

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To assist Indian Tribes in protecting Native American seeds.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. TORRES of California introduced the following bill; which was referred
to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To assist Indian Tribes in protecting Native American seeds.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as “Native American Seeds
5 Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
9 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the

1 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
2 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

3 (2) NATIVE AMERICAN SEED.—The term “Na-
4 tive American seed” means a seed of traditional or
5 cultural significance to an Indian Tribe.

6 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior.

8 **SEC. 3. PROTECTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN SEEDS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-
11 sultation with Indian Tribes, shall establish a program
12 within the Department of the Interior to—

13 (1) determine which seeds are Native American
14 seeds; and

15 (2) support—

16 (A) efforts of Indian Tribes to protect Na-
17 tive American seeds;

18 (B) Native American seed banks and re-
19 lated facilities; and

20 (C) traditional agriculture systems of In-
21 dian Tribes that provide for the nurturing and
22 harvesting of Native American seeds.

23 (b) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Notwith-
24 standing any other provision of law, the Secretary shall

1 not disclose or cause to be disclosed any information that
2 is—

3 (1) provided to the Secretary by an Indian
4 Tribe for the purposes of this Act; and

5 (2) identified by the Indian Tribe as culturally
6 sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential.

7 **SEC. 4. JUDICIAL REVIEW.**

8 Notwithstanding section 706 of title 5, United States
9 Code, a court shall defer to the Secretary's reasonable in-
10 terpretation of any ambiguous provision of this Act.

11 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
13 as are necessary to carry out this Act.