

AMENDMENT TO THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

ACT OF 2021

OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 27, after line 8, insert the following:

1 Subtitle C—Assistance to Rural
2 America for COVID-19 Relief
3 and Recovery

4 PART 1—ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL HEALTH,
5 SAFETY, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

6 SEC. 1021. ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL HOSPITALS AND ES-
7 SENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (in
9 this section referred to as the “Secretary”) may—

10 (1) make a grant to any hospital, health facil-
11 ity, public safety facility, or education facility that is
12 eligible for assistance under section 306(a)(1) or
13 310B(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
14 opment Act and is located in a rural area (within
15 the meaning of section 343(a)(13)(C) of such Act,
16 subject to sections 343(a)(13)(H) and 343(a)(13)(I)
17 of such Act);

18 (2) provide a zero interest loan or a 1 percent
19 loan to, forgive principal or interest or modify any

1 term or condition of an outstanding loan made to,
2 or refinance part or all of any other loan if the pur-
3 pose of the loan or loan part is an eligible purpose
4 under such section 306(a)(1) to any hospital, health
5 facility, public safety facility, or education facility
6 that is eligible for a direct loan under such section
7 306(a)(1); and

8 (3) reduce or eliminate any fee that is would
9 otherwise be required to be paid under such section
10 306(a)(1) or 310B(g) with respect to a loan guar-
11 antee provided to any hospital, health facility, public
12 safety facility, or education facility, on the condition
13 that the borrower receives the benefit resulting from
14 the reduction or elimination of the fee.

15 (b) LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may pro-
16 vide assistance to an entity under this section as the Sec-
17 retary determines is necessary to—

18 (1) ensure that the entity has the necessary re-
19 sources to maintain public health, safety, or order;

20 (2) address financial hardships of the entity
21 due to the COVID–19 public health emergency; or

22 (3) promote the financial stability of the entity.

23 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity to which assistance
24 is provided under this section may use the assistance—

1 (1) for any purpose for which the entity is eligi-
2 ble for assistance under such section 306(a)(1) or
3 310B; or

4 (2) for any eligible direct operational expenses
5 of the entity, as determined by the Secretary.

6 (d) NOTICE.—The Secretary may disburse funds
7 under this section pursuant to 1 or more notices in the
8 Federal Register, without regard to publication of any
9 final rulemaking.

10 (e) APPROPRIATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any money in the
12 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appro-
13 priated, there are appropriated \$1,500,000,000 to
14 carry out this section.

15 (2) RESERVATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO HOS-
16 PITALS AND HEALTH FACILITIES.—The Secretary
17 shall reserve \$750,000,000 of the amount appro-
18 priated by paragraph (1) for assistance to hospitals
19 and health facilities eligible for assistance under this
20 section.

21 (3) RESERVATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EX-
22 PENSES.—The Secretary shall reserve 3 percent of
23 the amount appropriated by paragraph (1) for ad-
24 ministrative expenses incurred in carrying out this
25 section.

1 (4) AVAILABILITY.—The amount appropriated
2 in paragraph (1) shall remain available through De-
3 cember 31, 2022.

4 **SEC. 1022. EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR ESSENTIAL COMMU-**
5 **UNITY FACILITIES AND TEMPORARY INSTAL-**
6 **LATIONS NEEDED IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**
7 **PANDEMIC.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 306(a)(19) of the Consoli-
9 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
10 1926(a)(19)) is amended—

11 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “this para-
12 graph” each place it appears and inserting “sub-
13 paragraph (A)”;

14 (2) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(C) EMERGENCY GRANTS.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
17 may make grants during an emergency, as
18 determined by the Secretary, to any entity
19 referred to in subparagraph (A) to pur-
20 chase vehicles, equipment, or services need-
21 ed for the immediate safe operation of an
22 essential community facility or a tem-
23 porary installation necessary to support
24 the public response to the emergency in a
25 rural area.

1 “(ii) USE OF GRANT.—The Secretary
2 shall, by regulation, determine—

3 “(I) the kinds of vehicles, equip-
4 ment, and supplies which may be pur-
5 chased using a grant made under this
6 subparagraph; and

7 “(II) the kinds of facilities and
8 temporary installations for which such
9 a purchase may be made.”.

10 (b) APPROPRIATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any money in the
12 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appro-
13 priated, there are appropriated to the Secretary
14 \$600,000,000 to carry out section 306(a)(19)(C) of
15 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act
16 with respect to the emergency relating to the
17 COVID–19 pandemic.

18 (2) AVAILABILITY.—The amount made avail-
19 able by clause (i) shall remain available through De-
20 cember 31, 2022.

21 **PART 2—ASSISTANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL**

22 **PRODUCERS AND PROCESSORS**

23 **SEC. 1031. PAYMENTS REINSTATED.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated under this
25 Act may not be made available for any purpose until the

1 Secretary of Agriculture reinstates the processing and ob-
2 ligating of payments and additional payments under the
3 coronavirus food assistance program under part 9 of title
4 7, Code of Federal Regulations.

5 (b) ADDITIONAL COVID RELIEF.—The Secretary of
6 Agriculture shall ensure that relief payments made to pro-
7 ducers pursuant to section 751 of subtitle B of Title VII
8 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 are made
9 in an expedited fashion in order to ameliorate the effects
10 of the COVID–19 pandemic.

11 **SEC. 1032. BIOFUELS.**

12 Out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise ap-
13 propriated, there is appropriated \$1,000,000,000 to make
14 payments to producers of advanced biofuel, biomass-based
15 diesel, cellulosic biofuel, conventional biofuel, or renewable
16 fuel (as such terms are defined in section 211(o)(1) of the
17 Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(1))) produced in the
18 United States, for unexpected market losses as a result
19 of COVID–19.

20 **SEC. 1033. WHIP+.**

21 In addition to amounts otherwise available, out of any
22 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there
23 is appropriated \$2,000,000,000 to make payments for
24 necessary expenses related to losses of crops (including
25 losses due to high winds or derechos) pursuant to title I

1 of the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Dis-
2 aster Relief Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–20), as amended
3 by section 116 of the Continuing Appropriations Act,
4 2020 (Public Law 116–59) and pursuant to section 791
5 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020
6 (Public Law 116–94) for crop losses in crop year 2020.

7 **SEC. 1034. SAFETY INFORMATION FOR ALL AGRICULTURAL**
8 **WORKERS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 502(i)(1)(B) of the Rural
10 Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662(i)(1)(B)) is
11 amended—

12 (1) in the subparagraph heading, by inserting
13 “AND AGRICULTURAL WORKER” before “SAFETY”;

14 (2) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

15 (A) by inserting “and agricultural worker”
16 before “safety education”; and

17 (B) by striking “timber harvesters, and
18 farm families” and inserting “agricultural proc-
19 essors and handlers, timber harvesters, farm
20 families, and other participants in the agricul-
21 tural supply chain”;

22 (3) in clause (iii), by striking “dermatitis” and
23 inserting “dermatitis”;

24 (4) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the end;

1 (5) in clause (vi), by striking the period and in-
2 serting “; and”; and

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

4 “(vii) other relevant health and safety
5 guidance, guidelines, requirements, or in-
6 formation.”.

7 (b) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in the
8 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appro-
9 priated to the Secretary of Agriculture \$100,000,000 for
10 fiscal year 2021, which is authorized to remain available
11 through December 31, 2022.

12 (c) RURAL HEALTH DISRUPTION PRIORITIZATION
13 FLEXIBILITY.—Section 6101(a) of the Agricultural Act of
14 2018 (132 Stat. 4726–4727; Public Law 115–334) is
15 amended by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating
16 paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

17 **PART 3—BROADBAND**

18 **SEC. 1041. DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE**
19 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

20 In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is
21 appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not other-
22 wise appropriated \$300,000,000 to carry out chapter 1 of
23 subtitle D of title XXIII of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
24 servation, and Trade Act of 1990, to remain available
25 through September 30, 2022;

1 **SEC. 1042. BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS.**

2 In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is
3 appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not other-
4 wise appropriated—

5 (1) \$300,000,000, to carry out section 601 of
6 the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, to remain
7 available through September 30, 2023;

8 (2) \$100,000,000 to carry out section 602 of
9 the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, to remain
10 available through September 30, 2023; and

11 (3) \$100,000,000 to carry out section 604 of
12 the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, to remain
13 available through September 30, 2023.

14 **PART 4—ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL FAMILIES AND**
15 **BUSINESSES**

16 **SEC. 1051. ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL FAMILIES AND ESSEN-**
17 **TIAL UTILITY PROVIDERS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Rural Electrifica-
19 tion Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950cc–950cc-2) is amended
20 by adding at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 704. RURAL UTILITY BRIDGE LOANS.**

22 **“(a) LINE OF CREDIT.—**

23 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary may provide
24 an eligible borrower with a line of credit from which
25 a loan may be made to replace qualified losses as a
26 result of a covered emergency.

1 “(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of the line of cred-
2 it shall be the lesser of—

3 “(A) 25 percent of the total revenue re-
4 ceived by the borrower during the 12-month pe-
5 riod ending with the day before the date of the
6 determination referred to in subsection (c)(3)
7 with respect to the covered emergency; or

8 “(B) \$5,000,000.

9 “(b) LOANS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On receipt by the Secretary
11 of documentation that the eligible borrower has a
12 qualified loss as a result of a covered emergency, the
13 Secretary shall make a loan to the borrower from
14 the line of credit in an amount equal to the lesser
15 of—

16 “(A) the qualified loss; or

17 “(B) the unused amount of the line of
18 credit.

19 “(2) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED LOSS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
21 subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, a qualified
22 loss is eligible for a loan made from the line of
23 credit if the loss is incurred not more than 180
24 days after the date of the determination re-

1 ferred to in subsection (c)(3) with respect to
2 the covered emergency.

3 “(B) AUTHORITY TO ADJUST.—The Sec-
4 retary may—

5 “(i) on request of the eligible bor-
6 rower, reduce the length of eligibility pe-
7 riod described in subparagraph (A); or

8 “(ii) on a determination that the bor-
9 rower is continuing to incur significant
10 qualified losses as a result of a covered
11 emergency, increase the length of the pe-
12 riod.

13 “(3) LOAN TERMS.—

14 “(A) NO PAYMENT REQUIRED DURING
15 EMERGENCY.—During the covered emergency,
16 interest on the loan shall not accrue, and repay-
17 ment of principal on the loan shall not be re-
18 quired.

19 “(B) LOAN CONSOLIDATION AFTER EMER-
20 GENCY ENDS.—Unless the Secretary determines
21 that the borrower requires additional time to
22 submit documentation of qualified losses, on the
23 date that is 60 days after the eligibility period
24 described in paragraph (2) ends, the Secretary
25 shall close the line of credit, and consolidate all

1 loans made to the borrower under this section
2 with respect to the emergency into a single loan
3 with the following terms:

4 “(i) GRACE PERIOD.—During the 2-
5 year period that begins with the date the
6 consolidated loan is made, interest on the
7 consolidated loan shall not accrue, and re-
8 payment of principal on the consolidated
9 loan shall not be required.

10 “(ii) INTEREST.—Interest on the con-
11 solidated loan shall accrue at a rate of 1
12 percent per year during the 3-year period
13 that begins at the end of that 2-year pe-
14 riod.

15 “(iii) REPAYMENT PERIOD.—The loan
16 shall be repayable in full by the end of the
17 5-year period that begins with the date the
18 consolidated loan is made.

19 “(C) NO FEE OR PREPAYMENT PEN-
20 ALTY.—The Secretary may not impose a fee or
21 prepayment penalty with respect to any loan
22 made under this section.

23 “(4) FORGIVENESS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
25 subparagraph (B), if the borrower makes 1 or

1 more qualified write-offs after the 1-year period
2 that begins with the date a consolidated loan is
3 made to the borrower under this section, the
4 Secretary shall forgive repayment of a portion
5 of the loan, in an amount equal to—

6 “(i) 90 percent of the first \$500,000
7 of the total amount of the qualified write-
8 offs;

9 “(ii) 60 percent of the next
10 \$1,000,000 of the total amount of the
11 qualified write-offs; and

12 “(iii) 30 percent of the next
13 \$1,000,000 of the total amount of the
14 qualified write-offs.

15 “(B) INELIGIBILITY OF BORROWER WHO
16 INTERRUPTS SERVICE DURING EMERGENCY.—
17 Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect
18 to the borrower if, during the covered emer-
19 gency, the borrower suspends or interrupts util-
20 ity service to any customer or subscriber of the
21 borrower for non-payment of an amount owed
22 to the borrower.

23 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) ELIGIBLE BORROWER.—The term ‘eligible
25 borrower’ means an entity that—

1 “(A) provides electric, telecommunications,
2 clean water, waste water, or waste disposal
3 services; and

4 “(B) is eligible for assistance under—

5 “(i) section 4, 201, or 601 of the
6 Rural Electrification Act of 1936; or

7 “(ii) section 306(a) of the Consoli-
8 dated Farm and Rural Development Act.

9 “(2) QUALIFIED LOSS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
11 graph (B), the term ‘qualified loss’ means, with
12 respect to a borrower and a covered emer-
13 gency—

14 “(i) an amount owed to the borrower
15 for services provided during the emergency,
16 which are more than 15 days past due; and

17 “(ii) an amount not received by the
18 borrower because of reduced demand for
19 services sold by the borrower on a per-unit
20 basis, to the extent that the reduction is
21 attributable to the emergency.

22 “(B) REDUCTION.—The total amount de-
23 termined under subparagraph (A) shall be re-
24 duced by the fair market value of any assist-
25 ance received by the borrower from any source

1 while the line of credit is open, for the purpose
2 of offsetting the loss of routine operating rev-
3 enue or covering the cost of routine operating
4 expenses, during the covered emergency, exclud-
5 ing any assistance provided to repair, recover,
6 or rebuild from damage due to the emergency.

7 “(3) COVERED EMERGENCY.—The term ‘cov-
8 ered emergency’ means—

9 “(A) a major disaster or emergency, as de-
10 termined by the President under the Robert T.
11 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
12 ance Act;

13 “(B) a natural disaster, as determined by
14 the Secretary of Agriculture; or

15 “(C) an emergency involving Federal pri-
16 mary responsibility determined to exist by the
17 President under the section 501(b) of such Act.

18 “(4) QUALIFIED WRITE-OFF.—The term ‘quali-
19 fied write-off’ means, with respect to a borrower—

20 “(A) an amount described in paragraph
21 (2)(A)(i), if the borrower assigns to the Sec-
22 retary the right to any payment of the amount;
23 and

24 “(B) 90 percent of an amount described in
25 paragraph (2)(A)(ii).

1 “(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may, on an ex-
2 pedited basis, prescribe such regulations as are necessary
3 to carry out the preceding provisions of this section.

4 “(e) RURAL UTILITY BRIDGE LOAN FUND.—

5 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in
6 the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund
7 to be known as the ‘Rural Utility Bridge Loan
8 Fund’ (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Fund’).

9 “(2) DEPOSITS AND CREDITS.—There shall be
10 deposited in, or credited to, the Fund the following:

11 “(A) All amounts appropriated to the
12 Fund.

13 “(B) All amounts paid as principal or in-
14 terest on a loan made under this section.

15 “(C) All interest on, and proceeds from the
16 sale or redemption of, any obligations invested
17 in under paragraph (4).

18 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts in the
20 Fund shall be available for the cost of making
21 loans under this section without further appro-
22 priation.

23 “(B) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—With
24 respect to each covered emergency, the Sec-

1 retary may use amounts in the Fund for admin-
2 istrative expenses, as follows:

3 “(i) ESTABLISHMENT OF LINES OF
4 CREDIT.—For expenses incurred in estab-
5 lishing lines of credit under this section, an
6 amount equal to 1 percent of the Fund
7 balance as of the date of the determination
8 referred to in subsection (c)(3) with re-
9 spect to the covered emergency.

10 “(ii) MAKING AND SERVICING OF
11 LOANS.—During each fiscal year, for ex-
12 penses incurred in making and servicing
13 loans (including consolidated loans) under
14 this section, an amount equal to 3 percent
15 of the average total amount of loans out-
16 standing under this section during the fis-
17 cal year with respect to the covered emer-
18 gency.

19 “(iii) LIMITATION.—In addition, the
20 Secretary may not use more than
21 \$30,000,000 during each fiscal year for
22 any administrative expense incurred in car-
23 rying out this section.

24 “(4) INVESTMENTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may re-
2 quest the Secretary of the Treasury to invest
3 the portion of the Fund that is not, in the judg-
4 ment of the Secretary of Agriculture, required
5 to meet the current needs of the Fund.

6 “(B) ELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS.—On re-
7 ceipt of such a request, the Secretary of the
8 Treasury shall invest the amount involved in
9 obligations of the United States or obligations
10 that are guaranteed as to principal and interest
11 by the United States, with maturities suitable
12 to the needs of the Fund as determined by the
13 Secretary of Agriculture.”.

14 (b) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any amounts in the
15 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated,
16 there are appropriated to the Rural Utility Bridge Loan
17 Fund \$1,000,000,000, without fiscal year limitation. For
18 purposes of section 704(e)(3)(B)(i) of the Rural Elec-
19 trification Act of 1936, with respect to a covered emer-
20 gency declared in response to the COVID–19 pandemic,
21 the Fund balance is deemed to be the amount specified
22 in the preceding sentence.

23 **SEC. 1052. ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL BUSINESSES.**

24 (a) DEFINITION OF COVERED LOAN.—In this sec-
25 tion, the term “covered loan” means a loan that is—

1 (1) made by an intermediary lender to an ultimate recipient using a loan received under section
2 1323 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C.
3 1932 note; Public Law 99–198) or section 310H of
4 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act
5 (7 U.S.C. 1936b; Public Law 113–79);

7 (2) made by a microenterprise development organization to a microentrepreneur under section
8 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s); or

11 (3) guaranteed under section 310B(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

13 (b) PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PAYMENTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
15 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall,
16 subject to paragraph (2), pay the principal, interest,
17 and any associated fees that are owed on a covered
18 loan in a regular servicing status—

19 (A) with respect to a covered loan made
20 before the date of enactment of this Act and
21 not on deferment, for the 9-month period beginning with the next payment due on the covered
22 loan;
23 loan;

24 (B) with respect to a covered loan made
25 before the date of enactment of this Act and on

1 deferment, for the 9-month period beginning
2 with the next payment due on the covered loan
3 after the deferment period; and

4 (C) with respect to a covered loan made
5 during the period beginning on the date of en-
6 actment of this Act and ending on the date that
7 is 6 months after that date of enactment, for
8 the 9-month period beginning with the first
9 payment due on the covered loan.

10 (2) LIMITATION ON PAYMENT.—A single
11 monthly payment of principal, interest, and associ-
12 ated fees made under paragraph (1) with respect to
13 a covered loan in the last 3 months of the 9-month
14 period described in paragraph (1) shall not exceed
15 \$9,000.

16 (3) TIMING OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall
17 begin making payments under paragraph (1) on a
18 covered loan not later than 30 days after the date
19 on which the first payment described in that para-
20 graph is due.

21 (4) APPLICATION OF PAYMENT.—Any payment
22 made by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be
23 applied to the covered loan such that the borrower
24 is relieved of the obligation to pay that amount.

25 (c) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall—

1 (1) communicate and coordinate with the Fed-
2 eral Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the
3 Comptroller of the Currency, and State bank regu-
4 lators to encourage those entities to not require
5 lenders to increase their reserves on account of re-
6 ceiving payments made by the Secretary under sub-
7 section (b);

8 (2) waive statutory limits on maximum loan
9 maturities for any covered loan durations where the
10 lender provides a deferral and extends the maturity
11 of covered loans during the 1-year period following
12 the date of enactment of this Act; and

13 (3) when necessary to provide more time be-
14 cause of the potential of higher volumes, travel re-
15 strictions, and the inability to access some properties
16 during the COVID–19 pandemic, extend lender site
17 visit requirements to—

18 (A) not more than 60 days (which may be
19 extended at the discretion of the Secretary)
20 after the occurrence of an adverse event, other
21 than a payment default, causing a loan to be
22 classified as in liquidation; and

23 (B) not more than 90 days after a pay-
24 ment default.

1 (d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section limits the au-
2 thority of the Secretary to make payments pursuant to
3 subsection (b) with respect to a covered loan solely because
4 the covered loan has been sold in the secondary market.

5 (e) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated, out of
6 any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
7 \$650,000,000 for activities authorized by this section.

8 **SEC. 1053. RESTART THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY CARES**
9 **ACT GUARANTEED LENDING PROGRAM.**

10 In addition to amounts otherwise available, out of any
11 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there
12 is appropriated \$10,000,000, to remain available until De-
13 cember 31, 2022, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to
14 coronavirus, for the cost of loans for rural business devel-
15 opment programs authorized by section 310B, and de-
16 scribed in section 310B(g), of the Consolidated Farm and
17 Rural Development Act.

18 **PART 5—SUPPORT FOR USDA EMPLOYEES AND**
19 **DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS**

20 **SEC. 1061. SUPPORT FOR USDA EMPLOYEES AND DEPART-**
21 **MENT OPERATIONS.**

22 In additional to amounts otherwise available, out of
23 any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
24 there is appropriated [\$300,000,000], to remain available
25 until December 31, 2022, to improve access to Depart-

1 ment of Agriculture services that have been affected by
2 the COVID–19 pandemic, including—

3 (1) ensuring that Department of Agriculture
4 service centers are open and functioning on a more
5 consistent operational basis;

6 (2) providing protection for Department of Ag-
7 riculture employees, especially those required to con-
8 sistently interface with the public as a requirement
9 of employment;

10 (3) increasing technical assistance;

11 (4) effectively distributing information to appli-
12 cants for programs administered by the Department
13 of Agriculture; and

14 (5) efficiently processing applications from such
15 applicants.

Page 352, line 4, strike “\$30,000,000,000” and in-
sert “\$22,000,000,000”.

Page 354, line 18, strike “\$26,086,580,227” and in-
sert “\$18,086,580,227”.

