

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To promote botanical research and botanical sciences capacity, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To promote botanical research and botanical sciences capacity, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research,  
6 Restoration, and Promotion Act”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

## 2

TITLE I—PROMOTING BOTANICAL RESEARCH AND BOTANICAL  
SCIENCES CAPACITY

- Sec. 101. Definitions.  
 Sec. 102. Department of the Interior botanical research.  
 Sec. 103. Staff enhancement.

TITLE II—GENERATING DEMAND FOR NATIVE PLANT  
MATERIALS

- Sec. 201. Policy for use of locally adapted native plant materials by Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior.  
 Sec. 202. Policy for use of locally adapted native plant materials by Department of Defense.  
 Sec. 203. Surface transportation program.  
 Sec. 204. Native plant materials requirements for Federal development projects.

TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF FEDERAL NATIVE PLANT  
MATERIALS RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Sec. 301. Interagency plant materials efforts.  
 Sec. 302. Bureau of Land Management plant conservation program.  
 Sec. 303. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation plant conservation programs.  
 Sec. 304. Grants to support collaborative efforts to prevent endangered species status.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES.**—The term  
 4 “invasive plant species” means a plant species that  
 5 is nonnative with respect to an ecosystem and whose  
 6 introduction into that ecosystem will cause, or is  
 7 likely to cause—

8 (A) economic harm;

9 (B) environmental harm; or

10 (C) harm to—

11 (i) human health;

12 (ii) animal health; or

13 (iii) plant health.

1           (2) **LOCALLY ADAPTED.**—The term “locally  
2 adapted” means, with respect to a plant, a plant  
3 that—

4           (A) originates from an area that is geo-  
5 graphically proximate to a planting area; and

6           (B) is environmentally adapted to, and  
7 likely to succeed in becoming established and  
8 persisting within, that area.

9           (3) **NATIVE PLANT SPECIES.**—The term “native  
10 plant species” means indigenous terrestrial and  
11 aquatic plant species that evolved naturally in a de-  
12 fined native ecosystem.

13           (4) **NONNATIVE PLANT SPECIES.**—The term  
14 “nonnative plant species” means a plant that has  
15 been introduced by humans to a location outside the  
16 native or natural range of the plant and may, de-  
17 pending on relevant facts and circumstances, include  
18 a species introduced from—

19           (A) another continent;

20           (B) another ecosystem;

21           (C) another seed zone; or

22           (D) another habitat within an ecosystem.

23           (5) **PLANT MATERIAL.**—The term “plant mate-  
24 rial” includes, with respect to a native plant species  
25 or a nonnative plant species, such a plant or mate-

1       rial of the plant capable of propagating that species,  
2       including—

3               (A) the seeds of the plant;

4               (B) the eggs of the plant;

5               (C) the spores of the plant; or

6               (D) other biological material of the plant.

7       **TITLE I—PROMOTING BOTAN-**  
8       **ICAL RESEARCH AND BOTAN-**  
9       **ICAL SCIENCES CAPACITY**

10      **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

11       In this title:

12               (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”  
13       means the Department of the Interior.

14               (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
15       the Secretary of the Interior.

16      **SEC. 102. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BOTANICAL RE-**  
17               **SEARCH.**

18       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall support a  
19       program of intramural and extramural botanical science  
20       research as appropriate to support the land management  
21       responsibilities of the Department.

22       (b) AREAS OF EMPHASIS.—Research conducted  
23       under this section shall include a focus on the following  
24       topics:

1           (1) Effective approaches to restoring habitat  
2 damaged by wildfires that incorporate the use of ap-  
3 propriate plant materials.

4           (2) Effective methods for developing and using  
5 locally adapted plant materials of native plant spe-  
6 cies in land management activities.

7           (3) Effective mitigation strategies for com-  
8 bating invasive plant species.

9           (4) Mitigation strategies relating to the impacts  
10 of long- and medium-term environmental changes  
11 such as changes in—

12                   (A) moisture levels;

13                   (B) temperature;

14                   (C) landscape fragmentation;

15                   (D) nonnative animal species;

16                   (E) nonnative plant species; and

17                   (F) human activity.

18           (5) Methods to promote the recovery of threat-  
19 ened and endangered species.

20 (c) EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH.—

21           (1) IN GENERAL.—As determined appropriate  
22 by the Secretary, research conducted under this sec-  
23 tion may be carried out through competitively  
24 awarded grants or contracts, or cooperative agree-

1       ments, awarded or entered into in accordance with  
2       all applicable requirements governing that research.

3           (2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
4       the cost of a grant, contract, or cooperative agree-  
5       ment awarded or entered into under this subsection  
6       shall be not more than 50 percent.

7       (d) AGENCIES.—This section shall apply to—

8           (1) the Bureau of Land Management;

9           (2) the United States Geological Survey;

10          (3) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

11          (4) the National Park Service; and

12          (5) any other agencies and instrumentalities of  
13       the Department as the Secretary determines appro-  
14       priate.

15       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
16       are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
17       tion—

18           (1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

19           (2) such sums as are necessary for each fiscal  
20       year thereafter.

21       **SEC. 103. STAFF ENHANCEMENT.**

22       (a) DEFINITION OF BOTANICAL SCIENTIST.—In this  
23       section, the term “botanical scientist” means an individual  
24       with post-secondary education in botanical sciences, in-

1 cluding a plant ecologist and an individual with a bachelor  
2 degree in plant biology.

3 (b) BOTANICAL SCIENCES STAFF ENHANCEMENT.—

4 For the purpose of improving the land management capa-  
5 bilities of the Department, the Secretary shall augment  
6 the expertise of the Department in the botanical sciences  
7 by—

8 (1) hiring additional personnel who are botan-  
9 ical scientists under subsection (c); and

10 (2) establishing a loan forgiveness program  
11 under subsection (d) to facilitate the hiring of those  
12 personnel.

13 (c) HIRING OF BOTANICAL SCIENTISTS.—

14 (1) HIRING.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—By not later than Sep-  
16 tember 30, 2021, the Secretary shall hire not  
17 fewer than 1 and not greater than 20 full-time  
18 botanical scientists to support the land manage-  
19 ment responsibilities of the Department.

20 (B) PLACEMENT.—The Secretary shall de-  
21 termine the appropriate placement of the botan-  
22 ical scientists hired under subparagraph (A)  
23 within the appropriate agencies of the Depart-  
24 ment with major land management responsibil-  
25 ities.

1 (C) UTILIZATION OF PATHWAYS PRO-  
2 GRAMS.—To the extent practicable, the Sec-  
3 retary shall carry out this section through the  
4 Pathways Programs under Executive Order  
5 13562 (5 U.S.C. 3301 note; relating to recruit-  
6 ing and hiring students and recent graduates).

7 (D) WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS.—The Sec-  
8 retary may waive any limitation on the number  
9 of full-time equivalent personnel assigned to the  
10 Department in order to carry out the purposes  
11 of this section.

12 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A botanical scientist  
13 hired under paragraph (1) shall be—

14 (A) in addition to—

15 (i) any position authorized in the De-  
16 partment on the day before the date of en-  
17 actment of this Act; and

18 (ii) any existing vacancy within the  
19 Department on that day;

20 (B) part of the competitive service (as de-  
21 fined in section 2102 of title 5, United States  
22 Code); and

23 (C) hired in compliance with all applicable  
24 provisions of title 5, United States Code.

25 (d) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
2 a program to provide educational loan repayment to  
3 qualifying individuals who agree to a term of em-  
4 ployment with the Department as a botanical sci-  
5 entist.

6           (2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate  
7 in the loan repayment program under this sub-  
8 section, an individual shall—

9           (A) either—

10                   (i) have a degree in botanical sciences;

11                   (ii) be enrolled in an approved grad-  
12 uate training program in botanical  
13 sciences; or

14                   (iii) be enrolled as a full-time student  
15 in an accredited educational institution  
16 and in the final year of a course of a study  
17 or program, offered by that institution and  
18 approved by the Secretary, leading to a de-  
19 gree in botanical sciences; and

20           (B) submit to the Secretary an application  
21 for a contract described in paragraph (4).

22           (3) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED WITH AP-  
23 PPLICATION AND CONTRACT FORMS.—

24           (A) IN GENERAL.—In distributing applica-  
25 tion forms and contract forms to individuals in-

1           terested in the loan repayment program under  
2           this subsection, the Secretary shall include with  
3           those forms a summary of the rights and liabil-  
4           ities of an individual whose—

5                       (i) application is approved; and

6                       (ii) whose contract is accepted.

7           (B) REQUIREMENT.—The summary de-  
8           scribed in subparagraph (A) shall be written in  
9           a manner calculated to be understood by an av-  
10          erage individual applying to participate in the  
11          loan repayment program, as determined by the  
12          Secretary.

13          (4) CONTRACTS.—

14               (A) IN GENERAL.—An individual shall be-  
15               come a participant in the loan repayment pro-  
16               gram under this subsection only on the Sec-  
17               retary and the individual entering into a written  
18               contract in which—

19                       (i) the Secretary agrees to repay loans  
20                       on behalf of the individual in accordance  
21                       with paragraph (5); and

22                       (ii) the individual agrees—

23                               (I) to accept loan payments on  
24                               behalf of the individual;

1 (II) if applicable, to maintain en-  
2 rollment and acceptable academic  
3 standing in a training program or  
4 course of study or program described  
5 in clause (ii) or (iii) of paragraph  
6 (2)(A), respectively; and

7 (III) to serve for a period equal  
8 to 2 years, or any longer period as the  
9 individual may agree, as a botanical  
10 scientist employed by the Department.

11 (B) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A  
12 contract under this paragraph shall include any  
13 other appropriate terms and conditions to clar-  
14 ify the rights, obligations, and liabilities of the  
15 parties.

16 (5) REPAYMENT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—A loan repayment  
18 under this subsection shall consist of repayment  
19 by the Secretary on behalf of the individual of  
20 government and commercial loans received by  
21 the individual regarding the education described  
22 in paragraph (2)(A) of the individual for—

23 (i) tuition;

24 (ii) other reasonable educational ex-  
25 penses; or

1 (iii) reasonable living expenses, as de-  
2 termined by the Secretary.

3 (B) AMOUNTS.—

4 (i) IN GENERAL.—For each year of  
5 obligated service that an individual con-  
6 tracts to serve in the Department, the Sec-  
7 retary may pay not more than \$50,000 on  
8 behalf of the individual for loans described  
9 in subparagraph (A).

10 (ii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—For  
11 fiscal year 2021 and each subsequent fiscal  
12 year, the Secretary shall adjust the amount  
13 of the limitation described in clause (i) to  
14 reflect inflation.

15 (iii) AGREEMENTS.—In making a de-  
16 termination of the amount to pay under  
17 subparagraph (A) for a year of service by  
18 an individual, the Secretary may enter into  
19 an agreement with the holder of any loan  
20 for which payments are made to establish  
21 a schedule for making those payments.

22 (C) LOANS.—A payment under this sub-  
23 section may be used to repay—

24 (i) principal on a qualifying loan;

25 (ii) interest on a qualifying loan; and

1 (iii) related expenses on a qualifying  
2 loan.

3 (6) EMPLOYMENT CEILING.—An individual who  
4 has entered into a written contract with the Sec-  
5 retary under this subsection while undergoing aca-  
6 demic or other training shall not be counted against  
7 any employment ceiling affecting the Department.

8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
9 are authorized to be appropriated—

10 (1) for fiscal year 2020—

11 (A) \$3,000,000 to carry out subsection (b);

12 and

13 (B) \$1,000,000 to carry out subsection (c);

14 and

15 (2) such sums as are necessary to carry out this  
16 section for each fiscal year thereafter.

17 **TITLE II—GENERATING DEMAND**  
18 **FOR NATIVE PLANT MATERIALS**

19 **SEC. 201. POLICY FOR USE OF LOCALLY ADAPTED NATIVE**  
20 **PLANT MATERIALS BY DEPARTMENT OF AG-**  
21 **RICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF THE INTE-**  
22 **RIOR.**

23 (a) POLICY.—In carrying out a land management ac-  
24 tivity on Federal land, including maintenance and restora-  
25 tion in response to degradation caused by human activity

1 or natural events (such as fire, flood, or infestation), it  
2 is the policy of the United States that, to the extent prac-  
3 ticable, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the  
4 Chief of the Forest Service, or the Secretary of the Inte-  
5 rior, acting through the heads of land management agen-  
6 cies of the Department of the Interior, as appropriate (re-  
7 ferred to in this section as the “Secretary concerned”),  
8 shall give preference to the use of locally adapted plant  
9 materials of native plant species.

10 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary concerned  
11 shall—

12 (1) implement the policy established by sub-  
13 section (a) through appropriate administrative ac-  
14 tions; and

15 (2) specifically identify situations in which the  
16 use of plant materials of nonnative plant species  
17 may be warranted, including situations in which—

18 (A) emergency conditions require the pro-  
19 tection of basic resource values;

20 (B) an interim, nonpersistent measure is  
21 needed to aid in the reestablishment of native  
22 plant species;

23 (C) plant materials of native plant species  
24 are not reasonably available; or

1 (D) the plant community subject to the  
2 land management activity has been permanently  
3 altered.

4 **SEC. 202. POLICY FOR USE OF LOCALLY ADAPTED NATIVE**  
5 **PLANT MATERIALS BY DEPARTMENT OF DE-**  
6 **FENSE.**

7 (a) POLICY.—Chapter 159 of title 10, United States  
8 Code, is amended by inserting after section 2692 the fol-  
9 lowing new section:

10 **“§ 2693. Policy for use of locally adapted native plant**  
11 **materials in management of Department**  
12 **of Defense lands**

13 “(a) POLICY.—In undertaking a land management  
14 activity on land under the jurisdiction of the Department  
15 of Defense, including land withdrawn for or held by permit  
16 or lease, it is the policy of the United States that pref-  
17 erence to the extent practicable shall be made for the use  
18 of locally adapted plant materials of native plant species.

19 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Defense,  
20 acting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for En-  
21 ergy, Installations, and Environment, shall—

22 “(1) implement the policy established by sub-  
23 section (a) through appropriate administrative ac-  
24 tions; and

1           “(2) specifically identify situations in which the  
2 use of plant materials of nonnative plant species  
3 may be warranted, including situations in which—

4                   “(A) emergency conditions require the pro-  
5 tection of basic resource values;

6                   “(B) an interim, nonpersistent measure is  
7 needed to aid in the reestablishment of native  
8 plant species;

9                   “(C) plant materials of native plant species  
10 are not reasonably available; or

11                   “(D) the plant community subject to the  
12 land management activity has been permanently  
13 altered.

14           “(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Defense  
15 shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior and the  
16 Secretary of Agriculture regarding implementation of this  
17 section.

18           “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19                   “(1) LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The term  
20 ‘land management activity’ includes—

21                           “(A) maintenance and restoration; and

22                           “(B) conservation and cultural activities  
23 pursuant to sections 2691 and 2694 of this  
24 title.

1           “(2) **LOCALLY ADAPTED.**—The term ‘locally  
2 adapted’ with respect to a plant, a plant that—

3           “(A) originates from an area that is geo-  
4 graphically proximate to a planting area; and

5           “(B) is environmentally adapted to, and  
6 likely to succeed in becoming established and  
7 persisting within, that area.

8           “(3) **NATIVE PLANT SPECIES.**—The term ‘na-  
9 tive plant species’ means indigenous terrestrial and  
10 aquatic plant species that evolved naturally in a de-  
11 fined native ecosystem.

12           “(4) **NONNATIVE PLANT SPECIES.**—The term  
13 ‘nonnative plant species’ means a plant that has  
14 been introduced by humans to a location outside the  
15 native or natural range of the plant and may, de-  
16 pending on relevant facts and circumstances, include  
17 a species introduced from—

18           “(A) another continent;

19           “(B) another ecosystem;

20           “(C) another seed zone; or

21           “(D) another habitat within an ecosystem.

22           “(5) **PLANT MATERIALS.**—The term ‘plant ma-  
23 terial’ includes, with respect to a native plant species  
24 or a nonnative plant species, such a plant or mate-

1 rial of the plant capable of propagating that species,  
2 including—

3 “(A) the seeds of the plant;

4 “(B) the eggs of the plant;

5 “(C) the spores of the plant; or

6 “(D) other biological material of the  
7 plant.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
9 at the beginning of chapter 159 of title 10, United States  
10 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
11 section 2692 the following:

“2693. Policy for use of locally adapted native plant materials in management  
of Department of Defense lands.”.

12 **SEC. 203. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.**

13 Section 329 of title 23, United States Code, is  
14 amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(d) NATIVE PLANT MATERIALS.—

16 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the  
17 terms ‘locally adapted’, ‘native plant species’, and  
18 ‘plant materials’ have the meanings given the terms  
19 in section 2 of the Botanical Sciences and Native  
20 Plant Materials Research, Restoration, and Pro-  
21 motion Act.

22 “(2) USE OF NATIVE PLANT MATERIALS.—In  
23 carrying out environmental mitigation efforts and  
24 environmental restoration and pollution abatement

1 activities as authorized by section 328, a State shall,  
2 to the maximum extent practicable, use locally  
3 adapted plant materials of native plant species.

4 “(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-  
5 sult with the Secretary of the Interior and the Sec-  
6 retary of Agriculture regarding the implementation  
7 of this subsection.”.

8 **SEC. 204. NATIVE PLANT MATERIALS REQUIREMENTS FOR**  
9 **FEDERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.**

10 The sponsor of any development or redevelopment  
11 project involving a Federal facility with a footprint that  
12 exceeds 5,000 square feet shall use site planning, design,  
13 construction, and maintenance strategies for the property  
14 to establish, maintain, or restore, to the maximum extent  
15 technically feasible, the use of locally adapted plant mate-  
16 rials of native plant species on all natural spaces, includ-  
17 ing, where feasible, roofs and other appropriate portions  
18 of the structure.

19 **TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF**  
20 **FEDERAL NATIVE PLANT MA-**  
21 **TERIALS RELATED ACTIVI-**  
22 **TIES**

23 **SEC. 301. INTERAGENCY PLANT MATERIALS EFFORTS.**

24 (a) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL AGENCY.—In this sec-  
25 tion, the term “Federal agency” means the following—

- 1 (1) in the Department of the Interior—
- 2 (A) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;
- 3 (B) the Bureau of Land Management;
- 4 (C) the National Park Service;
- 5 (D) the United States Fish and Wildlife
- 6 Service; and
- 7 (E) the United States Geological Survey.
- 8 (2) in the Department of Agriculture—
- 9 (A) the Agricultural Research Service;
- 10 (B) the Forest Service;
- 11 (C) the National Institute of Food and Ag-
- 12 riculture; and
- 13 (D) the Natural Resources Conservation
- 14 Service.
- 15 (3) the United States Botanic Garden.
- 16 (4) the Smithsonian Institution.
- 17 (5) the Federal Highway Administration.
- 18 (b) ACTIVITIES.—The heads of the Federal agencies
- 19 shall collaborate, as appropriate, regarding land use re-
- 20 sponsibility to carry out the following activities relating
- 21 to plant materials of native plant species:
- 22 (1) Identifying seed needs and ensuring the re-
- 23 liable availability of genetically appropriate seed.

1           (2) Conducting research to develop genetically  
2           appropriate seed and improving technology for seed  
3           production and ecological restoration.

4           (3) Supporting the ability of land managers to  
5           make timely and informed seeding decisions for eco-  
6           logical restoration.

7           (4) Enhancing, protecting, and restoring plant  
8           materials, as necessary to support pollinators and  
9           dispersers.

10          (5) Coordinating activities with the goals of  
11          sustaining and restoring public land through the use  
12          of techniques and materials that promote, to the ex-  
13          tent practicable, the use of locally adapted plant ma-  
14          terials of native plant species.

15 **SEC. 302. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANT CON-**  
16 **SERVATION PROGRAM.**

17          (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Bureau of  
18 Land Management (referred to in this section as the “Di-  
19 rector”) may carry out activities to develop and use plant  
20 materials of native plant species.

21          (b) **ACTIVITIES.**—Activities that may be carried out  
22 under subsection (a) include the following:

23               (1) Identifying, evaluating, and protecting rare  
24               plants on public land.

1           (2) Understanding the effects of human activity  
2           on native plant species and communities on public  
3           land.

4           (3) Supporting efforts to develop genetically ap-  
5           propriate plant materials of native plant species for  
6           restoring and maintaining habitat for animal species  
7           (including the sage grouse) and plant species and  
8           monitoring the effectiveness of those plant materials.

9           (4) Ensuring that the needs of the Director for  
10          plant materials of native plant species are met.

11          (5) Developing seed transfer zones and guide-  
12          lines.

13          (6) Supporting public-private partnerships to  
14          catalogue and store plant materials.

15          (7) Coordinating a national network of seed  
16          storage warehouses.

17          (8) Implementing habitat conservation and res-  
18          toration on a landscape scale.

19          (9) Supporting public-private efforts and volun-  
20          teer efforts to support plant conservation.

21          (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
22          are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
23          tion—

24                 (1) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

1           (2) such sums as are necessary for each fiscal  
2           year thereafter.

3 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION**  
4                                   **PLANT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.**

5           The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (referred  
6 to in this section as the “Foundation”) shall—

7           (1) ensure that a program of activities specifi-  
8           cally focused on the conservation and protection of  
9           native plant species is incorporated into the existing  
10          programs and activities of the Foundation; and

11          (2) not later than September 30 of each year,  
12          submit to Congress a report describing the imple-  
13          mentation of paragraph (1).

14 **SEC. 304. GRANTS TO SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS**  
15                                   **TO PREVENT ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS.**

16          The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a  
17 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 15. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANTS.**

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

20                  “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
21                  tity’ means—

22                                  “(A) a State;

23                                  “(B) a unit of local government;

24                                  “(C) an Indian tribe;

1           “(D) a Native Hawaiian organization (as  
2           defined in section 2 of the Native American  
3           Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25  
4           U.S.C. 3001)); and

5           “(E) a nonprofit organization.

6           “(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’  
7           has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the  
8           Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation  
9           Act (25 U.S.C. 3001).

10          “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
11          the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
12          rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
13          ice.

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

15                 “(A) each of the several States of the  
16                 United States;

17                 “(B) the District of Columbia;

18                 “(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

19                 “(D) the United States Virgin Islands.

20                 “(E) Guam;

21                 “(F) American Samoa; and

22                 “(G) the Commonwealth of the Northern  
23                 Mariana Islands.

24          “(b) GRANTS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-  
2           lish a program to provide collaborative grants to eli-  
3           gible entities for projects—

4                   “(A) to prevent rare plant species from be-  
5                   coming endangered species; and

6                   “(B) to encourage the recovery of endan-  
7                   gered plant species.

8           “(2) PROCEDURES.—A grant under this section  
9           shall be made competitively in compliance with fully  
10          transparent procedures, as established by the Sec-  
11          retary.

12          “(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
13          the cost of a grant awarded under this section shall  
14          be not more than 50 percent.

15          “(c) PREFERENCE.—The Secretary shall give pref-  
16          erence to projects described in subsection (b)(1) that—

17                  “(1) involve collaboration between—

18                          “(A) the Federal Government, States, In-  
19                          dian tribes, and units of local government; and

20                          “(B) nonprofit organizations with knowl-  
21                          edge and experience in rare and endangered  
22                          plant restoration issues; and

23                  “(2) are in States or communities that are  
24          home to a significant percentage of threatened or  
25          endangered plants.

1       “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
3 tion—

4               “(1) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

5               “(2) such sums as are necessary for each fiscal  
6       year thereafter.”.