

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. \_\_\_\_\_

To utilize loans and loan guarantees under the rural broadband access program to provide broadband service for agricultural producers and to provide universal service support for installation charges for broadband service for agricultural producers in order to improve precision farming and ranching, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STEFANIK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

## A BILL

To utilize loans and loan guarantees under the rural broadband access program to provide broadband service for agricultural producers and to provide universal service support for installation charges for broadband service for agricultural producers in order to improve precision farming and ranching, 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 “Precision Farming  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LOAN PRIORITIES IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO**  
2 **BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERV-**  
3 **ICES IN RURAL AREAS.**

4 Section 601(c)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of  
5 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb(c)(2)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-  
7 graph (C);

8 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-  
9 paragraph (E) and, in such subparagraph, by strik-  
10 ing “in the applications of the applicants”; and

11 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-  
12 lowing new subparagraph (D):

13 “(D) give priority to applicants that offer  
14 to provide broadband service, at better than the  
15 minimum acceptable level of broadband service  
16 established under subsection (e), to agricultural  
17 producers in the proposed service territory to  
18 improve their ability to conduct precision farm-  
19 ing or ranching, as determined by the Sec-  
20 retary; and”.

21 **SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT FOR BROADBAND**  
22 **SERVICE INSTALLATION CHARGES FOR AGRI-**  
23 **CULTURAL PRODUCERS.**

24 Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
25 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
26 lowing:

1           “(m) SUPPORT FOR BROADBAND SERVICE INSTAL-  
2 LATION CHARGES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A provider of broadband  
4 service serving a geographic area shall, upon a bona  
5 fide request from an agricultural producer for con-  
6 nection to such service to improve the ability of the  
7 producer to conduct precision farming or ranching,  
8 install any line or other facility or equipment nec-  
9 essary to enable such connection at a discount from  
10 the amount that the provider would charge other  
11 parties for a similar installation.

12           “(2) AMOUNT OF DISCOUNT.—The amount of  
13 the discount provided under paragraph (1) shall be  
14 the lesser of—

15           “(A) the amount that the provider would  
16 charge other parties for a similar installation;  
17 or

18           “(B) \$15,000.

19           “(3) LIMIT OF ONE DISCOUNT PER AGRICUL-  
20 TURAL PRODUCER.—An agricultural producer may  
21 not receive more than one discount under paragraph  
22 (1).

23           “(4) OFFSET OR REIMBURSEMENT.—A provider  
24 of broadband service that makes an installation  
25 under paragraph (1) shall—

1           “(A) have an amount equal to the amount  
2           of the discount provided under such paragraph  
3           treated as an offset to its obligation to con-  
4           tribute to the mechanisms to preserve and ad-  
5           vance universal service; or

6           “(B) notwithstanding the provisions of  
7           subsection (e), receive reimbursement utilizing  
8           the support mechanisms to preserve and ad-  
9           vance universal service.

10          “(5) CONSISTENCY WITH RURAL BROADBAND  
11          ACCESS PROGRAM.—The Commission shall, in con-  
12          sultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, promul-  
13          gate such regulations as are necessary to ensure that  
14          this subsection is carried out in a manner that is  
15          consistent with the manner in which the Secretary  
16          of Agriculture carries out subparagraph (D) of sec-  
17          tion 601(c)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of  
18          1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb(c)(2)).”.