

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6083**

**OFFERED BY MRS. ELLMERS OF NORTH CAROLINA, MS. PINGREE OF MAINE, AND MR. GIBSON OF NEW YORK**

At the end of title IV, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 4205. ENCOURAGING LOCALLY AND REGIONALLY**  
2 **GROWN AND RAISED FOOD.**

3 (a) **COMMODITY PURCHASE STREAMLINING.**—The  
4 Secretary of Agriculture may permit each school food au-  
5 thority with a low annual commodity entitlement value,  
6 as determined by the Secretary, to elect to substitute lo-  
7 cally and regionally grown and raised food for the  
8 authority's allotment, in whole or in part, of commodity  
9 assistance for the school meal programs under the Richard  
10 B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751  
11 et seq.) and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.  
12 1771 et seq.), if—

13 (1) the election is requested by the school food  
14 authority;

15 (2) the Secretary determines that the election  
16 will reduce State and Federal administrative costs;  
17 and

1           (3) the election will provide the school food au-  
2           thority with greater flexibility to purchase locally  
3           and regionally grown and raised foods.

4           (b)           FARM-TO-SCHOOL           DEMONSTRATION  
5 PROJECTS.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture  
7           may establish farm-to-school demonstration pro-  
8           grams under which school food authorities, agricul-  
9           tural producers producing for local and regional  
10          markets, and other farm-to-school stakeholders will  
11          collaborate with the Agriculture Marketing Service  
12          to, on a cost neutral basis, source food for the school  
13          meal programs under the Richard B. Russell Na-  
14          tional School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act  
15          of 1966 from local farmers and ranchers in lieu of  
16          the commodity assistance provided to the school food  
17          authorities for the school meal programs.

18          (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

19                (A) IN GENERAL.—Each demonstration  
20                program carried out under this subsection  
21                shall—

22                        (i) facilitate and increase the purchase  
23                        of unprocessed and minimally processed lo-  
24                        cally and regionally grown and raised agri-

1 cultural products to be served under the  
2 school meal programs;

3 (ii) test methods to improve procure-  
4 ment, transportation, and meal preparation  
5 processes for the school meal programs;

6 (iii) assess whether administrative  
7 costs can be saved through increased  
8 school authority flexibility to source locally  
9 and regionally produced foods for the  
10 school meal programs; and

11 (iv) undertake rigorous evaluation and  
12 share information about results of the  
13 demonstration program, including cost sav-  
14 ings, with the Secretary, other school food  
15 authorities, agricultural producers pro-  
16 ducing for the local and regional market,  
17 and the general public.

18 (B) PLANS.—In order to be selected to  
19 carry out a demonstration program under this  
20 subsection, a school food authority shall submit  
21 to the Secretary a plan at such time and in  
22 such manner as the Secretary may require, and  
23 containing information with respect to the re-  
24 quirements described clauses (i) through (iv) of  
25 subparagraph (A).

1           (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
2 shall provide technical assistance to demonstration  
3 program participants to assist such participants to  
4 acquire bids from potential vendors in a timely and  
5 cost-effective manner.

6           (4) LENGTH.—The Secretary shall determine  
7 the appropriate length of time for each demonstra-  
8 tion program under this subsection.

9           (5) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall co-  
10 ordinate among relevant agencies of the Department  
11 of Agriculture and non-governmental organizations  
12 with appropriate expertise to facilitate the provision  
13 of training and technical assistance necessary to the  
14 successful implementation of demonstration pro-  
15 grams carried out under this subsection.

16           (6) NUMBER.—Subject to the availability of  
17 funds to carry out this subsection, the Secretary of  
18 Agriculture shall implement at least 10 demonstra-  
19 tion programs under this subsection.

20           (7) DIVERSITY AND BALANCE.—In carrying out  
21 demonstration programs under this subsection, the  
22 Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable,  
23 ensure—

24                   (A) geographical diversity;

1 (B) at least half of the demonstration pro-  
2 grams are completed in collaboration with  
3 school food authorities with small annual com-  
4 modity entitlements, as determined by the Sec-  
5 retary;

6 (C) at least half of the demonstration pro-  
7 grams are completed in rural or tribal commu-  
8 nities;

9 (D) equitable treatment of school food au-  
10 thorities with a high percentage of students eli-  
11 gible for free or reduced price lunches, as deter-  
12 mined by the Secretary; and

13 (E) at least one of the demonstration pro-  
14 gram is completed on a military installation as  
15 defined in section 2687(e)(1) of title 10, United  
16 States Code.



This **no-cost** amendment would give **more control to the States and local communities** by authorizing schools with low annual commodity entitlement values (small rural schools) to start making their own food purchases, provided USDA determines this would yield **reduced administrative costs**. The amendment would also create demonstration projects in at least 10 schools to test alternative farm to school procurement models to USDA food distribution.