

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5583

To establish an advisory panel to study the development of a climate-friendly certification for agricultural products, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself and Mr. CLEAVER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To establish an advisory panel to study the development of a climate-friendly certification for agricultural products, 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 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Climate-Friendly Food
5 Label Task Force Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) 10 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions
9 emitted by the United States come from the agricul-
10 tural sector.

1 (2) Sustainable agricultural practices that re-
2 duce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent deforest-
3 ation will be critical to preventing the Earth from
4 reaching 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-indus-
5 trial levels, the threshold that would result in cata-
6 strophic climate-related effects.

7 (3) Improving the agricultural sector’s impact
8 on the climate is a vital component of efforts by the
9 U.S. to meet its contributions to the Paris Agree-
10 ment.

11 (4) The USDA Organic label represents a suc-
12 cessful model for using voluntary, market-based ap-
13 proaches to driving innovation in the agricultural
14 sector and successfully created a robust organic
15 market in the United States.

16 (5) Market-based approaches like USDA Or-
17 ganic can spark significant economic benefits includ-
18 ing jobs, and new, higher revenues for farmers.

19 (6) In 2021, organic farming totaled
20 \$11,200,000,000 in sales, created opportunity for
21 17,445 organic farms, and 28 percent of organic
22 farmers planned to continue to grow their level of
23 organic production. A similar voluntary, market-
24 based approach to climate-friendly agricultural prac-

1 tices could create comparable economic benefits for
2 farmers and workers.

3 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF CLIMATE-FRIENDLY CERTIFICATION FOR**
4 **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an advisory
6 panel to carry out the study described in subsection
7 (c).

8 (b) MEMBERS.—The advisory panel established
9 under subsection (a) shall be composed of members appointed
10 by the Secretary of Agriculture and shall include—
11 include—

12 (1) representatives—

13 (A) that are scientists, including experts
14 on climate science and nutrition science;

15 (B) of environmental advocacy organizations;
16

17 (C) of industry, including food manufacturing
18 and farming; and

19 (D) of other stakeholders, as the Secretary
20 of Agriculture determines appropriate; and

21 (2) at least one representative from each of the
22 following:

23 (A) The Department of Agriculture.

24 (B) The Environmental Protection Agency.

1 (C) The Centers for Disease Control and
2 Prevention.

3 (D) The Food and Drug Administration.

4 (E) The National Academy of Sciences.

5 (F) Any other Federal agency the Sec-
6 retary of Agriculture determines appropriate.

7 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the panel shall sub-
9 mit to the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress a report
10 that includes—

11 (1) recommendations regarding the development
12 of a climate-friendly certification for agricultural
13 products that—

14 (A) moves agricultural producers toward
15 reducing greenhouse gas emissions on a life-
16 cycle basis; and

17 (B) uses market-based approaches that al-
18 lows for greater consumer choice and education;
19 and

20 (2) how such a certification would measure—

21 (A) the life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions
22 of agricultural products;

23 (B) the water usage in production of agri-
24 cultural products;

1 (C) the land use effects of agricultural
2 products; and

3 (D) any additional criteria the panel deter-
4 mines appropriate.

5 (d) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture
6 shall make the report required under subsection (c) pub-
7 licly available on the website of the Department of Agri-
8 culture.

9 (e) MORATORIUM ON USE OF CLIMATE-FRIENDLY
10 CERTIFICATION DURING STUDY.—The Secretary of Agri-
11 culture may not issue any regulations or guidance or oth-
12 erwise certify or advertise any agricultural product as cli-
13 mate-friendly before the date on which the report required
14 under subsection (c) is submitted to Congress.

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