

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

Page 601, after line 26, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 11105. REGIONAL CATTLE AND CARCASS GRADING**
2 **CORRELATION AND TRAINING CENTERS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish not
4 more than three regional centers, to be known as “Cattle
5 and Carcass Grading Correlation and Training Centers”
6 (referred to in this section as the “Centers”), to provide
7 education and training for cattle and carcass beef graders
8 of the Agricultural Marketing Service, cattle producers,
9 and other professionals involved in the reporting, delivery,
10 and grading of feeder cattle, live cattle, and carcasses—

11 (1) to limit the subjectivity in the application of
12 beef grading standards;

13 (2) to provide producers with greater confidence
14 in the price of the producers’ cattle; and

15 (3) to provide investors with both long and
16 short positions more assurance in the cattle delivery
17 system.

18 (b) LOCATION.—The Centers shall be located near
19 cattle feeding and slaughter populations and areas shall

1 be strategically identified in order to capture regional
2 variances in cattle production.

3 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—Each Center shall be orga-
4 nized and administered by offices of the Department of
5 Agriculture in operation on the date on which the respec-
6 tive Center is established, or in coordination with other
7 appropriate Federal agencies or academic institutions.

8 (d) TRAINING PROGRAM.—The Centers shall offer in-
9 tensive instructional programs involving classroom and
10 field training work for individuals described in subsection
11 (a).

12 (e) COORDINATION OF RESOURCES.—Each Center,
13 in carrying out the functions of the Center, shall make
14 use of information generated by the Department of Agri-
15 culture, the State agricultural extension and research sta-
16 tions, relevant designated contract markets, and the prac-
17 tical experience of area cattle producers, especially cattle
18 producers cooperating in on-farm demonstrations, correla-
19 tions, and research projects.

20 (f) PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION.—Funds made
21 available to carry out this section shall not be used for
22 the construction of a new building or facility or the acqui-
23 sition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing
24 building or facility (including site grading and improve-
25 ment, and architect fees). Notwithstanding the preceding

1 sentence, the Secretary may use funds made available to
2 carry out this section to provide a Center with payment
3 for the cost of the rental of a space determined to be nec-
4 essary by the Center for conducting training under this
5 section and may accept donations (including in-kind con-
6 tributions) to cover such cost.

7 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
8 on October 1, 2018.

