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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize rural cooperative development grants.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RILEY of New York (for himself and Mr. VALADAO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize rural cooperative development grants.

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 “Strengthening Rural

5 Cooperatives and Communities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF RURAL COOPERATIVE DE-**2 **VELOPMENT GRANTS.**

3 Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural

4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the

6 following:

7 “(C) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The
8 term ‘cooperative development’ means activities
9 including outreach, education, training, and
10 technical assistance, to support the startup, ex-
11 pansion, or ongoing sustainability of new and
12 existing cooperatives.”;13 (2) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and award
14 maximum points in scoring criteria to applicants
15 that satisfy the requirements of paragraph (5)(F),”
16 before “if the plan”;17 (3) in paragraph (5), by striking subparagraph
18 (D) and inserting the following:19 “(D) commit to providing technical assist-
20 ance and other services to socially vulnerable,
21 underserved, or distressed communities.”;22 (4) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “If the
23 Secretary determines it to be in the best interest of
24 the program, the” and inserting “The”;25 (5) in paragraph (10), by adding at the end the
26 following: “The Secretary shall analyze the data re-

1 sulting from the research, and include the data and
2 the analysis in the annual report submitted by the
3 interagency working group under paragraph (12).”;

4 (6) in paragraph (12), by adding at the end the
5 following: “Not later than 180 days after the date
6 of the enactment of this sentence and annually
7 thereafter, the interagency working group shall sub-
8 mit to the Congress a report describing the activities
9 carried out by the working group.”; and

10 (7) in paragraph (13), by striking “2014
11 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.