

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 5015  
OFFERED BY MS. LEGER FERNANDEZ OF NEW  
MEXICO**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Seedlings for Sustain-  
3 able Habitat Restoration Act of 2024”.

**4 SEC. 2. CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND AGREEMENTS TO CARRY  
5 OUT CERTAIN ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AC-  
6 TIVITIES.**

7 (a) CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND AGREEMENTS.—Sec-  
8 tion 40804 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act  
9 (16 U.S.C. 6592a) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b)(9), by inserting “and  
11 projects for the production of seedlings for eco-  
12 system restoration” after “Restoration” ; and

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

14 “(g) CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND AGREEMENTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the ecosystem  
16 restoration activities described in subsection (b)(9),  
17 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the

1 Chief of the Forest Service, may enter into con-  
2 tracts, grants, or agreements with eligible entities  
3 for the—

4 “(A) collection and maintenance of native  
5 seeds, including material from managed seed  
6 orchards; and

7 “(B) production of seedlings for revegeta-  
8 tion.

9 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-  
11 ble entity’ means a State forestry agency, an  
12 Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the In-  
13 dian Self-Determination and Education Assist-  
14 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)), a local govern-  
15 ment, a private or nonprofit entity, and a quali-  
16 fied educational institution (or a consortium of  
17 such institutions).

18 “(B) QUALIFIED EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-  
19 TION.—The term ‘qualified educational institu-  
20 tion’ means—

21 “(i) a land grant college or university,  
22 including an institution eligible to receive  
23 funding under—

24 “(I) the Act of July 2, 1862;

1                   “(II) the Act of August 30,  
2                   1890, including Tuskegee University;

3                   “(III) Public Law 87–788 (com-  
4                   monly known as the “McIntire-Sten-  
5                   nis Act of 1962”); or

6                   “(IV) the Equity in Educational  
7                   Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7  
8                   U.S.C. 301 note);

9                   “(ii) a community college or area ca-  
10                  reer and technical education school (as de-  
11                  fined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins  
12                  Career and Technical Education Act of  
13                  2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)); or

14                  “(iii) an institution of higher edu-  
15                  cation (as defined in section 102 of the  
16                  Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
17                  1002)).”.

18                  (b) COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-  
19                  TION PROGRAM.—Section 4003(b) of the Omnibus Public  
20                  Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(b)) is  
21                  amended—

22                         (1) in paragraph (3)—

23                                 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (G)  
24                                 and (H) as subparagraphs (H) and (I), respec-  
25                                 tively;

1 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (F)  
2 the following:

3 “(G) collect and maintain native seeds for  
4 revegetation and the production of seedlings;”;

5 and

6 (2) in paragraph (7)—

7 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)  
8 through (D) as subparagraphs (C) through (E),  
9 respectively; and

10 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
11 the following:

12 “(B) a qualified educational institution (as  
13 defined in subsection (g)(2) of section 40804 of  
14 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16  
15 U.S.C. 6592a)) or a consortium of such institu-  
16 tions;”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to enter into contracts, grants, and agreements to carry out certain ecosystem restoration activities, and for other purposes.”.

