA, EPA, FDA, DOJ, and relevant committees before formal introduction.