

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8646, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. SUBRAMANYAM OF VIRGINIA**

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert
the following:

1 TITLE _____ —AGRITOURISM ACT

2 SEC. ____ . SHORT TITLE.

3 This title may be cited as the “Accelerating the
4 Growth of Rural Innovation and Tourism Opportunities
5 to Uphold Rural Industries and Sustainable Marketplaces
6 Act” or the “AGRITOURISM Act”.

7 SEC. ____ . FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

9 (1) agritourism provides a range of unique ex-
10periences to the public, including—

11 (A) education, such as school tours, garden
12and nursery tours, winery tours, historical agri-
13cultural exhibits, hops and microbrewery tours,
14and distillery tours;

15 (B) outdoor recreation, such as river ac-
16tivities, mountain biking, horseback riding,
17wildlife viewing and photography, fee fishing
18and hunting, wagon and sleigh rides, cross-

1 country skiing, game preserves, and clay bird
2 shooting;

3 (C) entertainment, such as concerts and
4 special events, culinary experiences, festivals,
5 fairs, interaction with farm animals, and wed-
6 dings;

7 (D) direct sales, such as on-farm sales,
8 farm stands, agriculture-related crafts and
9 gifts, u-pick operations, u-cut tree farms,
10 wineries, breweries, cideries, distilleries, and cut
11 flowers;

12 (E) accommodations, such as bed-and-
13 breakfast inns, farm and ranch vacations, yurts,
14 sheep wagons, and guest ranches; and

15 (F) dining on a farm;

16 (2) agritourism has financial, educational, and
17 social benefits to communities; and

18 (3) agritourism continues—

19 (A) to offer educational opportunities for
20 children and families;

21 (B) to generate supplemental income for
22 owners of agricultural enterprises, which are
23 often small or family-run businesses;

24 (C) to spur economic development in rural
25 communities;

1 (D) to preserve agricultural heritage; and
2 (E) to help farms diversify.

3 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that, to further realize the benefits of agritourism
5 to communities, the Secretary of Agriculture should incor-
6 porate agritourism into the Department of Agriculture
7 comprehensively.

8 **SEC. ____ . OFFICE OF AGRITOURISM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Agriculture
10 Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by inserting after
11 section 216 (7 U.S.C. 6916) the following:

12 **“SEC. 217. OFFICE OF AGRITOURISM.**

13 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
15 the Director of the Office of Agritourism described
16 in subsection (c).

17 “(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

18 “(A) each of the several States of the
19 United States;

20 “(B) the District of Columbia; and

21 “(C) any territory of the United States.

22 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
23 lish in the Department an Office of Agritourism.

1 “(c) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint a sen-
2 ior official to serve as the Director of the Office of
3 Agritourism.

4 “(d) DUTIES.—The Director shall encourage and
5 promote, in each State, agritourism activities and
6 agritourism businesses, including—

7 “(1) educational experiences;

8 “(2) outdoor recreation;

9 “(3) entertainment and special events;

10 “(4) direct sales;

11 “(5) accommodations; and

12 “(6) any other activity or business relating to
13 agritourism, as determined by the Secretary.

14 “(e) MEANS OF ACHIEVING.—In carrying out sub-
15 section (d), the Director shall—

16 “(1) coordinate with the agencies and officials
17 of the Department;

18 “(2) advise the Secretary on issues relating to
19 agritourism;

20 “(3) ensure that the programs of the Depart-
21 ment are updated to address best agritourism prac-
22 tices;

23 “(4) conduct outreach to stakeholders and co-
24 ordinate external partnerships to share best prac-

1 tices, provide mentorship, and offer technical assist-
2 ance to agritourism businesses;

3 “(5) facilitate interagency program coordination
4 and develop interagency tools for the promotion of
5 agritourism programs and resources;

6 “(6) review and improve farm enterprise devel-
7 opment programs that provide information about fi-
8 nancial literacy, business planning, and marketing
9 for agritourism;

10 “(7) coordinate networks of agritourism busi-
11 nesses; and

12 “(8) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as
13 needed.”.

14 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The Department of
15 Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by re-
16 designating the first section 225 (7 U.S.C. 6925) (relating
17 to the Food Access Liaison) as section 224A.

18 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 296(b) of
19 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
20 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end
21 the following:

22 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry
23 out section 217.”.

