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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize the President to provide assistance to the Governments of Haiti and Armenia to reverse the effects of deforestation, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To authorize the President to provide assistance to the Governments of Haiti and Armenia to reverse the effects of deforestation, 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 “Haiti and Armenia  
5 Reforestation Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1           (1) the established policy of the Federal Gov-  
2           ernment is to support and seek the protection of for-  
3           ests around the world, which provide a wide range  
4           of benefits by—

5                   (A) harboring a major portion of the bio-  
6                   logical and terrestrial resources of Earth;

7                   (B) providing habitats for almost  $\frac{2}{3}$  of all  
8                   species on Earth, including species essential to  
9                   medical research and agricultural productivity;

10                  (C) contributing to the livelihood of more  
11                  than 1,600,000,000 people through access to  
12                  food, fresh water, clothing, traditional medi-  
13                  cines, and shelter;

14                  (D) ensuring environmental services, such  
15                  as biodiversity, water conservation, soil enrich-  
16                  ment, water supply management, and climate  
17                  regulation; and

18                  (E) absorbing and storing carbon dioxide,  
19                  as deforestation accounts for approximately 12  
20                  percent of the global anthropogenic greenhouse  
21                  gas emissions that contribute to global warm-  
22                  ing;

23           (2) while forests cover a little less than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of  
24           the land area on Earth, approximately 85 percent of

1 Earth's original primary forests have been de-  
2 stroyed, degraded, or fragmented;

3 (3) in Haiti—

4 (A) the destruction of forests began cen-  
5 turies ago, when 17th century colonists cut  
6 down trees for lumber, fuel, and furniture;

7 (B) the 18th century plantation economy  
8 resulted in hillsides near towns being stripped  
9 of trees;

10 (C) after gaining independence, deforest-  
11 ation continued as Haiti rebuilt its local econ-  
12 omy by growing coffee and exporting timber;

13 (D) in 1923, more than 60 percent of the  
14 land was forested, but by the 1940s and 1950s  
15 deforestation was accelerating as an increasing  
16 population put more pressure on forests;

17 (E) in recent years, urbanization has ex-  
18 panded exponentially and growing cities have  
19 depended on charcoal produced by cutting down  
20 trees in the countryside;

21 (F) poor forestry and land use policies by  
22 the Government of Haiti has exacerbated defor-  
23 estation, and by 2014, forest cover had de-  
24 creased to approximately 9 to 11 percent of the  
25 country; and

1 (G) between 2000 and 2016, 5,430 hec-  
2 tares of forest cover were lost, equal to 6.3 per-  
3 cent of Haiti's tree cover;

4 (4) in Armenia—

5 (A) while archeological data indicated that  
6 approximately 35 percent of the country was  
7 originally forested—

8 (i) less than 12 percent of the country  
9 was covered in forest in 1990; and

10 (ii) less than 6 percent of the country  
11 was covered in forest by 2016; and

12 (B) in August, 2017, a fire caused signifi-  
13 cant damage to the Khosrov Forest, which is  
14 among the world's oldest protected areas, en-  
15 gulfing more than 2,733 hectares in flames and  
16 causing substantial harm to hundreds of unique  
17 plant species;

18 (5) economic pressures, resulting from more  
19 than 60 percent of the population of Haiti living  
20 below the poverty line and 29.8 percent of the popu-  
21 lation of Armenia living below the poverty line—

22 (A) are factors contributing to the defor-  
23 estation of Haiti and Armenia; and

24 (B) are manifested particularly through  
25 the cutting of areas of forest for conversion to

1 agricultural and commercial uses, where wood  
2 and charcoal produced from cutting down trees  
3 accounts for a major supply toward Haiti's and  
4 Armenia's energy sectors;

5 (6) forests provide cover to soften the effect of  
6 heavy rains and reduce erosion by anchoring the soil  
7 with tree roots;

8 (7) a significant effect of the deforestation in  
9 Haiti and Armenia is soil erosion, which has—

10 (A) lowered the productivity on the land  
11 due to the leaching of nutrients in topsoils;

12 (B) worsened the severity of droughts and  
13 the effects of landslides and floods;

14 (C) led to further deforestation due to  
15 slash and burn practices when eroded areas are  
16 no longer productive;

17 (D) increased the pressure on the remain-  
18 ing land and trees in Haiti and Armenia; and

19 (E) significantly decreased water quality  
20 and the quantity of freshwater and clean drink-  
21 ing water available to populations;

22 (8) research strongly suggests that deforest-  
23 ation increases the risk of infectious diseases, includ-  
24 ing malaria, dengue fever, SARS, Ebola,  
25 Hantavirus, and Zika—

1 (A) by depriving insect and animal carriers  
2 of habitat; and

3 (B) by directly increasing their rate of ex-  
4 posure to human populations who are suscep-  
5 tible to zoonotic pathogens;

6 (9) both Haiti and Armenia have faced natural  
7 disasters in recent years, the effects of which have  
8 been exacerbated by deforestation, such as—

9 (A) flooding in Armenia that has swept  
10 away or damaged thousands of homes, schools,  
11 health clinics, and other institutions, partly be-  
12 cause of damage to forests through illegal log-  
13 ging, landslides, and soil erosion;

14 (B) hurricanes in Haiti that have killed  
15 thousands and displaced hundreds of thousands  
16 more, partly because the clearing of large hill-  
17 sides enabled rainwater to run off directly into  
18 settlements located at the bottom of slopes,  
19 causing severe flooding; and

20 (C) the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti,  
21 which destroyed much of the infrastructure of  
22 Port-au-Prince, reduced hillside stability and in-  
23 creased the likelihood of mudslides, soil erosion,  
24 and flooding factors, which negatively impacted

1 the water supply and heightened concerns for  
2 the spread of waterborne diseases;

3 (10) economic benefits for local communities  
4 from sustainable uses of forests are critical for the  
5 long-term sustainable management of forests in  
6 Haiti and Armenia;

7 (11) for fiscal years 2015, 2017, and 2018,  
8 Congress appropriated funding for market-based re-  
9 forestation programs in Haiti which have resulted in  
10 successful agroforestry activities, increasing crop  
11 production and profit, as well as tree cover; and

12 (12) reforestation efforts would provide new  
13 sources of jobs, income, and investments in Haiti  
14 and Armenia by—

15 (A) providing employment opportunities in  
16 tree seedling programs, contract tree planting  
17 and management, sustainable agricultural ini-  
18 tiatives, sustainable and managed timber har-  
19 vesting, and wood products milling and fin-  
20 ishing services; and

21 (B) enhancing community enterprises that  
22 generate income through the trading of sustain-  
23 able forest resources, many of which exist on  
24 small scales.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide  
2 assistance to the Government of Haiti and the Govern-  
3 ment of Armenia to develop and implement, or improve,  
4 nationally appropriate policies and actions—

5 (1) to reduce deforestation and forest degrada-  
6 tion, and improve forest management and natural  
7 regeneration;

8 (2) to increase annual rates of afforestation and  
9 reforestation in a sustainable, measurable, report-  
10 able, and verifiable manner;

11 (3) to restore social and economic conditions for  
12 the environmental recovery of the forest cover of  
13 Haiti and Armenia to at least 7 percent of total land  
14 mass in Haiti and 12 percent of total land mass in  
15 Armenia (as determined under section 302(a)) not  
16 later than 10 years after the date of the enactment  
17 of this Act; and

18 (4) to improve sustainable resource manage-  
19 ment at the watershed level.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) **AFFORESTATION.**—The term  
23 “afforestation”—



1 (A) means the establishment of a new for-  
2 est through the planting of trees on a parcel of  
3 land not previously forested; and

4 (B) includes—

5 (i) the introduction of a tree species  
6 to a parcel of nonforested land in which  
7 the species is not a native species; and

8 (ii) the increase of tree cover through  
9 plantations.

10 (2) AGROFORESTRY.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “agro-  
12 forestry” means systems in which perennial  
13 trees or shrubs—

14 (i) are integrated with crops or live-  
15 stock; and

16 (ii) constitute a minimum 10 percent  
17 of ground cover.

18 (B) INCLUSION.—Actual forest cover re-  
19 sulting from agroforestry programs may be  
20 counted toward the total forest cover goal set  
21 forth in section (2)(b)(3).

22 (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
23 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
24 gress” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
2 the Senate;

3 (B) the Committee on Appropriations of  
4 the Senate;

5 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
6 the House of Representatives; and

7 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of  
8 the House of Representatives.

9 (4) DEFORESTATION.—The term “deforest-  
10 ation” means—

11 (A) the conversion of forest to another  
12 land use; or

13 (B) the long-term reduction of the tree  
14 canopy.

15 (5) FOREST.—The term “forest”—

16 (A) except as provided in subparagraph  
17 (B), means a terrestrial ecosystem containing  
18 native tree species generated and maintained  
19 primarily through natural ecological and evolu-  
20 tionary processes, which spans more than 0.5  
21 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a  
22 canopy cover of more than 10 percent or trees  
23 able to reach these thresholds in situ; and

24 (B) does not include—

1 (i) plantations, such as crops of trees  
2 planted primarily by humans for the pur-  
3 poses of harvesting; or

4 (ii) land that is predominantly under  
5 agricultural or urban land use.

6 (6) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-  
7 ation”—

8 (A) means the establishment of forest on  
9 lands that were previously considered as forest,  
10 but which have been deforested; and

11 (B) includes the increase of tree cover  
12 through plantations.

13 **TITLE I—FORESTATION AND WA-**  
14 **TERSHERD MANAGEMENT AS-**  
15 **SISTANCE TO THE GOVERN-**  
16 **MENT OF HAITI AND THE**  
17 **GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA**

18 **SEC. 101. FORESTATION ASSISTANCE.**

19 (a) AUTHORITY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section  
21 118 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22  
22 U.S.C. 2151p–1) and consistent with paragraph (2),  
23 the President is authorized to provide financial as-  
24 sistance, technology transfers, or capacity-building  
25 assistance to the Government of Haiti and to the

1 Government of Armenia for activities to develop and  
2 implement 1 or more forestation proposals described  
3 in paragraph (2)—

4 (A) to reduce the deforestation of Haiti or  
5 Armenia; and

6 (B) to increase the rates of afforestation  
7 and reforestation in Haiti or Armenia.

8 (2) PROPOSALS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Assistance may be pro-  
10 vided under this section to the Government of  
11 Haiti and to the Government of Armenia to im-  
12 plement 1 or more proposals submitted by ei-  
13 ther country that contain—

14 (i) a description of each policy and  
15 initiative to be carried out with such as-  
16 sistance;

17 (ii) adequate documentation to ensure,  
18 as determined by the President, that—

19 (I) each policy and initiative—

20 (aa) will be carried out and  
21 managed in accordance with  
22 widely-accepted, environmentally-  
23 sustainable forestry and agricul-  
24 tural practices; and

1 (bb) will be designed and  
2 implemented in a manner that  
3 improves the governance of for-  
4 ests by building local capacity to  
5 be transparent, inclusive, ac-  
6 countable, and coordinated in de-  
7 cision-making processes and the  
8 implementation of the policy or  
9 initiative; and

10 (II) the proposals will further es-  
11 tablish and enforce legal regimes,  
12 standards, and safeguards designed to  
13 ensure that members of local commu-  
14 nities in affected areas, as partners  
15 and primary stakeholders, will be en-  
16 gaged in the design, planning, imple-  
17 mentation, monitoring, and evaluation  
18 of the policies and initiatives; and

19 (iii) a description of how the proposal  
20 supports and aids forest restoration efforts  
21 in accordance with the purpose set forth in  
22 section 2(b).

23 (B) DETERMINATION OF COMPATIBILITY  
24 WITH CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—In evaluating each  
25 proposal submitted under subparagraph (A),

1 the President shall ensure that each policy and  
2 initiative described in such proposal is compat-  
3 ible with—

4 (i) broader development, poverty alle-  
5 viation, sustainable energy usage, and nat-  
6 ural resource conservation objectives and  
7 initiatives in Haiti or in Armenia;

8 (ii) the development, poverty allevi-  
9 ation, disaster risk management, and cli-  
10 mate resilience programs of the United  
11 States Agency for International Develop-  
12 ment, including program involving tech-  
13 nical support from the United States For-  
14 est Service; and

15 (iii) activities of international organi-  
16 zations and multilateral development  
17 banks.

18 (b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Any assistance received  
19 by the Government of Haiti or by the Government of Ar-  
20 menia under subsection (a)(1) shall be conditional upon  
21 the development and implementation of a proposal sub-  
22 mitted under subsection (a)(2), which may include—

23 (1) the provision of technologies and associated  
24 support for activities to reduce deforestation or in-

1       crease afforestation and reforestation rates, includ-  
2       ing—

3               (A) fire reduction initiatives;

4               (B) sustainable land use management ini-  
5       tiatives;

6               (C) initiatives to increase agricultural pro-  
7       ductivity;

8               (D) forest law enforcement initiatives;

9               (E) the development of timber tracking  
10       systems;

11              (F) the development of cooking fuel sub-  
12       stitutes;

13              (G) tree-planting initiatives; and

14              (H) programs that are designed to focus  
15       on market-based solutions to reduce deforest-  
16       ation and increase reforestation and  
17       afforestation, including programs that leverage  
18       the international carbon-offset market;

19       (2) the enhancement and expansion of govern-  
20       mental and nongovernmental institutional capacity  
21       to effectively design and implement a proposal devel-  
22       oped under subsection (a)(2) through initiatives, in-  
23       cluding—

24              (A) the establishment of transparent, ac-  
25       countable, and inclusive decision-making proc-

1           esses relating to all stakeholders (including af-  
2           fected local communities);

3           (B) the promotion of enhanced coordina-  
4           tion among ministries and agencies responsible  
5           for agro-ecological zoning, mapping, land plan-  
6           ning and permitting, sustainable agriculture,  
7           forestry, mining, and law enforcement; and

8           (C) the clarification of land tenure and re-  
9           source rights of affected communities, including  
10          local communities;

11          (3) the development and support of institutional  
12          capacity to measure, verify, and report the activities  
13          carried out by the Government of Haiti and by the  
14          Government of Armenia to reduce deforestation and  
15          increase afforestation and reforestation rates  
16          through the use of appropriate methods, including—

17               (A) the use of best practices and tech-  
18               nologies to monitor land use change in Haiti  
19               and in Armenia, and changes in the extent of  
20               natural forest cover, protected areas,  
21               mangroves, agroforestry, and agriculture;

22               (B) the monitoring of the impacts of poli-  
23               cies and initiatives on—

24                       (i) affected communities;



1 (ii) the biodiversity of the environment  
2 of Haiti and Armenia; and

3 (iii) the health of the forests of Haiti  
4 and Armenia; and

5 (C) independent and participatory forest  
6 monitoring; and

7 (4) the development of and coordination with  
8 watershed restoration programs in Haiti and Arme-  
9 nia, including—

10 (A) agreements between the Government of  
11 Haiti or the Government of Armenia and non-  
12 governmental organizations or private sector  
13 partners to provide technical assistance, capac-  
14 ity building, or technology transfers which sup-  
15 port the environmental recovery of Haiti's and  
16 Armenia's watersheds through forest restora-  
17 tion activities if such assistance will—

18 (i) strengthen economic drivers of sus-  
19 tainable resource inventory mapping and  
20 management;

21 (ii) reduce environmental vulner-  
22 ability; or

23 (iii) improve governance, planning,  
24 and community action of watersheds in  
25 Haiti and Armenia;

1 (B) actions to support economic incentives  
2 for sustainable resource management, including  
3 enhanced incentives for the replacement of an-  
4 nual hillside cropping with perennial and non-  
5 erosive production systems;

6 (C) enhanced extension services supporting  
7 the sustainable intensification of agriculture to  
8 increase farmer incomes and reduce pressure on  
9 degraded land; and

10 (D) investments in watershed infrastruc-  
11 ture to reduce environmental vulnerability, in-  
12 cluding the establishment of appropriate erosion  
13 control measures through reforestation activi-  
14 ties in targeted watersheds or sub-watersheds.

15 (c) DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE METRICS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the President provides as-  
17 sistance to the Government of Haiti or the Govern-  
18 ment of Armenia under subsection (a)(1), the Presi-  
19 dent, in cooperation with such government, shall de-  
20 velop appropriate performance metrics to measure,  
21 verify, and report—

22 (A) the implementation of each policy and  
23 initiative to be carried out by the Government  
24 of Haiti or the Government of Armenia, as the  
25 case may be;

1 (B) the progress of each policy and initia-  
2 tive with respect to the forests of Haiti and Ar-  
3 menia; and

4 (C) impacts of reforestation policies and  
5 initiatives on the local communities of Haiti and  
6 Armenia.

7 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Performance metrics de-  
8 veloped under paragraph (1) shall include, to the  
9 maximum extent practicable, short-term and long-  
10 term metrics to evaluate the implementation of each  
11 policy and initiative contained in each proposal de-  
12 veloped under subsection (a)(2).

13 (d) REPORTS.—

14 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 18  
15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
16 the President shall submit a report to the appro-  
17 priate committees of Congress that describes the ac-  
18 tions the President has taken, or plans to take—

19 (A) to engage with the Government of  
20 Haiti and the Government of Armenia, non-  
21 governmental stakeholders, civil society, and  
22 public and private nonprofit organizations to  
23 implement this section; and

1 (B) to enter into agreements with the Gov-  
2 ernment of Haiti and with the Government of  
3 Armenia under subsection (a)(1).

4 (2) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2  
5 years after the date on which the President first  
6 provides assistance to the Government of Haiti or  
7 the Government of Armenia under subsection (a)(1),  
8 and biennially thereafter, the President shall submit  
9 a report to the appropriate committees of Congress  
10 that describes the progress made by the Government  
11 of Haiti and by the Government of Armenia in im-  
12 plementing each policy and initiative contained in  
13 the proposal submitted by each such government  
14 under subsection (a)(2).

15 (e) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized  
17 to provide financial and other assistance to the Gov-  
18 ernment of Haiti, the Government of Armenia, local  
19 government bodies, or nongovernmental organiza-  
20 tions—

21 (A) to provide information to local commu-  
22 nities relating to each policy and initiative to be  
23 carried out by the Government of Haiti or by  
24 the Government of Armenia with assistance  
25 made available under subsection (a)(1);

1 (B) to promote effective participation by  
2 local communities in the design, implementa-  
3 tion, and independent monitoring of each policy  
4 and initiative;

5 (C) to promote, in support of sustainable  
6 forestation activities, enhanced watershed gov-  
7 ernance, national planning, and community ac-  
8 tion programs that increase—

9 (i) the development of national water-  
10 shed management policies for Haiti and  
11 for Armenia by the appropriate govern-  
12 ment ministries and agencies;

13 (ii) the establishment of an effective  
14 forum for donor coordination related to  
15 management and reforestation in Haiti  
16 and Armenia;

17 (iii) support for the Centre National  
18 de l'Information Géo-Spatiale (CNIGS),  
19 the Center for Ecological-Noosphere Stud-  
20 ies (CENS), and the United States Forest  
21 Service to provide technology, data, and  
22 monitoring support for improved watershed  
23 and forest resource management at a na-  
24 tional scale in Haiti and in Armenia; and

1 (iv) development of effective govern-  
2 ance structures in Haiti and in Armenia  
3 for stakeholder engagement, coordination  
4 of approaches, land use planning, and dis-  
5 aster mitigation at the watershed scale;  
6 and

7 (D) to meet the goals of this Act.

8 (2) TERMINATION OF DIRECT FUNDING.—If the  
9 President determines that the goals of this Act are  
10 not being appropriately and efficiently met with the  
11 assistance provided under this section, the President  
12 may terminate such assistance to either the Govern-  
13 ment of Haiti or the Government of Armenia, as ap-  
14 propriate.

15 (f) MINIMUM COUNTRY REFORESTATION FUND PER-  
16 CENTAGE.—Not less than 85 percent of amounts provided  
17 for programs under this section shall be spent on actual  
18 reforestation activities in Haiti and Armenia, which may  
19 include the protection of reforested areas.

20 (g) SUNSET.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The authority under this  
22 section shall terminate on the date that is 10 years  
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, or the  
24 date that is 10 years after an extension under para-

1 graph (2), unless the President certifies to the ap-  
2 propriate committees of Congress that—

3 (A) effective and sustainable programs are  
4 in place through the Government of Haiti, the  
5 Government of Armenia, or local governments  
6 in Haiti or in Armenia, in potential partnership  
7 with international donors, nongovernmental or-  
8 ganizations, or civil society groups, to protect  
9 and manage areas reforested with assistance  
10 provided under this Act; and

11 (B) additional time is necessary to accom-  
12 plish the goals of this Act.

13 (2) EXTENSIONS.—If a certification is made  
14 under paragraph (1), the authority under this sec-  
15 tion shall be extended for an additional 10-year  
16 term. Not more than 2 extensions are permitted  
17 under this paragraph.

## 18 **TITLE II—GRANTS FOR** 19 **REFORESTATION**

### 20 **SEC. 201. REFORESTATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President is authorized  
22 to establish a grant program to carry out the purpose de-  
23 scribed in section 2(b), including reversing deforestation  
24 and improving reforestation and afforestation in Haiti and  
25 in Armenia.

1 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized  
3 to award grants and contracts, for a period not to  
4 exceed 3 years, to carry out projects that, in the ag-  
5 gregate, reverse deforestation and improve reforest-  
6 ation and afforestation in Haiti or in Armenia.

7 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
9 subparagraph (B), the President may not  
10 award a grant under this section in an amount  
11 greater than \$500,000 per year.

12 (B) EXCEPTION.—The President may  
13 award a grant under this section in an amount  
14 greater than \$500,000 per year if the President  
15 determines that the recipient of the grant has  
16 demonstrated success with respect to a project  
17 that was funded under this section.

18 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded pursuant to  
20 subsection (b) may be used—

21 (A) to provide a financial incentive to pro-  
22 tect forests;

23 (B) to provide hands-on management and  
24 oversight of replanting efforts;



1 (C) to support sustainable, income-gener-  
2 ating, forest-related economic growth;

3 (D) to provide—

4 (i) seed money to start cooperative re-  
5 forestation and afforestation efforts; and

6 (ii) subsequent conditional funding for  
7 such efforts contingent upon required tree  
8 care and maintenance activities;

9 (E) to promote the widespread use of—

10 (i) improved cooking stove tech-  
11 nologies that do not involve the harvesting  
12 of forest growth; and

13 (ii) other renewable fuel technologies  
14 that reduce deforestation and improve  
15 human health; and

16 (F) securing the involvement and commit-  
17 ment of local communities—

18 (i) to protect forests in existence as of  
19 the date of the enactment of this Act; and

20 (ii) to partner in and carry out  
21 afforestation and reforestation activities.

22 (2) LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.—Ac-  
23 tivities to secure the participation of local commu-  
24 nities under paragraph (1)(F) should include 1 or  
25 more of the following activities:

1 (A) Creation of local jobs involving estab-  
2 lishing, protecting, and managing reforested  
3 areas.

4 (B) Collaboration to analyze biodiversity  
5 and ecosystem services integral to sustainability  
6 and business decisions.

7 (C) Cooperative conservation programs, in-  
8 cluding—

9 (i) working with local water sources to  
10 ensure clean water through improved  
11 forestland and watershed; or

12 (ii) working with food suppliers to en-  
13 sure sustainable agroforestry products.

14 (3) CONSISTENCY WITH PROPOSALS.—To the  
15 maximum extent practicable, projects using grant  
16 funds shall support, and be consistent with, the pro-  
17 posal developed under section 101(a)(2) that is the  
18 subject of the project.

19 (d) APPLICATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—An entity desiring a grant  
21 under this section shall submit an application at  
22 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
23 formation as the President may reasonably require.

24 (2) CONTENT.—Each application submitted  
25 under paragraph (1)—

1 (A) should be consistent with the findings,  
2 recommendations, and ongoing work relating  
3 to—

4 (i) the United States Agency for  
5 International Development Haiti Reforest-  
6 ation Project for Haiti; or

7 (ii) the 2009 United States Agency  
8 for International Development report enti-  
9 tled “Biodiversity Analysis Update for Ar-  
10 menia Final Report: Prosperity, Liveli-  
11 hoods, and Conserving Ecosystems  
12 (PLACE) IQC Task Order #4”; and

13 (B) shall include—

14 (i) a description of the objectives to be  
15 attained;

16 (ii) a description of the manner in  
17 which grant funds will be used;

18 (iii) a plan for evaluating the success  
19 of the project based on verifiable evidence;  
20 and

21 (iv) to the extent that the applicant  
22 intends to use nonnative species in  
23 afforestation efforts—

1 (I) an explanation of the benefit  
2 of using nonnative species rather than  
3 native species; and

4 (II) verification that the species  
5 to be used are not invasive.

6 (3) PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.—In  
7 awarding grants under this section, preference shall  
8 be given to applicants that propose—

9 (A) to develop market-based solutions to  
10 the challenges of reforestation in Haiti and Ar-  
11 menia, including the use of conditional cash  
12 transfers and similar financial incentives to pro-  
13 tect reforestation efforts;

14 (B) to partner with local communities and  
15 cooperatives; and

16 (C) to focus on efforts that build local ca-  
17 pacity to sustain growth after the completion of  
18 the underlying grant project.

19 (e) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Presi-  
20 dent shall collect and widely disseminate information  
21 about the effectiveness of the demonstration projects as-  
22 sisted under this section.

23 **SEC. 202. FOREST PROTECTION PROGRAMS.**

24 Chapter 7 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act  
25 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2281 et seq.) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating sections 461 through 466  
2           as sections 471 through 476, respectively; and

3           (2) by adding at the end the following:

4   **“SEC. 477. PILOT PROGRAM FOR HAITI.**

5           “(a) SUBMISSION OF LIST OF AREAS OF SEVERELY  
6 DEGRADED NATURAL RESOURCES.—The President, in co-  
7 operation with nongovernmental conservation organiza-  
8 tions, shall invite the Government of Haiti to submit a  
9 list of areas within Haiti in which forests are seriously  
10 degraded or threatened.

11          “(b) REVIEW OF LIST.—The President shall—

12           “(1) analyze the areas on the list submitted by  
13 the Government of Haiti under subsection (a); and

14           “(2) seek to reach an agreement with the Gov-  
15 ernment of Haiti to assist with the restoration and  
16 future sustainable use of such areas.

17          “(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

18           “(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The President is  
19 authorized to award grants to nongovernmental or-  
20 ganizations, on such terms and conditions as may be  
21 necessary, for the purchase on the open market of  
22 discounted debt of the Government of Haiti, if a  
23 market is determined to be viable, in exchange for  
24 commitments by the Government of Haiti—

1           “(A) to restore forests identified pursuant  
2           to subsection (a); or

3           “(B) to develop plans for sustainable use  
4           of such forests.

5           “(2) MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS.—  
6           Each recipient of a grant under this subsection shall  
7           participate in the ongoing management of the area  
8           or areas protected pursuant to such grant.

9           “(3) MATCHING OF GRANT FUNDS.—Any  
10          United States funding provided to a nongovern-  
11          mental organization under this subsection should be  
12          matched by an equal or greater amount of funding  
13          from the nongovernmental organization. Such  
14          matching funds may include funding provided by  
15          other international donors, nongovernmental organi-  
16          zations, philanthropic bodies, corporations or other  
17          private entities, institutions of higher learning, the  
18          Government of Haiti, or other non-United States  
19          Government sources.

20          “(4) MINIMUM COUNTRY REFORESTATION  
21          FUND PERCENTAGE.—Not less than 85 percent of  
22          grant funds provided under this subsection shall be  
23          spent on actual reforestation activities in Haiti,  
24          which may include the protection of reforested areas.

1           “(5) RETENTION OF PROCEEDS.—Notwith-  
2 standing any other provision of law, a grantee (or  
3 any subgrantee) under this subsection may retain,  
4 without deposit in the Treasury of the United States  
5 and without further appropriation by Congress—

6           “(A) interest earned on the proceeds of  
7 any resulting debt-for-nature exchange pending  
8 the disbursements of such proceeds; and

9           “(B) interest for approved program pur-  
10 poses, which may include the establishment of  
11 an endowment, the income of which is used for  
12 such purposes.

13           “(6) SUNSET.—

14           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to  
15 award grants under this subsection shall termi-  
16 nate on the date that is 5 years after the date  
17 of the enactment of this Act unless the Presi-  
18 dent determines and certifies to Congress  
19 that—

20           “(i) the grant program under this  
21 subsection has been effective in meeting  
22 the goals of the Haiti and Armenia Refor-  
23 estation Act of 2018; and

1                   “(ii) the Government of Haiti has  
2                   committed to returning land in Haiti to  
3                   long-term sustainable forests.

4                   “(B) RENEWAL.—If the President makes a  
5                   certification under subparagraph (A), the au-  
6                   thority to award grants under this subsection  
7                   may be renewed for 1 additional 5-year period.

8   **“SEC. 478. PILOT PROGRAM FOR ARMENIA.**

9                   “(a) SUBMISSION OF LIST OF AREAS OF SEVERELY  
10                  DEGRADED NATURAL RESOURCES.—The President, in co-  
11                  operation with nongovernmental conservation organiza-  
12                  tions, shall invite the Government of Armenia to submit  
13                  a list of areas within the territory of Armenia in which  
14                  forests are seriously degraded or threatened.

15                  “(b) REVIEW OF LIST.—The President shall—

16                         “(1) analyze the areas on the list submitted by  
17                         the Government of Armenia under subsection (a);  
18                         and

19                         “(2) seek to reach an agreement with the Gov-  
20                         ernment of Armenia for the restoration and future  
21                         sustainable use of such areas.

22                  “(c) DEBT FORGIVENESS AGREEMENT.—

23                         “(1) DEBT FORGIVENESS.—The President is  
24                         authorized to forgive debt owed to the United States



1 by the Government of Armenia in exchange for com-  
2 mitments by the Government of Armenia—

3 “(A) to restore forests identified by the  
4 Government under subsection (a); or

5 “(B) to develop plans for sustainable use  
6 of such forests.

7 “(2) MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS.—

8 The Government of Armenia shall participate in the  
9 ongoing management of the area or areas protected  
10 pursuant to such debt relief.

11 “(3) MINIMUM COUNTRY REFORESTATION  
12 FUND PERCENTAGE.—Not less than 85 percent of  
13 funds that qualify under a debt relief agreement  
14 under this section shall be spent on actual reforest-  
15 ation activities in Armenia, which may include the  
16 protection of reforested areas or of existing forests.

17 “(4) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to offer  
19 debt relief under this subsection shall terminate  
20 on the date that is 5 years after the date of the  
21 enactment of this Act unless the President de-  
22 termines and certifies to Congress that—

23 “(i) the debt forgiveness pilot pro-  
24 gram under this subsection has been effec-

1                   tive in meeting the goals of the Haiti and  
2                   Armenia Reforestation Act of 2018; and

3                   “(ii) the Government of Armenia has  
4                   committed to returning land in Armenia to  
5                   long-term sustainable forests.

6                   “(B) RENEWAL.—If the President makes a  
7                   certification under subparagraph (A), the au-  
8                   thority to forgive debt under this subsection  
9                   may be renewed for 1 additional 5-year pe-  
10                  riod.”.

## 11                   **TITLE III—ADMINISTRATIVE** 12                   **PROVISION**

### 13                   **SEC. 301. DELEGATION.**

14                  The President, or the Administrator of the United  
15                  States Agency for International Development or the Sec-  
16                  retary of State, acting as the President’s delegate, may  
17                  draw on the expertise of the United States Forest Service  
18                  and the United States Agency for International Develop-  
19                  ment in designing and implementing programs under this  
20                  Act relating to reforestation, watershed restoration, and  
21                  monitoring of land use change.

### 22                   **SEC. 302. DETERMINATION AND MONITORING OF FOREST** 23                   **LEVELS.**

24                  (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the  
25                  date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of the United

1 States Forest Service, in consultation with the Adminis-  
2 trator of the United States Agency for International De-  
3 velopment, using the latest available Landsat data, shall—

4 (1) determine the current level of forest cover  
5 in Haiti and the current level of forest cover in Ar-  
6 menia, expressed as a percentage of each country's  
7 total land mass; and

8 (2) submit this information to the appropriate  
9 committees of Congress.

10 (b) UPDATES.—The Chief of the United States For-  
11 est Service, in consultation with the Administrator of the  
12 United States Agency for International Development, shall  
13 submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of  
14 Congress that contains an updated determination, using  
15 the latest available Landsat data, of the level of forest  
16 cover in Haiti and the level of forest cover in Armenia.

17 (c) USE OF DETERMINATIONS.—Each determination  
18 under subsection (a)(1) and each updated determination  
19 under subsection (b) shall be used for the purposes of set-  
20 ting and achieving the goals described in section 2(b)(3).