H. R.  

To provide Federal relief to hog producers, especially family farmers and independent producers, who have been forced to euthanize hogs due to the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. King of Iowa introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ____________________

A BILL

To provide Federal relief to hog producers, especially family farmers and independent producers, who have been forced to euthanize hogs due to the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR MARKET-READY HOG LOSSES.

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall use the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide emergency relief to covered producers to aid in the reduction
of intentional depopulation losses of market-ready hogs due to the closure or the reduction in processing capacity of a processing plant related to the COVID–19 pandemic.

(b) PAYMENT RATE FOR COVERED PRODUCERS.—In the case of a closure or the reduction in processing capacity of a processing plant related to the COVID–19 pandemic, with respect to the losses of market-ready hogs due to such closure or reduction incurred by a covered producer, the Secretary shall reimburse—

(1) for the first 50,000 hogs of such covered producer, 70 percent of the cost of such losses of such covered producer;

(2) for up to 50,000 hogs in addition to paragraph (1), 55 percent of the cost of such losses of such covered producer;

(3) for up to 100,000 hogs in addition to paragraphs (1) and (2), 45 percent of the cost of such losses of such covered producer; and

(4) for any amount of hogs in addition to paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), 35 percent of the cost of such losses of such covered producer.

(c) VALUATION.—In determining the amount of losses for purposes of the payment rates under subsection (b), the Secretary shall use the average weekly price (as determined by the Secretary) for a market-ready hog, as
determined by the Secretary. In no case shall the payments made under subsection (b) with respect to the losses of a covered producer exceed the actual market value of market-ready hogs on the day on which the covered producer began to suffer such losses.

(d) VERIFICATION.—The Secretary may not make a payment for the losses of market-ready hogs of a covered producer under subsection (b) unless a veterinarian certifies—

(1) that such hogs are market-ready hogs; and

(2) the number of such hogs for which the covered producer claims a loss.

(e) PACKER-OWNED AND FOREIGN-OWNED HOGS EXCLUDED.—The Secretary may not make payments under subsection (b) for—

(1) any hog losses for which the covered producer does not provide sufficient documentation of ownership;

(2) the losses of packer-owned hogs; or

(3) the losses of hogs of a producer that is owned, in whole or in part, by any person who is not a United States citizen, lawful permanent resident, or entity.

(f) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply for the period beginning on April 1, 2020, and ending on the date
that national processing capacity of hog processing plants
is equal to or greater than such capacity on February 1,
2020, as determined by the Secretary.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term “covered
producer” means a person or legal entity that as-
sumes the production and market risks associated
with the agricultural production of hogs (as such
terms are defined in section 2(a) of the Packers and
Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 183(a)).

(2) MARKET-READY.—The term “market-
ready” means, with respect to a hog, a hog that is
at least 300 pounds and ready for market, as deter-
mined by the Secretary.

(3) PACKER.—The term “packer” has the
meaning given the term in section 201 of the Pack-
ers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 191) except
such term does not include a packer with invested
shares of less than or equal to 10 percent in a facil-
ity that slaughters less than or equal to 5 million
hogs a year.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
the Secretary of Agriculture.