118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R._____

To direct the agricultural research service to expand organic research, and for other purposes.

________________________________________
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NEWHOUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ______________________

________________________________________

A BILL

To direct the agricultural research service to expand organic research, 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
SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.
4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Organic Agriculture Research Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. ORGANIC RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.
5 Section 1672B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b(f)) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and each fiscal year thereafter.” and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;
“(I) $70,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
“(J) $80,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
“(K) $90,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

and

“(L) $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter.”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023” and inserting “2028”.

SEC. 3. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.

Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.) is amended by inserting before section 1667, as added by section 3, the following:

“SEC. 1666. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC PROGRAM.

“(a) COMPETITIVE SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
make competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities regarding the transition of non-organic production systems into organic production for the purposes of—

“(1) overcoming social, economic, and management barriers to organic transition;

“(2) documenting and understanding the effects of organic practices on ecosystem services, including soil health and fertility, greenhouse gas mitigation and sequestration, water management, biodiversity-related services, and pest management; and

“(3) developing improved technologies, methods, models, and metrics to document, describe, and optimize ecosystem services of transitioning agricultural production into organic management.

“(b) GRANT TYPES AND PROCESS.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

“(c) PARTNERSHIPS ENCOURAGED.—Following the completion of a peer review process for applications for a grant received under this section, the Secretary may provide a priority to any such proposal for such a grant that—
“(1) is found in the peer review process to be scientifically meritorious;

“(2) includes as active partners organic producers that are conducting on-farm research and demonstrations (and the organizations that represent such producers); and

“(3) actively involves—

“(A) 1890 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601));

“(B) 1994 Institutions (as defined in such section 2); and

“(C) Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026; and

“(2) $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2028.”.
Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) $10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024 to 2028.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023” and inserting “2028”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS OF ORGANIC FARMING AND CERTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Economic Research Service (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Secretary’), shall—

“(A) not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, prepare,
and submit, a plan to conduct an economic im-
pact analysis of organic agriculture, as defined
in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Produc-
tion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502) to the Com-
mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
culture of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) not later than 3 years after the date
on which the plan is submitted under paragraph
(1), submit such economic impact analysis to
the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The analysis under para-
graph (1) shall include an analysis of—

“(A) farming and ranching operations of a
variety of sizes, with regional differences, and
that have a diversity of production practices
and methods; and

“(B) the direct and indirect economic im-
pacts of organic agriculture on rural and urban
communities, including—

“(i) the vitality of the local economy;
“(ii) the labor market;
“(iii) environmental quality;
“(iv) social dynamics;
“(v) land ownership; and
“(vi) any other information, data, or analysis the Secretary considers necessary to make the economic impact analysis comprehensive, accurate, and useful.”.