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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish a payment program for unexpected loss of markets and revenues to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses due to major disasters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a payment program for unexpected loss of markets and revenues to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses due to major disasters, 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 “Loggers Economic As-
5 sistance and Relief Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PAYMENT PROGRAM FOR TIMBER HARVESTING**
2 **AND TIMBER HAULING BUSINESSES.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
5 ty” means any timber harvesting business or timber
6 hauling business that harvested or hauled unrefined
7 timber products in the previous calendar year.

8 (2) MAJOR DISASTER.—The term “major dis-
9 aster”—

10 (A) has the meaning given the term in sec-
11 tion 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
12 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
13 U.S.C. 5122(2)); and

14 (B) includes an insect infestation declared
15 a major disaster pursuant to such Act.

16 (3) GROSS REVENUE.—The term “gross rev-
17 enue” means the gross revenue generated by an eli-
18 gible entity from timber harvesting or timber haul-
19 ing services within the normal range of operation of
20 the eligible entity, as determined by the Secretary.

21 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-
23 ministrator of the Farm Service Agency.

24 (b) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall make payments
25 in accordance with this section to eligible entities that as
26 a result of a major disaster experienced a loss of not less

1 than 10 percent in gross revenue in 30-day period or quar-
2 ter of a calendar year, as compared to the gross revenue
3 of the eligible entity during the same 30-day period or
4 quarter of the previous calendar year.

5 (c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The amount of a pay-
6 ment made to an eligible entity under subsection (b) shall
7 be equal to 10 percent of the gross revenue of the eligible
8 entity during the applicable period under subsection (b).

9 (d) ALLOWABLE USE.—The Secretary shall only
10 make a payment under subsection (b) to an eligible entity
11 that certifies to the Secretary that the payment will be
12 used only for operating expenses.

13 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
14 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Sec-
15 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of
16 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
17 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report
18 describing the payments made under this section, includ-
19 ing—

20 (1) the identity of each recipient of a payment;

21 and

22 (2) the amount of each payment provided to
23 each recipient described in paragraph (1).

24 (f) REGULATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
2 vided in this section, not later than 30 days after
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
4 shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary to
5 carry out this section.

6 (2) PROCEDURE.—The promulgation of regula-
7 tions under, and administration of, this section shall
8 be made without regard to—

9 (A) the notice and comment provisions of
10 section 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

11 (B) chapter 35 of title 44, United States
12 Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Re-
13 duction Act”).

14 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal year 2024 and 2025.