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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish, in the Department of Agriculture, an Office of Agritourism,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. WEXTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish, in the Department of Agriculture, an Office
of Agritourism, 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 referred to as the “Accelerating the
5 Growth of Rural Innovation and Tourism Opportunities
6 to Uphold Rural Industries and Sustainable Marketplaces
7 Act” or the “AGRITOURISM Act”.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Agritourism provides a range of unique ex-
2 periences to the public, including—

3 (A) education, such as school tours, garden
4 and nursery tours, winery tours, historical agri-
5 cultural exhibits, and hops and micro-brewery
6 tours;

7 (B) outdoor recreation, such as river ac-
8 tivities, mountain biking, horseback riding,
9 wildlife viewing and photography, fee fishing
10 and hunting, wagon and sleigh rides, cross-
11 country skiing, game preserves, and clay bird
12 shooting;

13 (C) entertainment, such as concerts and
14 special events, culinary experiences, festivals,
15 fairs, interaction with farm animals, and wed-
16 dings;

17 (D) direct sales, such as on-farm sales,
18 farm stands, agriculture-related crafts and
19 gifts, u-pick operations, u-cut tree farms,
20 wineries, breweries, cideries, distilleries, and cut
21 flowers;

22 (E) accommodations, such as bed-and-
23 breakfast inns, farm and ranch vacations, yurts,
24 sheep wagons, and guest ranches; and

25 (F) dining on a farm.

1 (2) Agritourism has financial, educational, and
2 social benefits to communities.

3 (3) Agritourism continues to—

4 (A) offer educational opportunities for chil-
5 dren and families;

6 (B) generate supplemental income for own-
7 ers of agricultural enterprises, which are often
8 small or family-run businesses;

9 (C) spur economic development in rural
10 communities;

11 (D) preserve agricultural heritage; and

12 (E) help farms diversify.

13 (b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
14 the Congress that, to further realize the benefits of
15 agritourism to communities, the Secretary of Agriculture
16 should incorporate agritourism into the Department of
17 Agriculture comprehensively.

18 **SEC. 3. OFFICE OF AGRITOURISM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.— The Federal Crop Insurance Re-
20 form and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act
21 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6901-6921) is amended by adding at
22 the end the following:

23 **“SEC. 310. OFFICE OF AGRITOURISM.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in
25 the Department an Office of Agritourism.

1 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint a sen-
2 ior official to serve as the Director of the Office of
3 Agritourism (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’).

4 “(c) DUTIES.—The Office of Agritourism shall en-
5 courage and promote agritourism activities and
6 agritourism businesses, including—

7 “(1) educational experiences;

8 “(2) outdoor recreation;

9 “(3) entertainment and special events;

10 “(4) direct sales;

11 “(5) accommodations; and

12 “(6) any other activity or business relating to
13 agritourism, as determined by the Secretary.

14 “(d) MEANS OF ACHIEVING.—In carrying out sub-
15 section (c), the Director shall—

16 “(1) coordinate with the agencies and officials
17 of the Department;

18 “(2) advise the Secretary on issues relating to
19 agritourism;

20 “(3) ensure that the programs of the Depart-
21 ment are updated to address best agritourism prac-
22 tices;

23 “(4) conduct outreach to stakeholders and co-
24 ordinate external partnerships to share best prac-

1 tices, provide mentorship, and offer technical assist-
2 ance to agritourism businesses;

3 “(5) facilitate interagency program coordination
4 and develop interagency tools for the promotion of
5 agritourism programs and resources;

6 “(6) review and improve farm enterprise devel-
7 opment programs that provide information about fi-
8 nancial literacy, business planning, and marketing
9 for agritourism;

10 “(7) coordinate networks of agritourism busi-
11 nesses; and

12 “(8) collaborate with other Federal agencies as
13 needed.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
15 for such Act is amended by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

“Sec. 310. Office of Agritourism”.