

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To assist Indian Tribes in protecting Native American seeds, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. RISCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To assist Indian Tribes in protecting Native American seeds,
and for other purposes.

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

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall work
11 with Indian Tribes—

12 (1) to determine which seeds are Native Amer-
13 ican seeds; and

14 (2) to support—

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

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

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

22 (b) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Notwith-
23 standing any other provision of law, the Secretary shall
24 not disclose or cause to be disclosed any information that
25 is—

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

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

5 (c) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-
6 tional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry
7 out this section and the activities authorized by this sec-
8 tion are subject to the availability of appropriations made
9 in advance for such purposes.

10 **SEC. 4. JUDICIAL REVIEW.**

11 Notwithstanding section 706 of title 5, United States
12 Code, a court shall defer to the reasonable interpretation
13 of the Secretary with respect to any ambiguous provision
14 of this Act.