

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2454**

**OFFERED BY MS. PINGREE OF MAINE**  
*+ Mr. Schrader, Mr. Hodes, Mr. Michaud, Mr. Welch, Ms. Shea-Pater*  
(Page and line numbers refer to the file ACESFL\_001 (HR 2998) on the Rules Committee website)

At the end of subtitle E of title III (page 923, after line 13), add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 360. CARBON INCENTIVES PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE**  
2 **SUPPLEMENTAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMIS-**  
3 **SIONS REDUCTIONS ON PRIVATE**  
4 **FORESTLAND.**

5 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

6 (1) **AVOIDED DEFORESTATION AGREEMENT.**—

7 The term “avoided deforestation agreement” means  
8 a permanent conservation easement covering eligible  
9 land enrolled under a climate mitigation contract  
10 providing that the eligible land covered will not be  
11 converted for development. Avoided conversion  
12 agreements shall be consistent with the guidelines of  
13 the Forest Legacy Program, or any other program  
14 approved by the Secretary for use under this section  
15 to provide consistency with Federal legal require-  
16 ments for permanent conservation easements.

1           (2) CLIMATE MITIGATION CONTRACT.—The  
2 term “climate mitigation contract” or “contract”  
3 means a contract of not less than 15 years speci-  
4 fying the eligible practices that will be undertaken,  
5 the acreage of eligible land upon which the practices  
6 will be undertaken, the agreed rate of compensation  
7 per acre, and a schedule to verify that the terms of  
8 the contract have been fulfilled.

9           (3) ELIGIBLE LANDS.—The term “eligible  
10 lands” means forestland in the United States that is  
11 privately owned at the time of initiation of a climate  
12 mitigation contract.

13           (4) ELIGIBLE PRACTICE.—The term “eligible  
14 practice” means an forestry practice determined by  
15 the Secretary to provide measurable increases in car-  
16 bon sequestration and storage on eligible lands be-  
17 yond customary practices on comparable lands.

18           (5) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
19 the carbon incentives program required by this sec-  
20 tion.

21           (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
22 the Secretary of Agriculture.

23           (b) SUPPLEMENTAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS  
24 REDUCTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.—

1           (1) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Sec-  
2           retary of Agriculture shall establish a carbon incen-  
3           tives program to achieve supplemental greenhouse  
4           gas emissions reductions on private forestland of the  
5           United States.

6           (2) FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—The  
7           Secretary shall provide financial incentive payments  
8           for eligible practices—

9                   (A) measurably increase carbon sequestra-  
10                  tion and storage over a designated contract pe-  
11                  riod through management activities on eligible  
12                  lands; and

13                   (B) maintain carbon sequestration and  
14                  storage and avoid future emissions through per-  
15                  manent avoided conversion agreements on eligi-  
16                  ble lands.

17           (c) PERFORMANCE OF SUPPLEMENTAL REDUC-  
18           TIONS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall  
19           report on progress toward reaching the following levels of  
20           carbon sequestration and storage through climate mitiga-  
21           tion contracts:

22                   (1) 100,000,000 tons of carbon reductions by  
23                  2020.

24                   (2) 200,000,000 tons of further carbon reduc-  
25                  tions by 2030.

1 (d) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

2 (1) CONTRACT REQUIRED.—To participate in  
3 the program, owners of eligible lands shall enter into  
4 a climate mitigation contract with the Secretary.

5 (2) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—In establishing  
6 the program, the Secretary shall further provide  
7 that—

8 (A) funds distributed under this section  
9 shall not be substituted for, or otherwise used  
10 as a basis for reducing, funding authorized or  
11 appropriated under other programs to com-  
12 pensate owners of eligible lands for activities  
13 that are not covered under a climate mitigation  
14 contract;

15 (B) emissions reductions or sequestration  
16 achieved through a climate mitigation contract  
17 shall not be eligible for crediting under any fed-  
18 erally established offset program; and

19 (C) compensation for activities under this  
20 program shall be set at such a rate so as not  
21 to exceed the net estimated benefit an owner of  
22 eligible land would receive for the same prac-  
23 tices through crediting under any federally es-  
24 tablished carbon offset program.

25 (e) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

1           (1) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days  
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3 retary shall establish regulations specifying eligible  
4 practices and related compensation rates, standards,  
5 and guidelines as the basis for developing climate  
6 mitigation contracts with owners of eligible lands.

7           (2) SET-ASIDE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN PUR-  
8 POSES.—Not less than 35 percent of program funds  
9 shall be used to provide further incentives for owners  
10 of eligible lands willing to undertake activities and  
11 enter into agreements that protect carbon reductions  
12 and otherwise enhance environmental benefits  
13 achieved under a climate mitigation contract, which  
14 shall include—

15           (A) 10 percent to provide incentive pay-  
16 ments for additional management activities that  
17 increase the adaptive capacity of lands under a  
18 climate mitigation contract; and

19           (B) 25 percent to make funds available on  
20 a competitive basis to compensate owners for  
21 entering avoided deforestation agreements on  
22 lands subject to a climate mitigation contract.

23           (f) PROGRAM MEASUREMENT, MONITORING,  
24 VERIFICATION, AND REPORTING.—

1           (1) MEASUREMENT, MONITORING, AND  
2 VERIFICATION.—The Secretary shall establish and  
3 implement protocols that provide monitoring and  
4 verification of compliance with climate mitigation  
5 contracts, to include field sampling of actual per-  
6 formance to develop annual estimates of emissions  
7 reductions achieved under the program. Eligible  
8 practices and compensation rates may be adjusted  
9 for future climate mitigation contracts based on re-  
10 sults of these measures.

11           (2) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—At least once  
12 every 18 months, the Secretary shall submit to Con-  
13 gress a report containing—

14                   (A) an estimate of annual and cumulative  
15 reductions generated through the program, de-  
16 termined using standardized measures including  
17 economic efficiency; and

18                   (B) a summary of any changes to the pro-  
19 gram that will be made as a result of program  
20 measurement, monitoring, and verification.

21           (3) AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—Each report  
22 required by this subsection shall be available to the  
23 public through the official website of the Depart-  
24 ment of Agriculture.

1. (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2. are authorized to be appropriated such sums as shall be
3. necessary to carry out this section.

