

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5316

To establish a carbon sequestration pilot program under which the Secretary of the Interior may make grants for projects to evaluate methods to increase the amount of carbon captured on qualified public lands in order to achieve a wide range of benefits, including reductions in greenhouse gases, increased water retention and water quality in watersheds, nutrient cycling, reduced erosion, and forage quality.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish a carbon sequestration pilot program under which the Secretary of the Interior may make grants for projects to evaluate methods to increase the amount of carbon captured on qualified public lands in order to achieve a wide range of benefits, including reductions in greenhouse gases, increased water retention and water quality in watersheds, nutrient cycling, reduced erosion, and forage quality.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Healthy Soils and
3 Rangelands Solutions Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CARBON SEQUESTRATION PILOT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) **PROGRAM REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau
8 of Land Management, shall establish a Carbon Sequestra-
9 tion Pilot Program to make grants to eligible entities for
10 projects to carry out eligible activities.

11 (b) **SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD.**—As part of the pro-
12 gram, the Secretary shall establish a science advisory
13 board to provide analysis and recommendations regard-
14 ing—

15 (1) the selection of eligible entities and eligible
16 activities to receive grants under the program, based
17 on the best available science; and

18 (2) appropriate monitoring requirements to be
19 required under subsection (c).

20 (c) **MONITORING AND REPORTING.**—As a condition
21 of a grant under the program, the grant recipient shall
22 comply with monitoring and reporting requirements to
23 quantify project performance and communicate results.

24 (d) **INNOVATION COMPETITION.**—

25 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall make
26 grants, through a challenge competition, to eligible

1 entities for projects to carry out innovative ap-
2 proaches to eligible activities.

3 (2) LISTING.—The Secretary shall list the chal-
4 lenge competition under this subsection on
5 www.challenge.gov (or any successor website of the
6 Federal Government that lists challenge competi-
7 tions run by Federal agencies).

8 (e) OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND TECHNICAL AS-
9 SISTANCE.—The Secretary—

10 (1) may provide technical assistance for eligible
11 activities; and

12 (2) shall expand outreach and education with
13 respect to carbon sequestration and best practices
14 related to eligible activities.

15 (f) ACCEPTANCE OF OUTSIDE FUNDS.—The Sec-
16 retary may accept nonappropriated funds, including funds
17 from other public sources, private companies, nonprofit or-
18 ganizations, or foundations, to carry out the program.

19 (g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—With respect to each
20 project administered under the program, not later than
21 three years after the awarding of the grant, at least every
22 two years thereafter for the duration of the project, and
23 not later than 180 days after the completion of the
24 project, the Secretary, working with grantees and any

1 other agencies of jurisdiction shall submit a report to Con-
2 gress detailing—

3 (1) the progress and accomplishments of the
4 project in general;

5 (2) a detailed summary and estimate of the vol-
6 ume of carbon sequestered due to project activities;

7 (3) a summary of education and outreach ef-
8 forts related to the project; and

9 (4) a set of recommendations for land manage-
10 ment best practices based on the outcome of the
11 project.

12 (h) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

13 (1) BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-
14 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock
15 through reductive thermal processing.

16 (2) COMPOST.—The term “compost” means a
17 biologically stable organic material suitable for use
18 as a amendment that is produced by the controlled
19 aerobic decomposition of manure or other organic
20 material, not including sewage sludge or biosolids,
21 by microorganisms.

22 (3) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—The term “eligible
23 activity” means a project for sequestering carbon
24 through—

25 (A) grazing practices;

1 (B) restoring degraded qualified public
2 lands;

3 (C) application of compost on qualified
4 public lands; or

5 (D) using biochar as an amendment on
6 qualified public lands.

7 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
8 ty” means an owner or operator of qualified public
9 lands, a university, a nongovernmental organization,
10 or an Indian tribe.

11 (5) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
12 the Carbon Sequestration Pilot Program established
13 by this section.

14 (6) QUALIFIED PUBLIC LANDS.—The term
15 “qualified public lands” means any land and interest
16 in land owned by the United States within the sev-
17 eral States and administered by the Secretary of the
18 Interior through the Bureau of Land Management,
19 the National Park Service, or the United States
20 Fish and Wildlife Service, without regard to how the
21 United States acquired ownership, except lands lo-
22 cated on the Outer Continental Shelf.

1 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
3 rector of the Bureau of Land Management.

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