

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH 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 cited 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 CONGRESS.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

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, hops and microbrewery tours,  
6                   and distillery 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; and

3           (3) agritourism continues—

4                 (A) to offer educational opportunities for  
5                 children and families;

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

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

11                (D) to preserve agricultural heritage; and

12                (E) to help farms diversify.

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

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

19           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Agriculture  
20           Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by inserting after  
21           section 216 (7 U.S.C. 6916) the following:

22   **“SEC. 217. OFFICE OF AGRITOURISM.**

23           “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means  
2           the Director of the Office of Agritourism described  
3           in subsection (c).

4           “(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

5                   “(A) each of the several States of the  
6           United States;

7                   “(B) the District of Columbia; and

8                   “(C) any territory of the United States.

9           “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
10          lish in the Department an Office of Agritourism.

11          “(c) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint a sen-  
12          ior official to serve as the Director of the Office of  
13          Agritourism.

14          “(d) DUTIES.—The Director shall encourage and  
15          promote, in each State, agritourism activities and  
16          agritourism businesses, including—

17                   “(1) educational experiences;

18                   “(2) outdoor recreation;

19                   “(3) entertainment and special events;

20                   “(4) direct sales;

21                   “(5) accommodations; and

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

24          “(e) MEANS OF ACHIEVING.—In carrying out sub-  
25          section (d), the Director shall—

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

3           “(2) advise the Secretary on issues relating to  
4 agritourism;

5           “(3) ensure that the programs of the Depart-  
6 ment are updated to address best agritourism prac-  
7 tices;

8           “(4) conduct outreach to stakeholders and co-  
9 ordinate external partnerships to share best prac-  
10 tices, provide mentorship, and offer technical assist-  
11 ance to agritourism businesses;

12           “(5) facilitate interagency program coordination  
13 and develop interagency tools for the promotion of  
14 agritourism programs and resources;

15           “(6) review and improve farm enterprise devel-  
16 opment programs that provide information about fi-  
17 nancial literacy, business planning, and marketing  
18 for agritourism;

19           “(7) coordinate networks of agritourism busi-  
20 nesses; and

21           “(8) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as  
22 needed.”.

23       (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The Department of  
24 Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by re-

1 designating the first section 225 (7 U.S.C. 6925) (relating  
2 to the Food Access Liaison) as section 224A.

3 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 296(b) of  
4 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of  
5 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end  
6 the following:

7 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry  
8 out section 217.”.