

1 **SEC. 8003. COMMUNITY FOREST AND OPEN SPACE CON-**
2 **SERVATION PROGRAM.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

4 (1) the Forest Service projects that, by cal-
5 endar year 2030, approximately 44,000,000 acres of
6 privately-owned forest land will be developed
7 throughout the United States;

8 (2) public access to parcels of privately-owned
9 forest land for outdoor recreational activities, includ-
10 ing hunting, fishing, and trapping, has declined and,
11 as a result, participation in those activities has also
12 declined in cases in which public access is not se-
13 cured;

14 (3) rising rates of obesity and other public
15 health problems relating to the inactivity of the citi-
16 zens of the United States have been shown to be
17 ameliorated by improving public access to safe and
18 attractive areas for outdoor recreation;

19 (4) in rapidly-growing communities of all sizes
20 throughout the United States, remaining parcels of
21 forest land play an essential role in protecting public
22 water supplies;

23 (5) forest parcels owned by local governmental
24 entities and nonprofit organizations are providing
25 important demonstration sites for private land-
26 owners to learn forest management techniques;

1 (6) throughout the United States, communities
2 of diverse types and sizes are deriving significant fi-
3 nancial and community benefits from managing for-
4 est land owned by local governmental entities for
5 timber and other forest products; and

6 (7) there is an urgent need for local govern-
7 mental entities to be able to leverage financial re-
8 sources in order to purchase important parcels of
9 privately-owned forest land as the parcels are offered
10 for sale.

11 (b) COMMUNITY FOREST AND OPEN SPACE CON-
12 SERVATION PROGRAM.—The Cooperative Forestry Assist-
13 ance Act of 1978 is amended by inserting after section
14 7 (16 U.S.C. 2103c) the following new section:

15 **“SEC. 7A. COMMUNITY FOREST AND OPEN SPACE CON-**
16 **SERVATION PROGRAM.**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
19 tity’ means a local governmental entity, Indian tribe,
20 or nonprofit organization that owns or acquires a
21 parcel under the program.

22 “(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’
23 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
24 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
25 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

1 “(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.—The
2 term ‘local governmental entity’ includes any munic-
3 ipal government, county government, or other local
4 government body with jurisdiction over local land
5 use decisions.

6 “(4) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
7 ‘nonprofit organization’ means any organization
8 that—

9 “(A) is described in section 170(h)(3) of
10 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

11 “(B) operates in accordance with 1 or
12 more of the purposes specified in section
13 170(h)(4)(A) of that Code.

14 “(5) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means
15 the community forest and open space conservation
16 program established under subsection (b).

17 “(6) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
18 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
19 Chief of the Forest Service.

20 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
21 lish a program, to be known as the ‘community forest and
22 open space conservation program’.

23 “(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award
2 grants to eligible entities to acquire private forest
3 land, to be owned in fee simple, that—

4 “(A) are threatened by conversion to non-
5 forest uses; and

6 “(B) provide public benefits to commu-
7 nities, including—

8 “(i) economic benefits through sus-
9 tainable forest management;

10 “(ii) environmental benefits, including
11 clean water and wildlife habitat;

12 “(iii) benefits from forest-based edu-
13 cational programs, including vocational
14 education programs in forestry;

15 “(iv) benefits from serving as models
16 of effective forest stewardship for private
17 landowners; and

18 “(v) recreational benefits, including
19 hunting and fishing.

20 “(2) FEDERAL COST SHARE.—An eligible entity
21 may receive a grant under the Program in an
22 amount equal to not more than 50 percent of the
23 cost of acquiring 1 or more parcels, as determined
24 by the Secretary.

1 “(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—As a condition of
2 receipt of the grant, an eligible entity that receives
3 a grant under the Program shall provide, in cash,
4 donation, or in kind, a non-Federal matching share
5 in an amount that is at least equal to the amount
6 of the grant received.

7 “(4) APPRAISAL OF PARCELS.—To determine
8 the non-Federal share of the cost of a parcel of pri-
9 vately-owned forest land under paragraph (2), an eli-
10 gible entity shall require appraisals of the land that
11 comply with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for
12 Federal Land Acquisitions developed by the Inter-
13 agency Land Acquisition Conference.

14 “(5) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that
15 seeks to receive a grant under the Program shall
16 submit to the State forester or equivalent official (or
17 in the case of an Indian tribe, an equivalent official
18 of the Indian tribe) an application that includes—

19 “(A) a description of the land to be ac-
20 quired;

21 “(B) a forest plan that provides—

22 “(i) a description of community bene-
23 fits to be achieved from the acquisition of
24 the private forest land; and

1 “(ii) an explanation of the manner in
2 which any private forest land to be ac-
3 quired using funds from the grant will be
4 managed; and

5 “(C) such other relevant information as
6 the Secretary may require.

7 “(6) EFFECT ON TRUST LAND.—

8 “(A) INELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall
9 not provide a grant under the Program for any
10 project on land held in trust by the United
11 States (including Indian reservations and allot-
12 ment land).

13 “(B) ACQUIRED LAND.—No land acquired
14 using a grant provided under the Program shall
15 be converted to land held in trust by the United
16 States on behalf of any Indian tribe.

17 “(7) APPLICATIONS TO SECRETARY.—The State
18 forester or equivalent official (or in the case of an
19 Indian tribe, an equivalent official of the Indian
20 tribe) shall submit to the Secretary a list that in-
21 cludes a description of each project submitted by an
22 eligible entity at such times and in such form as the
23 Secretary shall prescribe.

24 “(d) DUTIES OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An eligible en-
25 tity shall provide public access to, and manage, forest land

1 acquired with a grant under this section in a manner that
2 is consistent with the purposes for which the land was ac-
3 quired under the Program.

4 “(e) PROHIBITED USES.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)
6 and (3), an eligible entity that acquires a parcel
7 under the Program shall not sell the parcel or con-
8 vert the parcel to nonforest use.

9 “(2) REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—An eligible
10 entity that sells or converts to nonforest use a parcel
11 acquired under the Program shall pay to the Federal
12 Government an amount equal to the greater of the
13 current sale price, or current appraised value, of the
14 parcel.

15 “(3) LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY.—An eligible entity
16 that sells or converts a parcel acquired under the
17 Program shall not be eligible for additional grants
18 under the Program.

19 “(f) STATE ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNICAL AS-
20 SISTANCE.—The Secretary may allocate not more than 10
21 percent of all funds made available to carry out the Pro-
22 gram for each fiscal year to State foresters or equivalent
23 officials (including equivalent officials of Indian tribes) for
24 Program administration and technical assistance.

1 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
3 essary to carry out this section.”.

4 **SEC. 8004. ASSISTANCE TO THE FEDERATED STATES OF MI-**
5 **CRONESIA, THE REPUBLIC OF THE MAR-**
6 **SHALL ISLANDS, AND THE REPUBLIC OF**
7 **PALAU.**

8 Section 13(d)(1) of the Cooperative Forestry Act of
9 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109(d)(1)) is amended by striking “the
10 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,” and inserting “the
11 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Mar-
12 shall Islands, the Republic of Palau,”.

13 **SEC. 8005. CHANGES TO FOREST RESOURCE COORDI-**
14 **NATING COMMITTEE.**

15 Section 19 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance
16 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2113) is amended by striking sub-
17 section (a) and inserting the following new subsection:

18 “(a) FOREST RESOURCE COORDINATING COM-
19 MITTEE.—

20 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
21 tablish a committee, to be known as the ‘Forest Re-
22 source Coordinating Committee’ (in this section re-
23 ferred to as the ‘Coordinating Committee’), to co-
24 ordinate nonindustrial private forestry activities