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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities.

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 “Cormorant Relief Act
5 of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGULATIONS RELATING TO TAKING OF DOUBLE-**
2 **CRESTED CORMORANTS AT AQUACULTURE**
3 **FACILITIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reissue the
5 original depredation order in accordance with subsection
6 (b).

7 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The depredation order re-
8 issued under subsection (a) shall be the same as the origi-
9 nal depredation order, except that the depredation order
10 reissued under subsection (a)—

11 (1) shall apply to each of the States of Cali-
12 fornia, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana,
13 Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Penn-
14 sylvania, and Wisconsin in addition to and in the
15 same manner as each of the States to which the
16 original depredation order applied; and

17 (2) shall apply to lake managers and pond man-
18 agers in addition to and in the same manner as each
19 of the entities to which the original depredation
20 order applied.

21 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) LAKE MANAGER.—The term “lake man-
23 ager” means a person that is licensed by a State
24 regulatory agency to manage a private lake.

25 (2) ORIGINAL DEPREDATION ORDER.—The
26 term “original depredation order” means the depre-

1 dation order for double-crested cormorants at aqua-
2 culture facilities contained in section 21.47 of title
3 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
4 January 1, 2016).

5 (3) POND MANAGER.—The term “pond man-
6 ager” means a person that is licensed by a State
7 regulatory agency to manage a private pond.

8 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
10 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
11 ice.