

118th CONGRESS
1st Session

A BILL

To protect Indiana family farms from foreign and corporate land grabs, ensure local ownership of agricultural land, and safeguard food security and rural sovereignty.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Family Farm Protection & Land Freedom Act.”

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

- (a) “Agricultural land” means any land used for the production of food, fiber, livestock, or renewable energy crops.
- (b) “Foreign entity” means—
 - (1) any individual who is not a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States;
 - (2) any corporation, partnership, trust, or other entity in which a foreign individual or government holds, directly or indirectly, more than 5 percent ownership or controlling interest.
- (c) “Family farm” means an agricultural operation in which the majority of ownership and day-to-day management is held by individuals residing within the State of Indiana.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

- (a) No foreign entity may purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire agricultural land in the State of Indiana.
- (b) Any attempted transfer in violation of this section shall be void ab initio.
- (c) The Secretary of Agriculture shall maintain a public registry of all agricultural land ownership exceeding 25 acres, including beneficial ownership disclosures.

SEC. 4. RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL FOR LOCAL FARMERS.

- (a) Before any agricultural land exceeding 40 acres may be sold to a non-resident corporation or investment fund, the seller must provide notice to the Indiana Department of Agriculture.
- (b) For a period of 180 days, qualified family farmers residing within 50 miles of the land shall have the right of first refusal to purchase the property at fair market value.
- (c) The Department shall facilitate a transparent bidding process and publish outcomes on a public dashboard.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.

- (a) Any foreign entity found in violation shall forfeit the land to the State of Indiana, with compensation equal only to the original purchase price, excluding appreciation.
- (b) Civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per acre shall apply for concealment of beneficial ownership.
- (c) The Attorney General of Indiana shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the U.S. Department of Justice to enforce this Act.

SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict the inheritance of agricultural land by lawful heirs who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect 180 days after enactment.