

**AMENDMENT TO FARM BILL COMMITTEE PRINT,
H.R. _____
OFFERED BY MRS. NOEM OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

Page 435, line 7, relating to smaller forest projects conducted in a critical area, strike “1,000 acres” and insert “10,000 acres”.

Page 435, line 11, relating to smaller forest projects conducted in a critical area, insert before the period the following: “and shall be exempt from the special administrative review process under section 105 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6515)”.



Noem Amendment to H.R. 6083

Allowing for Increased Acres for Categorical Exclusions

Purpose: This amendment increases acres for categorical exclusions from 1,000 acres to 10,000 acres to be used for pine beetle mitigation efforts in USDA-designated areas as part of the National Forest Critical Area Response. Categorical Exclusions are typically used as an emergency, rapid-response for areas needing immediate attention due to the threat of wildfire or spread of pine beetles to nearby areas. It allows the Forest Service more flexibility for larger areas of the forest when necessary. It also clarifies that categorical exclusions continue to not be subject to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act special administrative review process.