

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7796

To assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2026

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, 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

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## A BILL

To assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste,  
and for other purposes.

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 “Economic Recovery  
5 for Nuclear-Affected Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1           (1) communities throughout the United States,  
2 including communities in the States of California,  
3 Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Mary-  
4 land, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Or-  
5 egon, Vermont, and Wisconsin, are tasked with deal-  
6 ing with stranded nuclear waste;

7           (2) communities affected by stranded nuclear  
8 waste are de facto interim nuclear waste storage  
9 sites;

10           (3) the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42  
11 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.)—

12           (A) directed the Secretary of Energy to  
13 make annual impact assistance payments to  
14 States or appropriate units of local government  
15 to mitigate the social and economic impacts of  
16 the establishment and operation of interim nu-  
17 clear waste storage capacity within the jurisdic-  
18 tional boundaries of an affected community;  
19 and

20           (B) established the rate for impact assist-  
21 ance payments at \$15 per kilogram of spent  
22 nuclear fuel;

23           (4) decommissioning a commercial nuclear  
24 power plant is often catastrophic for the host com-

1 munity because nuclear power plants are major em-  
2 ployers and the primary source of local tax revenue;

3 (5) stranded nuclear waste is a profound obsta-  
4 cle to future economic growth, deterring potential  
5 employers and residents from considering the host  
6 community;

7 (6) stranded nuclear waste prevents economic  
8 development in communities in which the stranded  
9 nuclear waste is located;

10 (7) stranded nuclear waste prevents commu-  
11 nities from redeveloping sites where nuclear power  
12 plants previously operated which further inhibits tax  
13 revenues; and

14 (8) it is critical to provide resources to commu-  
15 nities that—

16 (A) are challenged by stranded nuclear  
17 waste; or

18 (B) will be challenged by stranded nuclear  
19 waste during the 10-year period beginning on  
20 the date of enactment of this Act.

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
24 trator” means the Administrator of the U.S. Eco-  
25 nomic Development Administration.

1           (2) ELIGIBLE CIVILIAN NUCLEAR POWER  
2 PLANT.—The term “eligible civilian nuclear power  
3 plant” means a civilian nuclear power plant (as de-  
4 fined in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act  
5 of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101)) that—

6                   (A) has been decommissioned; or

7                   (B) is in the process of being decommis-  
8 sioned.

9           (3) NUCLEAR AFFECTED COMMUNITY.—The  
10 term “nuclear affected community” means a unit of  
11 local government, including a county, city, town, vil-  
12 lage, school district, or special district, that the Ad-  
13 ministrator determines to contain stranded nuclear  
14 waste within the jurisdictional boundary or contain  
15 an eligible civilian nuclear power plant within the ju-  
16 risdictional boundary of such locality.

17           (4) STRANDED NUCLEAR WASTE.—The term  
18 “stranded nuclear waste” means nuclear waste or  
19 spent nuclear fuel stored in dry casks or spent fuel  
20 pools (as defined in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste  
21 Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101)) at the site  
22 of an eligible civilian nuclear power plant.

23 **SEC. 4. TAX INCENTIVES FOR AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.**

24           (a) FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER CREDIT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 36 of the Internal  
2 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

3 (A) by inserting “**for nuclear affected**  
4 **communities**” after “**credit**” in the head-  
5 ing;

6 (B) in subsection (a), by striking “in the  
7 United States” and inserting “in a nuclear af-  
8 fected community (as such term is defined in  
9 section 3 of the Economic Recovery for Nu-  
10 clear-Affected Communities Act)”;

11 (C) in subsection (b), by striking para-  
12 graphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraph  
13 (4) as paragraph (2); and

14 (D) by striking subsections (f), (g), and  
15 (h).

16 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
17 tions for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of  
18 chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking the  
19 item relating to section 36 and inserting the fol-  
20 lowing new item:

“Sec. 36. First-time homebuyer credit for nuclear affected communities.”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The amendments made by  
22 subsection (a) shall apply to the purchase of a principal  
23 residence after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS PRIZE COMPETITION.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall  
4 establish a competitive prize competition (referred to in  
5 this section as the “prize competition”) to award prizes  
6 to proposals for affected communities to carry out alter-  
7 natives to nuclear facilities, generating sites, and waste  
8 sites.

9 (b) PRIZE BOARD.—

10 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an  
11 advisory board (referred to in this section as the  
12 “Board”) to advise the Administrator on—

13 (A) the design and implementation of the  
14 prize competition; and

15 (B) the development of the pilot project  
16 under subsection (d).

17 (2) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be com-  
18 posed of not fewer than 9 members appointed by the  
19 Administrator—

20 (A) who shall provide expertise in—

21 (i) nuclear waste;

22 (ii) workforce issues;

23 (iii) technology development; and

24 (iv) economic development; and

25 (B) who may include representatives  
26 from—

- 1 (i) The National Laboratories;  
2 (ii) nonprofit organizations; and  
3 (iii) institutions of higher education.

4 (c) AWARD AMOUNT.—An award under the prize  
5 competition shall be in the amount of \$500,000.

6 (d) PILOT PROGRAM.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in con-  
8 sultation with the Board, shall develop a pilot  
9 project based on the proposal of the winner of the  
10 prize competition.

11 (2) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available  
12 under section 7, the Administrator may use  
13 \$500,000 to carry out the pilot project under para-  
14 graph (1).

15 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date  
16 on which a prize is awarded under the prize competition,  
17 the Administrator shall submit to the relevant committees  
18 of Congress a report that describes the winning proposal  
19 of the prize competition.

20 **SEC. 6. ECONOMIC IMPACT GRANTS FOR AFFECTED COM-**  
21 **MUNITIES.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after  
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall  
24 establish and carry out a noncompetitive grant program

1 to provide grants under either subsection (b) or subsection  
2 (c) to nuclear-affected communities for the purpose of—

3 (1) offsetting the economic and social impacts  
4 of stranded nuclear waste on affected communities;  
5 and

6 (2) supporting such communities that are in the  
7 process of decommissioning an eligible civilian nu-  
8 clear power plant and that are facing decreased tax  
9 revenues or assessed valuation as a result of such  
10 decommissioning.

11 (b) AWARDS BASED ON STRANDED NUCLEAR  
12 WASTE.—

13 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—A nuclear affected commu-  
14 nity shall be eligible to receive a grant under this  
15 section for a fiscal year.

16 (2) AWARDS.—

17 (A) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant  
18 awarded under subsection (a) shall be equal to  
19 \$15 for each kilogram of spent nuclear fuel  
20 stored at the eligible civilian nuclear power  
21 plant in the nuclear affected community, con-  
22 sistent with the price paid per kilogram for im-  
23 pact assistance outlined in the Nuclear Waste  
24 Policy Act of 1982.

1           (B) NUMBER AND FREQUENCY.—With re-  
2           spect to each eligible civilian nuclear power  
3           plant, the Administrator shall request submis-  
4           sions from affected nuclear communities and  
5           may only award 1 grant under subsection (a) to  
6           each eligible unit of local government for each  
7           fiscal year.

8           (c) AWARDS BASED ON LOST TAX REVENUE.—

9           (1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive fi-  
10          nancial assistance under this section, the affected  
11          community shall submit to the Administrator an ap-  
12          plication that includes documentation that the nu-  
13          clear affected community has experienced, or is pre-  
14          dicted to experience, during a calendar year begin-  
15          ning after December 31, 2014, and ending before  
16          January 1, 2026—

17                (A) a reduction of not less than 20 percent  
18                in overall tax revenue received by such affected  
19                community for such year compared with the av-  
20                erage of such tax revenue for the previous 5  
21                years; and

22                (B) a reduction in tax revenue attributable  
23                to a nuclear power plant received by such af-  
24                fected community for such year, compared with  
25                the average of such tax revenue for the previous

1           5 years, that is not less than 20 percent of the  
2           average for such previous 5 years of the overall  
3           tax revenue received by such unit.

4           For purposes of this paragraph, the term “tax rev-  
5           enue” includes any payment in lieu of taxes received  
6           by an affected community.

7           (2) ASSISTANCE.—

8           (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to amounts  
9           made available in advance in appropriations  
10          Acts, financial assistance provided under this  
11          section to a nuclear affected community shall be  
12          made with respect to each year of the 8-year  
13          period beginning on the first day of the cal-  
14          endar year described in paragraph (1).

15          (B) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—Subject to  
16          amounts made available in advance in appro-  
17          priations Acts, financial assistance provided  
18          under this section to a nuclear affected commu-  
19          nity for a year of an 8-year period shall be  
20          equal to the lesser of \$10,000,000 and—

21                  (i) in the case of the first year of the  
22                  8-year period, 80 percent of the loss de-  
23                  scribed in paragraph (1)(B) with respect to  
24                  such unit;

1 (ii) in the case of the second year of  
2 the 8-year period, 70 percent of such loss;

3 (iii) in the case of the third year of  
4 the 8-year period, 60 percent of such loss;

5 (iv) in the case of the fourth year of  
6 the 8-year period, 50 percent of such loss;

7 (v) in the case of the fifth year of the  
8 8-year period, 40 percent of such loss;

9 (vi) in the case of the sixth year of  
10 the 8-year period, 30 percent of such loss;

11 (vii) in the case of the seventh year of  
12 the 8-year period, 20 percent of such loss;

13 and

14 (viii) in the case of the eighth year of  
15 the 8-year period, 10 percent of such loss.

16 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
18 priated to carry out this Act \$110,000,000 for each of  
19 fiscal years 2026 through 2031 and \$120,000,000 for  
20 each of fiscal years 2032 through 2036.

21 (b) NO OFFSET.—None of the funds made available  
22 under this section may be used to offset the funding for  
23 any other Federal program.

24 (c) LIMITATION.—No nuclear affected community  
25 may receive more than one grant per calendar year, and

- 1 cannot receive grants under both sections 6(b) and (c) in
- 2 the same calendar year.

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