

SEC. __. DEFINITION OF TRIBAL PRODUCER

The term Tribal producer means a producer who is—

- (a) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));
- (b) a wholly owned Tribal entity, a Tribally chartered entity, or a federally chartered Tribal entity;
- (c) a Native Hawaiian organization (as defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517)), including the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs);
- (d) a member of a federally recognized Tribe as defined by the list published most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131), including parenthetically; or
- (e) a Native Hawaiian (as defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517)).

SEC. __. COST SHARE AND MATCH PROHIBITION

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture shall not impose a cost sharing or matching fund requirement with respect to grants awarded to Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) and Native Hawaiian organizations (as defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517), including the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs).

SEC. __. NATIVE COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

- (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the United States Department of Agriculture.
- (2) NATIVE COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR.—The term “Native community navigator” means an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization (each as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304), Native Hawaiian organization (as defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517), including the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs), or a Native nonprofit organization engaged in the delivery of Native community navigator services.
- (3) NATIVE COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR SERVICES.—The term “Native community navigator services” means the outreach, education, technical assistance, and administrative assistance provided by Native community navigators to Native producers to increase awareness of, and participation in, programs of the Department.
- (4) NATIVE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term “Native nonprofit organization” means an entity that is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code; serves the interests of American Indians, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians as its primary function; and has American Indians, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians in substantive and policymaking positions within the organization.
- (5) NATIVE PRODUCER.—The term Native producer means a producer who is—
 - (A) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

- (B) a wholly owned Tribal entity, a Tribally chartered entity, or a federally chartered Tribal entity;
 - (C) a Tribal organization (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));
 - (D) a Native Hawaiian organization (as defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517), including the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs);
 - (E) a member of a federally recognized Tribe as defined by the list published most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131), including parenthetically; or
 - (F) Native Hawaiian as defined in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221).
- (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Native Community Navigator program to enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with Native community navigators to ensure the delivery of free Native community navigator services to Native producers to improve access to the Department’s programs and resources.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) REGIONAL COVERAGE.—The Native Community Navigator Program shall include at least one Native Community Navigator in each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Hawai‘i.

(2) ACTIVITIES.—In providing Native community navigator services, Native community navigators shall, at a minimum:

(A) conduct outreach and provide education to current or prospective Native producers on programs of the Department;

(B) provide technical and administrative assistance to current or prospective Native producers with the drafting and submission of program applications;

(C) offer current or prospective Native producers referrals to trusted resource partners, potential lenders, and other relevant resources; and

(D) provide technical and administrative assistance to current or prospective Native producers who receive awards from the Department to ensure successful compliance with reporting and other procedural grant requirements.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which a Native community navigator enters into a contract or cooperative agreement with the Secretary, and annually thereafter, that Native community navigator shall provide to the Secretary an annual report containing itemized data and descriptions of its outreach activities, provision of technical and administrative assistance with grant applications, and provision of technical and administrative assistance with grant compliance.

(d) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 to carry out this program for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.

SEC. __. MODIFICATION OF TRIBAL LEASES AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS INDIAN LAND.

(a) Extension of Tribal Lease Period.—The first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 25 U.S.C. 415) (commonly known as the “Long-Term Leasing Act”) is amended—

(1) by striking “That (a)” and all that follows through the end of subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“SECTION 1. LEASES OF RESTRICTED LAND.

“(a) Authorized Purposes; Term; Approval by Secretary.—

“(1) In general.—Any restricted Indian lands, regardless of whether that land is tribally or individually owned, may be leased by the Indian owner of the land, with the approval of the Secretary, for—

“(A) a public, religious, educational, recreational, residential, business, or grazing purposes; or

“(B) a farming purpose that requires the making of a substantial investment in the improvement of the land for the production of 1 or more specialized crops as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) Inclusions.—A lease under paragraph (1) may include the development or use of natural resources in connection with operations under that lease.

“(3) Term.—

“(A) In general.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a lease under paragraph (1) shall be for a term of not more than 99 years, including any renewals.

“(B) Exception for grazing purposes.—A lease under paragraph (1) for grazing purposes may be for a term of not more than 10 years, including any renewals.

“(4) Requirement.—Each lease and renewal under this subsection shall be made in accordance with such terms and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary.

“(5) Conditions for approval.—Before the approval of any lease or renewal of an existing lease pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall determine that adequate consideration has been given to—

“(A) relationship between the use of the leased lands and the use of neighboring land;

“(B) the height, quality, and safety of any structures or other facilities to be constructed on the leased land;

“(C) the availability of police and fire protection and other services on the leased land;

“(D) the availability of judicial forums for all criminal and civil causes of action arising on the leased land; and

“(E) the effects on the environment of the uses to which the leased lands will be subject.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “(b) Any lease” and inserting the following:

“(b) Exception for Secretary Approval.—Any lease”;

(B) by striking “of the Interior” each place it appears; and

(C) by striking “clause (3)” and inserting “paragraph”;

(3) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (b), (c), (d), and (a), respectively, and moving the subsections so as to appear in alphabetical order; and

(4) by striking “subsection (a)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (b)”.

(b) Technical Correction.—Section 2 of the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 25 U.S.C. 415a) (commonly known as the “Long-Term Leasing Act”), is amended by inserting “of the Interior” after “Secretary” each place it appears.

(c) Modification of Rights-of-way Across Indian Land.—The first section of the Act of February 5, 1948 (62 Stat. 17, chapter 45; 25 U.S.C. 323) is amended—

(1) by striking “That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is empowered to” and inserting the following:

“SECTION 1. RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR ALL PURPOSES ACROSS INDIAN LAND.

“(a) Rights-of-way.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior may”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) Exception.—A right-of-way granted by an Indian tribe for the purposes authorized under this section shall not require the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, subject to the condition that—

“(1) the right-of-way approval process by the Indian tribe substantially complies with subsection (h) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 25 U.S.C. 415(h)); or

“(2) the Indian tribe has tribal regulations approved by the Secretary of the Interior under that subsection.”.

SEC. __. REIMBURSEMENT TRANSPORTATION COST PAYMENT

Section 8792 of title 7 is amended—

(a) in section (a) by adding after paragraph (2)—

“(3) Alaska Native.—The term Alaska Native means a Native (as defined in subsection (b) of section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b)))

“(4) Native Hawaiian has the meaning given the term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).” ; and

(b) in section (d) by adding at the end the following: “Of the funds authorized to be appropriated in any fiscal year, at least 10% shall be set aside for geographically disadvantaged farmers or ranchers who are Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians as defined in this section.”

SEC. __. CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS

Section 3842 of title 16 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) Incorporating Native Traditional Ecological Knowledge

“The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, fully incorporate Native traditional ecological knowledge into the conservation practice standards.”

SEC. __. SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACTS

Title I of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5321 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 112. SELF-DETERMINATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.

“(a) Agriculture Self-Determination Authorized.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall enter

into self-determination contracts, in accordance with subsection (c), with Tribal organizations, on the request of any Indian Tribe, by Tribal resolution—

“(1) to plan, conduct, and administer any function, service, or activity provided by the Forest Service or the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the Indian Tribe;

“(2) to carry out the food distribution program on Indian reservations established under section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)) for any individual or household within the jurisdiction of the Indian Tribe; or

“(3) subject to subsection (b), to carry out the authority of the Food Safety and Inspection Service under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.).

“(b) Food Safety and Inspection Service Contracts.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Tribal organization seeking to enter into a self-determination contract described in subsection (a)(3) shall, before requesting to enter into that contract, adopt, by Tribal resolution, a food and agriculture code approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, [after which the Secretary of Agriculture shall exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture under Public Law 87–718 (7 U.S.C. 1633) with respect to the Tribal organization governed by that Indian Tribe.]

“(2) RURAL WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES LOANS AND GRANTS.—An Indian Tribe operating under a contract described in subsection (a)(3) shall be eligible for grant and loan programs under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

“(c) Self-Determination Contract.—A self-determination contract entered into under subsection (a) shall have the same terms and conditions, and be subject to the same procedures, regulations, and requirements, as a self-determination contract entered into under section 102, except that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture shall be the appropriate Secretary and agency for purposes of a self-determination contract entered into under subsection (a).

“(d) Technical Assistance.—The Office of Self-Governance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall provide technical assistance with respect to a self-determination contract authorized under subsection (a)—

“(1) to the Secretary of Agriculture; and
“(2) to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations that request that assistance.”.

SEC. __. BUY INDIAN ACT MODIFICATIONS

Section 23 of the Act of June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 861, chapter 431; 25 U.S.C. 47) (commonly known as the “Buy Indian Act”), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

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

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) the Secretary of Agriculture.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and the Department of Health and Human Services” and inserting “, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Agriculture”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “and the Indian Health Service” and inserting “, the Indian Health Service, and the Department of Agriculture”; and

(3) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “Committee on Indian Affairs” and all that follows through “House of Representatives” and inserting “Committees on Indian Affairs and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture of the House of Representatives”.

SEC. __. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SELF GOVERNANCE

(a) Study.—[Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act], the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a Tribal self-governance demonstration project for appropriate programs, services, functions, and activities of the Department of Agriculture.

(b) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

(1) the results of the study conducted under subsection (a); and

(2) a plan to establish an Office of Self-Governance in the Department of Agriculture to carry out the results of that study and the amendments made by section 2.

(c) Consultation.—The Secretary shall develop the plan described in subsection (b)(2) in consultation with Indian Tribes, the Office of Tribal Relations of the Department of Agriculture, and the Tribal Advisory Committee established under section 309(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921(b)).

(d) Implementation.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Secretary submits the report under subsection (b), the Secretary shall implement the plan described in the report.

SEC. __. WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL AND NATIVE VILLAGES IN ALASKA

Section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “construction of water and wastewater systems” and inserting “construction of water and wastewater systems, washeteria, or communal bath facilities and for the implementation of a program to monitor human waste for viruses and bacteria to detect emerging human pathogens”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting “and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium” after “State of Alaska”.