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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To create an Office of Conservation Innovation within the Natural Resources
Conservation Service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NUNN of Iowa introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To create an Office of Conservation Innovation within the
Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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 the “Conservation Innova-
5 tion Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.**

7 Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985
8 (16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

1 “(5) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
3 establish within the Office of the Chief of the
4 Natural Resources Conservation Service an Of-
5 fice of Conservation Innovation (referred to in
6 this paragraph as the ‘Office’) which shall be
7 under the direct supervision of the Chief.

8 “(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

9 “(i) provide support to the Chief in
10 meeting the requirements of this sub-
11 section; and

12 “(ii) encourage innovation in con-
13 servation practices through—

14 “(I) revisions of existing con-
15 servation practice standards;

16 “(II) recommendations of interim
17 conservation practice standards; and

18 “(III) recommendations of new
19 conservation practice standards.

20 “(C) STAFF.—The Chief shall detail to the
21 Office not more than 6 employees of the De-
22 partment of Agriculture who are technical spe-
23 cialists that possess an understanding of con-
24 ventional, organic, and other production tech-
25 niques representing—

1 “(i) agronomy and agroecology;

2 “(ii) grazing lands ecology (including
3 rangeland, pastureland, and grazed forest
4 land);

5 “(iii) animal husbandry (including
6 animal nutrition and feed management);

7 “(iv) water conservation, drainage
8 water management, and irrigation engi-
9 neering technology;

10 “(v) agricultural engineering (includ-
11 ing animal waste management, energy, and
12 structural measures); and

13 “(vi) forest ecology.

14 “(6) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use fund-
15 ing from the annual appropriations for conservation
16 operations of the Natural Resources Conservation
17 Service to carry out this subsection.”.