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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for the establishment of a U.S.–Eritrea Agricultural and Critical Minerals Trade Partnership.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BAIRD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a U.S.–Eritrea Agricultural and Critical Minerals Trade Partnership.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Eritrea Partnership for Investment, Lasting Liberty, Agriculture, and Resources Act'' or ''Eritrea PILLAR Act''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to—

(1) encourage Eritrea to establish lasting peace with Ethiopia by creating a formal U.S.–Ethiopia Agriculture and Critical Minerals Trade Partnership that connects American agricultural exports, equipment, and research expertise with Eritrea's natural resources; and

(2) once Eritrea demonstrates substantial progress toward peaceful relations with Ethiopia, regional stability, and civilian protection, to pursue expanded agricultural and mineral trade opportunities with Eritrea.

SEC. 3. U.S.–ERITREA AGRICULTURAL AND CRITICAL MINERALS TRADE PARTNERSHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date on which the Secretary of State determines that Eritrea meets the requirement described in section 2(2), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the United States Trade Representatives, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Commerce, shall seek to establish a formal bilateral trade partnership with Eritrea to expand United States agricultural exports and facilitate responsible critical mineral trade. The trade partnership established pursuant to this subsection may be referred to as the ''U.S.–Eritrea Agricultural and Critical Minerals Trade Partnership''.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The trade partnership established pursuant to subsection (a) should—

(1) identify opportunities to reduce tariffs and regulatory barriers affecting United States agricultural exports and services described in subsection (c);

(2) encourage mutually beneficial commercial agreements involving United States agricultural technology, mining expertise, and Eritrean mineral resources and related actions described in subsection (d); and

(3) prioritize private-sector investment and existing United States trade authorities to minimize additional United States expenditures.

(c) UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS AND SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The United States agricultural exports and services described in this subsection are—

(1) corn, soybeans, and other agricultural commodities;

(2) soybean meal and livestock feed;

(3) farm equipment and machinery;

(4) precision agriculture technology;

(5) irrigation systems;

(6) grain storage and agricultural processing equipment;

(7) agricultural research and technical expertise;

(8) mining equipment and technology;

(9) mine safety technology;

(10) mineral processing technology; and

(11) supply-chain expertise.

(d) ERITREAN MINERAL RESOURCES AND RELATED ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—The Eritrean mineral resources and related actions described in this subsection are—

(1) gold;

(2) silver;

(3) copper;

(4) zinc;

(5) iron ore;

(6) potash;

(7) cement and limestone;

(8) natural gas and oil;

(9) expanded commercial access to Eritrea's port and transportation infrastructure; and

(10) reduced tariffs and regulatory barriers on United States agricultural products and equipment.