

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3802

To accelerate subseasonal to seasonal prediction skills related to precipitation forecasts for agriculture in the central United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2023

Mr. BAIRD (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To accelerate subseasonal to seasonal prediction skills related to precipitation forecasts for agriculture in the central United States, 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 “Precipitation Fore-
5 casting for Agriculture Act.”

6 **SEC. 2. CENTRAL UNITED STATES PRECIPITATION PILOT**
7 **PROJECT.**

8 Subsection (h) of section 1762 of the Food Security
9 Act of 1985 (15 U.S.C. 8521) is amended to read as fol-
10 lows:

1 “(h) SUBSEASONAL TO SEASONAL FORECASTING
2 PILOT PROJECTS.—

3 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Under Secretary
4 shall establish at least one pilot project within the
5 U.S. Weather Research Program of the Oceanic and
6 Atmospheric Research office of the National Oceanic
7 and Atmospheric Administration to support im-
8 proved subseasonal to seasonal precipitation fore-
9 casts for agriculture in the central United States.

10 “(2) OBJECTIVES.—In carrying out this sub-
11 section, the Under Secretary shall ensure that a
12 pilot project under paragraph (1) addresses key
13 science challenges to improving forecasts and devel-
14 oping related products described in subsection (c)
15 for agriculture in the central United States, includ-
16 ing the following:

17 “(A) Improving observations and accurate
18 modeling of the land surface and hydrologic
19 cycle, such as soil moisture and flash drought
20 processes.

21 “(B) Improving fidelity in modeling of
22 warm season precipitation processes.

23 “(C) Understanding and predicting large-
24 scale upper-level dynamical flow anomalies that
25 occur in spring and summer.

1 “(3) ACTIVITIES.—A pilot project under this
2 subsection shall include activities that carry out the
3 following:

4 “(A) Best implement recommendations of
5 the National Weather Service’s 2019 Report,
6 entitled ‘Subseasonal and Seasonal Forecasting
7 Innovation: Plans for the Twenty-First Cen-
8 tury’.

9 “(B) Achieve measurable objectives for
10 operational forecast improvement.

11 “(C) Engage with, and leverage the re-
12 sources of, entities within the National Oceanic
13 and Atmospheric Administration in existence as
14 of the date of the enactment of this subsection,
15 including the Midwestern Regional Climate
16 Center and the National Centers for Environ-
17 mental Information.

18 “(D) Are carried out in coordination with
19 the Assistant Administrator for the Office of
20 Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the Di-
21 rector of the National Weather Service.

22 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
23 From amounts made available to Operations, Re-
24 search, and Facilities at the National Oceanic and
25 Atmospheric Administration, there is authorized to

1 be appropriated \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
2 2024 through 2028 to carry out this subsection.

3 “(5) SUNSET.—The authority under this sub-
4 section shall terminate on the date that is five years
5 after the date of the enactment of this subsection.”.

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