At the end of title II of division L, insert the following:

Subtitle E—Reforest America
Grant Program

SEC. 82501. REFOREST AMERICA GRANT PROGRAM.

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 is amended by inserting after section 5 (16 U.S.C. 2103a) the following:

“SEC. 6. REFOREST AMERICA GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COMMUNITY OF COLOR.—The term ‘community of color’ means, in a State, a census block group in an urban area for which the aggregate percentage of residents who identify as Black, African-American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Latino, other non-White race, or linguistically isolated is—

“(A) not less than 50 percent; or

“(B) is significantly higher than the State average.
“(2) ELIGIBLE COST.—The term ‘eligible cost’ means, with respect to a project of an eligible entity under the Program—

“(A) the cost of implementing a reforestation project, including by—

“(i) planning and designing the reforestation activity, including considering relevant science;

“(ii) establishing tree nurseries;

“(iii) purchasing trees; and

“(iv) ecologically based site preparation, including the labor and cost associated with the use of machinery;

“(B) the cost of maintaining and monitoring planted trees for a period of up to 3 years to ensure successful establishment of the trees;

“(C) with respect to reforestation in an urban area under subsection (e) in a low income community that has an existing tree canopy cover of not more than 20 percent, not more than 50 percent of the cost of the maintenance of any nearby tree canopy; and

“(D) any other relevant cost, as determined by the Secretary.
“(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a State agency;
“(B) a local governmental entity;
“(C) an Indian Tribe; and
“(D) a nonprofit organization.

“(4) ELIGIBLE LAND.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible land’ means—

“(i) land owned in fee simple by an eligible entity—

“(I)(aa) for which, at the time of application to the Program under subsection (c), the forest stocking level of the land is less than 25 percent of regional norms for forest properties with comparable tree species and soil characteristics; and

“(bb) that is in need of active reforestation due to events such as—

“(AA) high intensity wild-fire;
“(BB) pest infestation;
“(CC) invasive species; and
“(DD) drought and other extreme weather; or

“(II) that was formerly forest land and has been abandoned or incompletely reclaimed from mining, commercial development, clearing for agriculture, or other nonforest use; and

“(ii) with respect to reforestation in an urban area under subsection (e), land in that urban area that is owned in fee simple by an eligible entity.

“(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘eligible land’ does not include land on which the eligible entity conducted a timber harvest—

“(i) not later than 5 years before the date on which the eligible entity submits an application under subsection (e); and

“(ii) that resulted in a forest stocking level described in subparagraph (A)(i)(I)(aa).

“(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’ has the meaning given the term ‘Indian tribe’ in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).
“(6) LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.—The term ‘local governmental entity’ means any municipal government or county government with jurisdiction over local land use decisions.

“(7) LOW INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term ‘low income community’ means any census block group in an urban area in which not less than 30 percent of the population lives below the poverty line (as defined in section 673 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902)).

“(8) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that—

“(A) is described in section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(B) operates in accordance with 1 or more of the purposes described in section 170(h)(4)(A) of that Code.

“(9) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means the Reforest America Grant Program established under subsection (b)(1).

“(10) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.
“(11) URBAN AREA.—The term ‘urban area’ means an area identified by the Bureau of the Cen-
sus as an ‘urban area’ in the most recent census.

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
lish a program, to be known as the ‘Reforest Amer-
ica Grant Program’, under which the Secretary shall
award grants to eligible entities to conduct projects
to reforest eligible land in accordance with this sec-
tion.

“(2) REFORESTATION.—In carrying out the
Program, the Secretary shall, to the maximum ex-
tent practicable, award sufficient grants each year to
plant—

“(A) 50,000,000 trees in each of calendar
years 2021 and 2022;

“(B) 100,000,000 trees in each of calendar
years 2023 and 2024;

“(C) 150,000,000 trees in each of calendar
years 2025 and 2026; and

“(D) 250,000,000 trees in calendar year
2027 and each calendar year thereafter.

“(c) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that
seeks to receive a grant under the Program shall
submit an application at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including the information described in paragraph (2), to—

“(A) the State forester or equivalent official of the State in which the eligible entity is located; or

“(B) in the case of an eligible entity that is an Indian Tribe, an official of the governing body of the Indian Tribe.

“(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) the reason that the forest stocking level of the land is less than 25 percent of regional norms for forest properties with comparable tree species and soil characteristics, if applicable;

“(B) the natural, economic, and environmental benefits of returning the eligible land to forested condition;

“(C) an estimate of the annual carbon sequestration that will be achieved by the re-planted forests, using processes determined by the Secretary;

“(D) a reforestation plan that includes—
“(i) a list of expected eligible costs;

“(ii) a description of the site preparation and the tree species to be planted;

“(iii) a description of the manner in which the design of the project is informed by climate change science and will enhance forest health, resilience, and biodiversity;

“(iv) an explanation of the manner in which the land will be maintained for 36 months after planting to ensure successful establishment; and

“(v) an explanation of the manner in which the land will be managed later than 36 months after planting, including whether that management shall include a timber harvest;

“(E) in the case of an application for an urban reforestation project under subsection (e)—

“(i) a description of the manner in which the tree planting shall address disparities in local environmental quality, such as lower tree canopy cover; and
“(ii) a description of the anticipated community and stakeholder engagement in the project; and

“(F) any other relevant information required by the Secretary.

“(3) APPLICATIONS TO SECRETARY.—Each official that receives an application under paragraph (1) shall submit the application to the Secretary with a description of the application and any other relevant information that the Secretary may require.

“(d) PRIORITY.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF CONNECTIVITY.—In this subsection, the term ‘connectivity’ means the degree to which the landscape facilitates native species movement.

“(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the Program, the Secretary shall give priority—

“(A) to projects that provide the largest potential increase in carbon sequestration per dollar;

“(B) to projects that provide increased habitat connectivity for wildlife;

“(C) to projects under which an eligible entity will enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with 1 or more qualified youth or
conservation corps (as the term is defined in section 203 of Public Law 91–378 (commonly known as the ‘Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970’) (16 U.S.C. 1722)); and

“(D) in the case of urban reforestation projects under subsection (e), to projects that—

“(i) are located in a community of color or a low-income community;

“(ii) are located in a neighborhood with poor local environmental quality, including lower tree canopy cover and higher maximum daytime summer temperatures;

“(iii) are located in a neighborhood with high amounts of senior citizens or children;

“(iv) are located immediately adjacent to large numbers of residents;

“(v) will collaboratively engage neighbors and community members that will be closely affected by the tree planting in as many aspects of project development and implementation as possible; and

“(vi) will employ a substantial percentage of the workforce locally, with a focus on engaging unemployed and under-
employed persons in communities of color and low-income communities.

“(e) URBAN REFORESTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall award sufficient grants each year to projects carried out in urban areas to plant, to the maximum extent practicable—

“(A) 5,000,000 trees in each of calendar years 2021 through 2023;

“(B) 10,000,000 trees in each of calendar years 2024 through 2027; and

“(C) 15,000,000 trees in calendar year 2028 and each calendar year thereafter.

“(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary shall award a grant to an eligible entity under the Program to conduct a reforestation project in an urban area in an amount equal to not more than 90 percent of the cost of reforested the eligible land, as determined by the Secretary.

“(3) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of receiving a grant described in paragraph (2), an eligible entity shall provide, in cash or through in-kind contributions from non-Federal sources, matching funds in an amount equal to not less than
10 percent of the cost of reforesting the eligible land, as determined by the Secretary.

“(f) Prohibited Conversion to Nonforest Use.—

“(1) In general.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), an eligible entity that receives a grant under the Program shall not sell or convert land that was reforested under the Program to nonforest use.

“(2) Reimbursement of Funds.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this Program and sells or converts land that was reforested under the Program to nonforest use shall pay to the Federal Government an amount equal to the greater of—

“(A) the amount of the grant; and

“(B) the current appraised value of timber stocks on that land.

“(3) Loss of Eligibility.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this Program and sells or converts land that was reforested under the Program to nonforest use shall not be eligible for additional grants under the Program.

“(g) Costs.—

“(1) Federal share.—Unless otherwise provided under this section, the Secretary shall award
a grant to an eligible entity under the Program in an amount equal to not more than 75 percent of the cost of reforesting the eligible land, as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) Matching Requirement.—Unless otherwise provided under this section, as a condition of receiving a grant under the Program, an eligible entity shall provide, in cash or through in-kind contributions from non-Federal sources, matching funds in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the cost of reforesting the eligible land, as determined by the Secretary.

“(h) Planting Survival.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under the Program shall—

“(1) not later than 36 months after planting has been completed using the grant funds, submit to the responsible State or Tribal official, as applicable, a monitoring report that describes project implementation, including the survival rate of all plantings made under the grant; and

“(2) if the survival rate reported in the monitoring report under paragraph (1) is, after 36 months, less than the required minimum survival rate for the geographic area in which the planting is located, as determined by a State forester or
equivalent State or Tribal official, as applicable, re-
plant tree seedlings in a quantity equivalent to half
of the original planting, using comparable means to
the original planting.

“(i) Prevailing Wage Requirement.—Any con-
tractor or subcontractor entering into a service contract
in connection with a project under the Program shall—

“(1) be treated as a Federal contractor or sub-
contractor for purposes of chapter 67 of title 41,
United States Code (commonly known as the
‘McNamara-O’Hara Service Contract Act of 1965’); and

“(2) pay each class of employee employed by
the contractor or subcontractor wages and fringe
benefits at rates in accordance with prevailing rates
for the class in the locality, or, where a collective-
bargaining agreement covers the employee, in ac-
cordance with the rates provided for in the agree-
ment, including prospective wage increases provided
for in the agreement.

“(j) Report.—The Secretary shall annually submit
to the relevant committees of Congress a report that de-
scribes the activities of the Program, including the total
amount of carbon sequestered by replanted forests during
the year covered by the report.
(k) Funding.—

(1) In general.—Of the funds of the Reforestation Trust Fund established under section 303 of Public Law 96–451 (16 U.S.C. 1606a), the Secretary shall use such sums as are necessary to carry out the Program.

(2) Administrative costs and technical assistance.—Of the funds used under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allocate not more than 10 percent for each fiscal year to State foresters or equivalent officials, including equivalent officials of Indian Tribes, for administrative costs and technical assistance under the Program.”.