SEC. 7207. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVES.

Section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(12) NATIONAL TURFGRASS RESEARCH INITIATIVE: Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

(A) carrying out or enhancing research related to turfgrass and sod issues;

(B) enhancing production and uses of turfgrass for the general public;

(C) identifying new turfgrass varieties with superior drought, heat, cold and pest tolerance to reduce water, fertilizer, and pesticide use;

(D) selecting genetically superior turfgrasses; and development of improved technologies for managing commercial, residential, and recreational turfgrass areas;

(E) producing grasses that aide in mitigating soil erosion, protect against pollutant and stormwater runoff into waterways, and other environmental benefits;

(F) investigating, preserving, and protecting native plant species, including grasses not currently utilized in turfgrass systems;

(G) creating systems for more economical and viable turfgrass seed and sod production throughout the United States that contribute to local, state, and national economies;

(H) investigating the turfgrass phytobiome and developing biologic products to enhance soil, enrich plants, and mitigate pests.