

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6023

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the designation of composting as a conservation practice and conservation activity, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2020

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

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the designation of composting as a conservation practice and conservation activity, 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 “Cultivating Organic
5 Matter through the Promotion Of Sustainable Techniques
6 Act” or the “COMPOST Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Composting is one of the most environ-
2 mentally friendly means to dispose of food waste and
3 other organic wastes.

4 (2) Composting not only causes less nutrient
5 pollution of surface and ground water and emits a
6 smaller quantity of greenhouse gases compared to
7 alternative disposal methods, but also yields a valu-
8 able soil amendment that enhances soil health and
9 fertility and agricultural resilience to the impacts of
10 climate change.

11 (3) It is critical for the Natural Resources Con-
12 servation Service to provide technical and financial
13 support to producers in the on-farm production of
14 compost from on-farm and off-farm organic byprod-
15 ucts, and the utilization of compost in accordance
16 with sound soil health and nutrition management.

17 **SEC. 3. COMPOSTING AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE.**

18 Section 1241(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
19 U.S.C. 3841(j)) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
21 graph (3); and

22 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
23 lowing new paragraph:

24 “(2) COMPOSTING AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE
25 AND ACTIVITY.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall by
2 regulation provide that composting is a con-
3 servation practice and a conservation activity
4 for the purposes of this title.

5 “(B) COMPOSTING DEFINED.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes
7 of this paragraph, the term ‘composting’
8 means—

9 “(I) an activity (including an ac-
10 tivity that does not require the use of
11 a composting facility) to produce com-
12 post from organic waste that is—

13 “(aa) generated on a farm;

14 or

15 “(bb) brought to a farm
16 from a nearby community and
17 used to produce compost on that
18 farm; and

19 “(II) the use and active manage-
20 ment of compost on a farm, in accord-
21 ance with any applicable Federal,
22 State, or local law, to improve water
23 retention and soil health.

24 “(ii) DETERMINATION OF NEARBY
25 COMMUNITIES.—The Secretary, in con-

1 sultation with the Administrator of the En-
2 vironmental Protection Agency, shall issue
3 regulations for determining whether a com-
4 munity is nearby for purposes of clause
5 (i)(I) which shall ensure that bringing or-
6 ganic waste from the community to the
7 farm to produce compost results in a net
8 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.”.

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