

## Indian Country Priorities and Opportunities for the 2023 Farm Bill Title XII: Miscellaneous

### Key Points and Recommendations

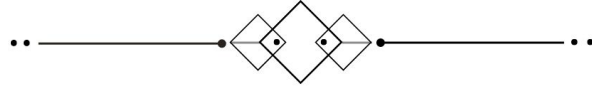
- Apply both the Buy Indian Act and Indian Employment Preference Hiring to all USDA programs, increasing economic development opportunities for Native-owned companies and ensuring better service to Indian Country through USDA programs.
- Extend “638” authority broadly to all USDA programs and authorities.
- Provide supports for urban Indian communities seeking to improve food security and economic development for urban Native communities and farmers.

### **Background Information and Context**

Past Farm Bills have included authorities benefiting Indian Country in this Title, including the 2014 Farm Bill’s creation of the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR). Programs across all six subsections of the Miscellaneous Title provide support for producers who are strongly represented in Indian Country: beginning farmers and ranchers, veterans, and programs designed specifically to help support local food production.

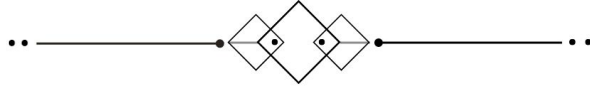
### **Opportunities for Indian Country in the Miscellaneous Title**

- ***Extend the Buy Indian Act (25 USC 47) and Indian Employment Preference Hiring (25 USC 44) to all USDA Programs.***
- ***Application of “638” to all USDA Programming; creation of a 638 Office at USDA***
  - Rather than accomplishing 638 expansion program-by-program, apply 638 authority broadly to the entire Department of Agriculture in the Miscellaneous Title.
- ***Improve coordination for Intertribal tourism efforts***
  - Establish an Undersecretary of Agriculture for Farm Production & Conservation position to coordinate Intertribal tourism demonstration projects under the *Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000*.
- ***Increase Support for Tribal Promise Zones***



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- Incorporate the competitive enhancement opportunities in federal awards made to areas designated Tribal Promise Zones, including preference points or priority consideration.
- ***Study Marketplace Fraud of Unique Traditional Foods and Tribal Seeds***
  - Direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study the impact of foods and seeds fraudulently marketed as Native American produced goods and seeds and provide an analysis of trademark and intellectual property laws to provide protection.
- ***Establish a “First Right of Refusal” for Tribal Nations to purchase available USDA lands in their ancestral territories***
  - Anytime USDA owned lands are made available for sale, Tribal Nations who claim them as their ancestral territories should be accorded the first right to purchase.
- ***Seating the Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) Created in the 2018 Farm Bill***
  - Continue the TAC’s legal authority in any future Farm Bill and require additional reporting to Congress.
- ***Food assistance programs for urban Indian communities***
  - Create an opportunity for an urban-based food assistance program for Tribal citizens within the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production created by the 2018 Farm Bill.
  - Add Urban Organizations (UIOs) as eligible entities to administer this food assistance program focused on urban Indian populations.
- ***Recognize Tribal Departments of Food and Agriculture***
  - Recognize and incorporate Tribal Department of Food and Agriculture into ongoing interface with other offices of government.
- ***Increase Cooperative Agreements between APHIS and Tribes***



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- Increase the amount of funding of cooperative agreements to not only further the growth of agriculture management and governmental control at the Tribal government level, but also meet the goals and concerns of APHIS.
- ***Coordination with BIA on Agricultural Resource Management Plan (ARMP)***
  - The BIA should be required to coordinate with USDA in all aspects of supporting any Tribe that wishes to draft and implement an ARMP.
- ***Provide grant funding for meat, poultry, fish, and seafood processing***
  - Congress should provide additional resources for the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program and ensure that a portion of these funds are used to support fish and seafood processing in tribal communities.