



21st Century ROAD to Housing Act

Title VIII, Section 802: *Streamlining Rural Housing Act*

[Link to Section 802 Text](#)

SUMMARY

Section 802 focuses specifically on streamlining environmental review requirements for projects jointly funded by HUD and the USDA. The agencies must establish an MOU and submit a report to Congress within one year of enactment that includes recommendations for streamlined environmental review requirements and other improvements to jointly funded housing projects.

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Subsection (a): In General

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA) shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to –

1. Evaluate the categorical exclusions under the environmental review process for housing projects funded by amounts from HUD and USDA;
2. Develop a process to designate a lead agency and streamline adoption of Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments approved by the other Department to construct housing projects funded by both agencies.
3. Maintain compliance with environmental regulations under [part 58 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations](#), as in effect on January 1, 2025, except as required to amend, add, or remove categorical exclusions identified under [section 58.35 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations](#), through standard rulemaking procedures; and
4. Evaluate the feasibility of a joint physical inspection process for housing projects funded by amounts from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture.

Subsection (b): Report

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of HUD and the Secretary of USDA shall submit to Congress¹ a report that includes recommendations for legislative, regulatory, or administrative actions –

1. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of housing projects funded by amounts from HUD and USDA; and
2. That do not materially, with respect to residents of housing projects described in paragraph (1) –
 - A. Reduce the safety of those residents;

¹ Specifically, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the House Committee on Financial Services

- B. Shift long-term costs onto those residents; or
- C. Undermine the environmental standards of those residents.