

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6351

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 30, 2021

Mr. LIEU introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Climate Solutions Act of 2021”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

### TITLE I—RENEWABLE ENERGY

Sec. 101. National renewable energy standard.

### TITLE II—ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Sec. 201. National energy efficiency standard.

## TITLE III—SCIENCE-BASED REDUCTIONS

Sec. 301. Net emissions reduction targets.

Sec. 302. National Academies review.

Sec. 303. Regulations.

Sec. 304. Savings clause.

Sec. 305. Definitions.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) The United States has the objective of sta-  
4 bilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmos-  
5 phere at a level that would prevent “dangerous an-  
6 thropogenic interference” with the climate system as  
7 demonstrated by becoming a party to the 1992  
8 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate  
9 Change, pledging to China to reduce greenhouse gas  
10 emissions to 28 percent of their 2005 levels by 2025,  
11 and regulating greenhouse gas emissions from sta-  
12 tionary sources, mobile sources, and electrical power  
13 suppliers.

14 (2) To achieve this objective, the increase in  
15 global mean surface temperature should not exceed  
16 2°C (3.6°F) above preindustrial temperature by  
17 2100 consistent with the Paris Agreement that en-  
18 tered into force in 2016.

19 (3) The risks associated with a temperature in-  
20 crease above 2°C (3.6°F) are grave, including the  
21 disintegration of the Greenland ice sheet, which, if  
22 it were to melt completely, would raise global aver-

1       age sea level by approximately 23 feet, devastating  
2       many of the world’s coastal areas and population  
3       centers.

4               (4) A 2018 report by the Intergovernmental  
5       Panel on Climate Change demonstrated that limiting  
6       the temperature increase to 1.5°C will result in still  
7       harmful, but significantly less severe outcomes than  
8       a 2°C increase.

9               (5) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate  
10       Change projects that temperatures will rise 1.5°C  
11       between 2030 and 2052. In order to limit the tem-  
12       perature increase to 1.5°C, global net anthropogenic  
13       carbon dioxide emissions must reach net zero by  
14       2050.

15              (6) The 2018 National Climate Assessment, au-  
16       thored by more than 300 experts and released by the  
17       United States Global Change Research Program,  
18       makes clear that the present unprecedented rises in  
19       global temperature are primarily due to human ac-  
20       tivities. The changing climate will devastate all sec-  
21       tors of society and disproportionately harm the most  
22       vulnerable communities.

23              (7) Serious global warming impacts have al-  
24       ready been observed in the United States and world-  
25       wide, including—

1 (A) increases in heat waves and other ex-  
2 treme weather events;

3 (B) rise in sea level, retreat of glaciers and  
4 polar ice;

5 (C) decline in mountain snowpack, in-  
6 creased drought (including droughts in the  
7 West and South United States) resulting in  
8 damage to our economy and property;

9 (D) extreme weather conditions resulting  
10 in wildfires, stronger hurricanes, and polar vor-  
11 tex occurrences resulting in further damage to  
12 property and our economy;

13 (E) damage to our environment such as  
14 ocean acidification, extensive coral bleaching,  
15 migrations, and shifts in the yearly cycles of  
16 plants and animals; and

17 (F) effects on human population, including  
18 population displacement and adverse health ef-  
19 fects such as the spread of infectious diseases  
20 and climate-related conditions such as asthma.

21 (8) Scientists project that under a midrange es-  
22 timate of global warming, by 2050, roughly one-  
23 third of animal and plant species will be committed  
24 to extinction.

1           (9) After remaining steady from 2014 to 2016,  
2           global carbon dioxide emissions increased 1.4 per-  
3           cent in 2017.

4           (10) Decisive action is needed to minimize the  
5           many dangers posed by global warming.

6           (11) The timing of such action is critical, given  
7           that greenhouse gases can persist in the atmosphere  
8           for more than a century.

9           (12) With less than 5 percent of the world pop-  
10          ulation, the United States emits approximately 15  
11          percent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions  
12          and must be a leader in addressing global warming.

13          (13) The State of California, the 5th largest  
14          economy in the world, has shown that renewable en-  
15          ergy standards and greenhouse gas emissions regula-  
16          tion can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while fos-  
17          tering significant economic growth.

18          (14) Existing energy efficiency and clean, re-  
19          newable energy technologies can reduce global warm-  
20          ing pollution, while saving consumers money, reduc-  
21          ing our dependence on oil, enhancing national secu-  
22          rity, cleaning the air, and protecting pristine places  
23          from drilling and mining.

1     **TITLE I—RENEWABLE ENERGY**

2     **SEC. 101. NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD.**

3           Title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act  
4 of 1978 is amended by adding at the end the following:

5     **“SEC. 610. NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD.**

6           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate  
7 regulations requiring that—

8                   “(1) beginning in calendar year 2022, the per-  
9 centage of electric energy generated from renewable  
10 sources that is sold at the retail level in the United  
11 States shall increase each year; and

12                   “(2) in calendar year 2035 and each subse-  
13 quent calendar year, such percentage shall not be  
14 less than 100 percent of the total electric energy  
15 sold at the retail level in the United States.

16           “(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out  
17 this section in consultation with the Administrator of the  
18 Environmental Protection Agency.

19           “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
20 tion shall be construed to preempt or limit State actions  
21 to enhance renewable energy generation or energy effi-  
22 ciency.”.

## 1 **TITLE II—ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

### 2 **SEC. 201. NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARD.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Public Utility Reg-  
4 ulatory Policies Act of 1978, as amended by section 101  
5 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the  
6 following:

#### 7 **“SEC. 611. NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARD.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate  
9 regulations in accordance with this section setting end-  
10 user—

11 “(1) electricity savings targets for retail electric  
12 energy suppliers; and

13 “(2) natural gas savings targets for retail nat-  
14 ural gas suppliers.

15 “(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out  
16 this section in consultation with the Administrator of the  
17 Environmental Protection Agency.

18 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to targets under  
19 subsection (a):

20 “(1) The targets shall require each retail elec-  
21 tric energy supplier to secure annual electricity sav-  
22 ings, and each retail natural gas supplier to secure  
23 annual natural gas savings, of a set percentage of  
24 the quantity of electricity or natural gas sold in the  
25 most recent year to retail customers.

1           “(2) The electricity savings and natural gas  
2 savings shall be achieved through end-use efficiency  
3 improvements at customer facilities.

4           “(3) The targets are cumulative. Each year’s  
5 electricity savings or natural gas savings shall be  
6 achieved in addition to the previous years’ savings.

7           “(4) For each of calendar years 2022 through  
8 2030, the targets are as follows:

“Calendar Year	Cumulative Electricity Savings Percentage	Cumulative Natural Gas Savings Percentage
2022	0.375	0.25
2023	1.125	0.60
2024	2.25	1.05
2025	3.75	1.55
2026	5.25	2.05
2027	6.75	2.55
2028	8.25	3.05
2029	9.75	3.55
2030	11.25	4.05

9           “(d) REQUIRED PERCENTAGES AFTER 2030.—The  
10 Secretary may, upon petition or upon the Secretary’s own  
11 initiative, increase the required percentage of end-user  
12 electricity savings or natural gas savings for years after  
13 2030.

14           “(e) MARKET-BASED TRADING SYSTEM.—The Sec-  
15 retary shall allow suppliers to achieve the required per-  
16 centage of end-user electricity savings or natural gas sav-

1 ings under this section through a market-based trading  
2 system.

3 “(f) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-  
4 tion shall be construed to preempt or limit State actions  
5 to enhance renewable energy generation or energy effi-  
6 ciency.”.

7 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of con-  
8 tents for the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of  
9 1978 is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
10 section 608 the following:

“Sec. 609. Rural and remote communities electrification grants.

“Sec. 610. National renewable energy standard.

“Sec. 611. National energy efficiency standard.”.

## 11 **TITLE III—SCIENCE-BASED** 12 **REDUCTIONS**

### 13 **SEC. 301. NET EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS.**

14 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
15 of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-  
16 tection Agency (in this title referred to as the “Adminis-  
17 trator”) shall promulgate annual net emissions reduction  
18 targets for each of calendar years 2030 through 2050, so  
19 as to ensure that the quantity of United States net green-  
20 house gas emissions—

21 (1) in 2035, is at least 52 percent below the  
22 quantity of such emissions in 2005; and

23 (2) in 2050, is zero.

1 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL ACADEMIES REVIEW.**

2 Not later than 5 years after the date of the enact-  
3 ment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Admin-  
4 istrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National  
5 Academies (or, if the National Academies decline to enter  
6 into such arrangement, another appropriate entity) under  
7 which the National Academies, acting through the Na-  
8 tional Academy of Sciences and the National Research  
9 Council, will submit a report to the Administrator and the  
10 Congress on the prospects for avoiding dangerous anthro-  
11 pogenic interference with the climate system and the  
12 progress made to date. Each such report shall—

13 (1) evaluate whether the net emissions reduc-  
14 tion targets promulgated pursuant to section 301  
15 and the other policies to reduce United States net  
16 greenhouse gas emissions under this Act, the amend-  
17 ments made by this Act, and other provisions of law,  
18 including the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et  
19 seq.), are likely to be sufficient to avoid dangerous  
20 anthropogenic interference with the climate system,  
21 taking into account the actions of other nations; and

22 (2) if the National Academies concludes that  
23 such targets and policies are not likely to be suffi-  
24 cient to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference  
25 with the climate system—

1 (A) identify the needed amount of further  
2 reductions in atmospheric greenhouse gas con-  
3 centrations; and

4 (B) recommend additional United States  
5 and international actions to further reduce at-  
6 mospheric greenhouse gas concentrations.

7 **SEC. 303. REGULATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

9 (1) not later than 7 years after the date of en-  
10 actment of this Act, promulgate final regulations to  
11 implement the net emissions reduction targets under  
12 section 301; and

13 (2) not less than every 5 years thereafter—

14 (A) review such regulations, taking into ac-  
15 count the reports under section 302; and

16 (B) revise such regulations as necessary to  
17 implement such net emissions reduction targets.

18 (b) RULEMAKING ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF NA-  
19 TIONAL ACADEMIES.—If any report under section 302 in-  
20 cludes a recommendation under section 302(2)(B) for reg-  
21 ulatory action by a Federal department or agency, and  
22 such regulatory action is within the authority of such de-  
23 partment or agency (under law other than this sub-  
24 section), the head of such department or agency shall, not

1 later than 2 years after the submission of such report, fi-  
2 nalize a rulemaking—

3 (1) to carry out such regulatory action; or

4 (2) to explain the reasons for declining to act.

5 (c) **ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.**—The regulations  
6 promulgated under subsection (a) may include additional  
7 requirements to reduce United States net greenhouse gas  
8 emissions from any source or sector. Any such regulations  
9 that address sources whose greenhouse gas emissions are  
10 regulated pursuant to section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act  
11 (42 U.S.C. 7411(d)) shall account for the compliance  
12 schedule promulgated pursuant to such section 111(d).  
13 Regulations under this section may include market-based  
14 measures, emissions performance standards, efficiency  
15 performance standards, best management practices, tech-  
16 nology-based requirements, and other forms of require-  
17 ments.

18 (d) **RELATION TO OTHER AUTHORITY.**—The author-  
19 ity vested by this title is in addition to the authority to  
20 regulate greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to other pro-  
21 visions of law.

22 **SEC. 304. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

23 Nothing in this title shall be interpreted to preempt  
24 or limit State actions to address climate change.

1 **SEC. 305. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this title:

3 (1) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term “greenhouse  
4 gas” means—

5 (A) carbon dioxide;

6 (B) methane;

7 (C) nitrous oxide;

8 (D) hydrofluorocarbons;

9 (E) perfluorocarbons;

10 (F) sulfur hexafluoride; or

11 (G) any other anthropogenically emitted  
12 gas that is determined by the Administrator,  
13 after notice and comment, to contribute to glob-  
14 al warming to a non-negligible degree.

15 (2) UNITED STATES NET GREENHOUSE GAS  
16 EMISSIONS.—The term “United States net green-  
17 house gas emissions” means net greenhouse gas  
18 emissions, as calculated by the Administrator on an  
19 annual basis and reported to the United Nations  
20 Framework Convention on Climate Change Secre-  
21 tariat.

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