AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. COSTELLO OF PENNSYLVANIA

[2018 Farm Bill]

After section 11201, insert the following (and make such conforming changes as may be necessary):

SEC. ____. STATE BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER COORDINATOR.

Section 226 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6934) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) STATE BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER COORDINATOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate a State beginning farmer and rancher coordinator from among existing employees of the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Risk Management Agency, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Rural Utilities Service.

“(2) TRAINING.—The Agency shall coordinate the development of a training plan so that each State coordinator shall receive sufficient training to have a general working knowledge of the programs
and services available from each agency of the Department to assist beginning farmers and ranchers and be familiar with issues relating to beginning farmers and ranchers.

“(3) DUTIES.—The coordinator shall—

“(A) coordinate technical assistance at the State level to help beginning farmers and ranchers gain access to programs of the Department;

“(B) work with outreach coordinators in the State offices of the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Risk Management Agency, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Rural Utilities Service to ensure appropriate information about technical assistance is available at outreach events and activities; and

“(C) work with the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement and regional, state, and local offices of the Department to facilitate partnerships and joint outreach efforts with State regional, state, and local organizations and key stakeholders serving beginning farmers
and ranchers through contracts and cooperative agreements.”