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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST 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 2025”.

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 (4) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Tribal
9 organization” has the meaning given the term in
10 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
11 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

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

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall work
15 with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to—

16 (1) determine which seeds are Native American
17 seeds; and

18 (2) support—

19 (A) efforts of Indian Tribes to protect Na-
20 tive American seeds;

21 (B) Native American seed banks and re-
22 lated facilities; and

23 (C) traditional agriculture systems of In-
24 dian Tribes that provide for the nurturing and
25 harvesting of Native American seeds.

1 (b) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Notwith-
2 standing any other provision of law, the Secretary shall
3 not disclose or cause to be disclosed any information that
4 is—

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

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

9 **SEC. 4. JUDICIAL REVIEW.**

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

13 **SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

14 No additional funds are authorized to carry out the
15 requirements of section 3, and the activities authorized by
16 section 3 are subject to the availability of appropriations
17 made in advance for such purposes.