

AMENDMENT TO DIVISION A OF RULES
COMMITTEE PRINT 117-57
OFFERED BY MR. BENTZ OF OREGON

Page 71, line 20 (at the end of title II of Division A), insert the following:

1 **Subtitle C—Solving Seedling**
2 **Shortages**

3 **SEC. 231. SEEDLING STRATEGY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Ag-
6 riculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,
7 shall develop and implement a national strategy to in-
8 crease the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal, and private
9 nurseries to address the nationwide shortage of tree seed-
10 lings.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-
12 section (a) shall—

13 (1) be based on the best available science and
14 data; and

15 (2) identify and address—

16 (A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot
17 and container tree seedlings;

1 (B) regional reforestation opportunities
2 and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill such
3 opportunities;

4 (C) opportunities to enhance seedling di-
5 versity and close gaps in seed inventories; and

6 (D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or
7 creating new infrastructure to increase nursery
8 capacity.

9 **SEC. 232. FEDERAL NURSERIES.**

10 Section 2 of the Act of June 9, 1930 (16 U.S.C.
11 576a; commonly known as the “Knutson-Vandenberg
12 Act”), is amended by striking “each fiscal year after year
13 ending June 30, 1934, not to exceed \$400,000,” and in-
14 serting “each of fiscal years 2021 through 2030,
15 \$25,000,000,”.

16 **SEC. 233. LOAN PROGRAM FOR STATE, TRIBAL, AND PRI-
17 VATE NURSERIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a
19 loan program to make or guarantee qualified nursery
20 loans to eligible entities under this section.

21 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a quali-
22 fied nursery loan or loan guarantee under this section, an
23 eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application
24 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-
25 mation as the Secretary may require, including a plan to

1 maintain the genetic and physical quality of seedlings of
2 the eligible entity.

3 (c) PRIORITY.—In making qualified nursery loans or
4 loan guarantees under this section, the Secretary shall
5 give priority to eligible entities that—

6 (1) are small businesses, in particular small
7 businesses located in rural areas;

8 (2) create or support jobs, particularly in rural
9 areas; and

10 (3) serve regions with high demand for reforest-
11 ation.

12 (d) QUALIFIED NURSERY PROJECT.—A loan or loan
13 guarantee under this section may only be used to carry
14 out a qualified nursery project to—

15 (1) develop, expand, enhance, or improve nurs-
16 ery capacity or infrastructure;

17 (2) establish nurseries; or

18 (3) develop or implement quality control meas-
19 ures at nurseries.

20 (e) LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE TERMS.—

21 (1) AMOUNT GUARANTEED.—The portion of a
22 loan that the Secretary may guarantee under this
23 section may not be greater than 80 percent of the
24 principal amount of such loan.

1 (2) REPAYMENT.—The period of repayment for
2 a loan made under this section shall not exceed 20
3 years.

4 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

5 (1) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The total
6 amount of qualified nursery loans made or guaran-
7 teed under this section by the Secretary may not ex-
8 ceed \$1,000,000,000.

9 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall en-
10 sure, to the maximum extent practicable, that loans
11 made or guaranteed under this section are distrib-
12 uted across diverse geographic regions.

13 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
15 ty” means—

16 (A) a State, Tribal, or local government; or

17 (B) a domestic private, non-profit, or coop-
18 erative organization.

19 (2) NURSERY.—The term “nursery” means a
20 State, Tribal, or local government or privately owned
21 facility that grows, stores, extracts, or monitors
22 bareroot or container tree seedlings.

23 (3) QUALIFIED NURSERY LOAN.—The term
24 “qualified nursery loan” means a low-interest loan,
25 the proceeds of which are used to cover the costs to

1 the borrower of carrying out a qualified nursery
2 project described in subsection (d).

3 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

