

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4041

To promote the domestic development and deployment of clean energy technologies required for the 21st century.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Ms. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To promote the domestic development and deployment of clean energy technologies required for the 21st century.

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 “Clean Energy Victory
5 Bond Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Potential exists for increasing clean and re-
2 newable energy production and energy efficiency in-
3 stallation in the United States.

4 (2) Other nations, including China and Ger-
5 many, are ahead of the United States in manufac-
6 turing and deploying various clean energy tech-
7 nologies, even though the United States invented
8 many of these technologies.

9 (3) Climate change represents an existential
10 threat to American safety, security, and the econ-
11 omy. Rapid and robust deployment of clean energy
12 will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate
13 the effects of climate change on American society.

14 (4) Many segments of the American public
15 want to take charge of efforts to combat the effects
16 of climate change and practice responsible consumer
17 behavior.

18 (5) The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renew-
19 able Energy (EERE) of the Department of Energy
20 (DOE) estimates that taxpayer investment of \$12
21 billion into EERE research and development port-
22 folio has already yielded an estimated net economic
23 benefit to the United States of more than \$230 bil-
24 lion, with an overall annual return on investment of
25 more than 20 percent.

1 (6) Investments in renewable energy and energy
2 efficiency projects in the United States create green
3 jobs across the United States. New and innovative
4 jobs could be created through expanded government
5 support for clean energy and energy efficiency.

6 (7) As Americans choose energy efficiency and
7 clean energy and transportation, it reduces our de-
8 pendence on foreign oils and improves our energy se-
9 curity.

10 (8) Bonds are a low-cost method for encour-
11 aging clean energy, not requiring direct budget allo-
12 cations or expenditures. The projects supported
13 through Clean Energy Victory Bonds will create jobs
14 and business revenues that will increase Federal tax
15 revenues, while simultaneously reducing health and
16 environmental costs incurred by the Federal Govern-
17 ment nationwide.

18 (9) Bonds are voluntary measures that allow
19 Americans to contribute financially at whatever
20 means they have available to them.

21 (10) In World War II, over 80 percent of Amer-
22 ican households purchased Victory Bonds to support
23 the war effort, raising over \$185 billion, or over \$2
24 trillion in today's dollars.

1 **SEC. 3. CLEAN ENERGY VICTORY BONDS.**

2 (a) ISSUANCE.—Not later than 6 months after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
4 Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy
5 and the Secretary of Defense, shall issue bonds to be
6 known as “Clean Energy Victory Bonds”, the proceeds
7 from which shall be used to carry out the purposes de-
8 scribed in section 9512(c) of the Internal Revenue Code
9 of 1986.

10 (b) SAVINGS BOND.—Any Clean Energy Victory
11 Bond issued under this section shall be issued by the Sec-
12 retary of the Treasury—

13 (1) as a savings bond of Series EE, or as ad-
14 ministered by the Bureau of the Fiscal Service of
15 the Department of the Treasury, in a manner con-
16 sistent with the provisions of section 3105 of title
17 31, United States Code; and

18 (2) in denominations of \$25, and such other
19 amounts as are determined appropriate by the Sec-
20 retary, and shall mature within such periods as de-
21 termined by the Secretary.

22 (c) LIMITATION.—The aggregate face amount of the
23 Clean Energy Victory Bonds issued annually under this
24 section shall be not greater than \$50,000,000,000.

25 (d) INTEREST.—Clean Energy Victory Bonds shall
26 bear interest at the rate the Secretary sets for Savings

1 Bonds of Series EE and Series I, plus a rate of return
2 determined by the Secretary which is based on the valu-
3 ation of—

4 (1) savings achieved through reduced energy
5 spending by the Federal Government resulting from
6 clean energy projects funded from the proceeds of
7 such bonds; and

8 (2) interest collected on loans financed or guar-
9 anteed from the proceeds of such bonds.

10 (e) FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.—Payment of interest
11 and principal with respect to any Clean Energy Victory
12 Bond issued under this section shall be made from the
13 general fund of the Treasury of the United States and
14 shall be backed by the full faith and credit of the United
15 States.

16 (f) PROMOTION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take
18 such actions, independently and in conjunction with
19 financial institutions offering Clean Energy Victory
20 Bonds, to promote the purchase of Clean Energy
21 Victory Bonds, including campaigns describing the
22 financial and social benefits of purchasing Clean En-
23 ergy Victory Bonds.

1 (2) PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Such pro-
2 motional activities may include advertisements, pam-
3 phlets, or other promotional materials—

4 (A) in periodicals;

5 (B) on billboards and other outdoor
6 venues;

7 (C) on television;

8 (D) on radio;

9 (E) on the internet;

10 (F) within financial institutions that offer
11 Clean Energy Victory Bonds; or

12 (G) any other venues or outlets the Sec-
13 retary may identify.

14 (g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section—

15 (1) CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT.—The term
16 “clean energy project” means a technology that pro-
17 vides—

18 (A) performance-based energy efficiency
19 improvements; or

20 (B) clean energy improvements, includ-
21 ing—

22 (i) electricity generated from solar,
23 wind, geothermal, small scale or micro hy-
24 dropower, and hydrokinetic energy sources;

- 1 (ii) fuel cells using non-fossil fuel
2 sources;
- 3 (iii) advanced storage technologies;
- 4 (iv) next generation biofuels from sus-
5 tainable non-food feedstocks; and
- 6 (v) electric vehicle infrastructure.

7 (2) SECRETARY.—Any reference to the Sec-
8 retary of the Treasury shall include any delegate of
9 the Secretary.

10 **SEC. 4. CLEAN ENERGY VICTORY BONDS TRUST FUND.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 98 of the
12 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at
13 the end the following new section:

14 **“SEC. 9512. CLEAN ENERGY VICTORY BONDS TRUST FUND.**

15 “(a) CREATION OF TRUST FUND.—There is estab-
16 lished in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund
17 to be known as the ‘Clean Energy Victory Bonds Trust
18 Fund’, consisting of such amounts as may be apportioned
19 or credited to such Trust Fund as provided in this section
20 or section 9602(b).

21 “(b) TRANSFERS TO TRUST FUND.—There are here-
22 by appropriated to the Trust Fund amounts equivalent
23 to—

1 “(1) revenue from the issuance of Clean Energy
2 Victory Bonds under section 3 of the Clean Energy
3 Victory Bond Act of 2019;

4 “(2) any gifts of bequests made to the Trust
5 Fund which are accepted by the Secretary for the
6 benefit of such Fund or any activity financed
7 through such Fund.

8 “(c) EXPENDITURES FROM TRUST FUNDS.—
9 Amounts in the Trust Fund shall be available, without
10 further appropriation, to finance clean energy projects at
11 the Federal, State, and local level, which may include—

12 “(1) providing additional support to existing
13 Federal financing programs available to States for
14 energy efficiency upgrades and clean energy deploy-
15 ment;

16 “(2) providing funding for clean energy invest-
17 ments by Federal agencies;

18 “(3) providing funding for electric grid en-
19 hancements and connections that enable clean en-
20 ergy deployment;

21 “(4) providing funding to renovate existing inef-
22 ficient buildings or building new energy efficient
23 buildings;

24 “(5) providing tax incentives and tax credits for
25 clean energy technologies;

1 “(6) providing funding for new innovation re-
2 search, including ARPA-E, public competitions simi-
3 lar to those designed by the X Prize Foundation, the
4 Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
5 at the Department of Energy, or other mechanisms
6 to fund revolutionary clean energy technology;

7 “(7) providing additional support to existing
8 Federal, State, and local grant programs that fi-
9 nance clean energy projects (as defined in section
10 3(g) of the Clean Energy Victory Bond Act of
11 2019); and

12 “(8) providing additional support for zero-emis-
13 sion vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
15 for subchapter A of chapter 98 of such Code is amended
16 by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 9512. Clean Energy Victory Bonds Trust Fund.”.

○