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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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RILEY of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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”.

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

8 Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
9 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the  
2 following:

3 “(C) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The  
4 term ‘cooperative development’ means activities  
5 including outreach, education, training, and  
6 technical assistance, to support the startup, ex-  
7 pansion, or ongoing sustainability of new and  
8 existing cooperatives.”;

9 (2) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and award  
10 maximum points in scoring criteria to applicants  
11 that satisfy the requirements of paragraph (5)(F),”  
12 before “if the plan”;

13 (3) in paragraph (5), by striking subparagraph  
14 (D) and inserting the following:

15 “(D) commit to providing technical assist-  
16 ance and other services to socially vulnerable,  
17 underserved, or distressed communities;”;

18 (4) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “If the  
19 Secretary determines it to be in the best interest of  
20 the program, the” and inserting “The”;

21 (5) in paragraph (10), by adding at the end the  
22 following: “The Secretary shall analyze the data re-  
23 sulting from the research, and include the data and  
24 the analysis in the annual report submitted by the  
25 interagency working group under paragraph (12).”;

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

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