

The Fair Food Act of 2015

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. \$250 million in funding shall be allocated towards the “Fair Food Fund,” established by this legislation.

A. Funding shall be made available on a grant basis to supermarket chains to establish new locations within urban food deserts, and to community development corporations to fund local grocery stores and farmers markets.

B. Priority access to these funds shall be provided to small supermarket chains, defined as a supermarket chain with fewer than 65 locations, and community development corporations in cities with greater food inaccessibility as per USDA’s HFFI ranking.

C. Supermarket locations with deed restrictions that disallow the use of their property by another grocer or food distributor upon vacancy are hereby ineligible for funds.

SECTION 2. Subchapter Y of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be amended to add both a 15% tax credit on gross receipts for supermarkets in underserved areas, and to increase by \$1,000 the the limit on wages eligible for the work opportunity tax credit for employees of a supermarket located in an underserved area.

SECTION 3. Funding provided under this legislation shall replace those existing grants available to grocers that are specifically allocated for grocer support in food deserts through the Department of Health and Human Services’ Community Economic Development Program and USDA.

SECTION 3. This bill shall be enforced and implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of the Treasury, and funded jointly by USDA and HHS.

SECTION 4. This bill shall be implemented within eight months of passage.

SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Rep. Phil Hedayatnia, Hawken School, OH.