116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to reaffirm the authority of the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Van Hollen (for himself, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Warner, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Leahy, and Mr. Merkley) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to reaffirm the authority of the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Agriculture Research

5 Integrity Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. REAFFIRMING THE AUTHORITY OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.

Subtitle F of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 252. REAFFIRMING THE AUTHORITY OF THE UNDER SECRETARY.

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding the authority specified in Reorganization Plan Numbered 2 of 1953 (67 Stat. 633; 5 U.S.C. App.; 7 U.S.C. 2201 note) or any other provision of Federal law relating to the authority of the Secretary, including section 296—

"(1) the Agricultural Research Service, the Economic Research Service, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (and any successor agency to any of those agencies) shall be within the research, education, and economics mission area of the Department;

"(2) the authority to administer each of those agencies is vested in the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics; and

"(3) the authority to administer those agencies may not be vested in the head of another agency within the Department."
“(b) Location of Agencies.—The Secretary shall locate the headquarters of the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the majority of the staff of each of those agencies, within the National Capital Region to ensure maximum coordination and interaction—

“(1) between those agencies;

“(2) between each of those agencies and the agencies delivering the food and agricultural programs and services of the Department; and

“(3) between each of those agencies and other Federal science agencies (including science agencies of the Department).”.