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H. R. 9975

To require the Secretary of Energy to remove carbon dioxide directly from ambient air or seawater, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2026

Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to remove carbon dioxide directly from ambient air or seawater, 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 “Carbon Dioxide Re-
5 moval Leadership Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL REQUIREMENT TO REMOVE CARBON DI-**
7 **OXIDE.**

8 (a) **REQUIRED AMOUNTS.**—The Secretary shall, to
9 the extent economically feasible as provided in subsection
10 (d), remove—

1 (1) 50,000 net metric tons of carbon dioxide,
2 calculated on a lifecycle basis, for each of fiscal
3 years 2026 through 2027;

4 (2) 500,000 net metric tons of carbon dioxide,
5 calculated on a lifecycle basis, for each of fiscal
6 years 2028 through 2030;

7 (3) 5,000,000 net metric tons of carbon dioxide,
8 calculated on a lifecycle basis, for each of fiscal
9 years 2031 through 2035; and

10 (4) 10,000,000 net metric tons of carbon diox-
11 ide, calculated on a lifecycle basis, for fiscal year
12 2036 and each fiscal year thereafter.

13 (b) TIMING.—The Secretary shall remove each
14 amount of carbon dioxide required under subsection (a)
15 by not later than 3 years after the beginning of the fiscal
16 year for which such removal is required.

17 (c) SMALL REMOVAL PROJECT SET-ASIDE.—To the
18 extent practicable, at least 20 percent of the net metric
19 tons of carbon dioxide required to be removed for each
20 of fiscal years 2026 through 2035 under subsection (a)
21 shall be removed by small removal projects.

22 (d) ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The removal of carbon diox-
24 ide under this section shall be considered economi-

1 cally feasible if such removal can be accomplished or,
2 in the case of a contract, purchased—

3 (A) with respect to such removal carried
4 out for any of fiscal years 2026 through 2027,
5 at a price per metric ton of carbon dioxide of
6 not more than \$750 (which the Secretary may
7 adjust for inflation);

8 (B) with respect to such removal carried
9 out for any of fiscal years 2028 through 2030,
10 at a price per metric ton of carbon dioxide of
11 not more than \$500 (which the Secretary may
12 adjust for inflation);

13 (C) with respect to such removal carried
14 out for any of fiscal years 2031 through 2033,
15 at a price per metric ton of carbon dioxide of
16 not more than \$300 (which the Secretary may
17 adjust for inflation);

18 (D) with respect to such removal carried
19 out for any of fiscal years 2034 through 2036,
20 at a price per metric ton of carbon dioxide of
21 not more than \$200 (which the Secretary may
22 adjust for inflation); and

23 (E) with respect to such removal carried
24 out for fiscal year 2037 and each fiscal year
25 thereafter, at a price per metric ton of carbon

1 dioxide of not more than \$150 (which the Sec-
2 retary may adjust for inflation).

3 (2) INCLUSION OF MEASUREMENT, MONI-
4 TORING, REPORTING, AND VERIFICATION COSTS.—In
5 determining whether the removal of carbon dioxide
6 is considered economically feasible under paragraph
7 (1), the price for such removal shall include any
8 costs associated with the measurement, monitoring,
9 reporting, and verification required under subsection
10 (f)(1), including where such costs are directly paid
11 to an independent entity conducting the measure-
12 ment, monitoring, reporting, or verification.

13 (3) MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS.—Notwith-
14 standing paragraph (1), the removal of carbon diox-
15 ide carried out pursuant to a multi-year contract en-
16 tered into under subsection (h) shall be considered
17 economically feasible if such removal can be accom-
18 plished at or below the applicable dollar amount for
19 the first fiscal year of the contract, as provided in
20 paragraph (1), through the entire length of such
21 contract.

22 (e) FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—Funds received pursu-
23 ant to a contract entered into under subsection (h) shall
24 not be considered Federal assistance or otherwise affect

1 eligibility for any Federal assistance, including tax incen-
2 tives.

3 (f) MEASUREMENT, MONITORING, REPORTING, AND
4 VERIFICATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall meas-
6 ure, monitor, report, and verify, through an inde-
7 pendent third party, the net metric tons of carbon
8 dioxide the Secretary removed for purposes of this
9 section. If the Secretary enters into a contract with
10 an entity under subsection (h), the Secretary shall
11 include as a term or condition of such contract that
12 such entity measure, monitor, report, and verify
13 through an independent third party the net metric
14 tons of carbon dioxide removed by such entity for
15 purposes of this section.

16 (2) STANDARDS.—Not later than 1 year after
17 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary,
18 in consultation with the Administrator of the Na-
19 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the
20 Administrator of the Environmental Protection
21 Agency, the Secretary of the Department of Agri-
22 culture, the Director of the National Institute of
23 Standards and Technology, and other relevant Fed-
24 eral agencies as determined appropriate by the Sec-
25 retary, shall establish standards for evaluation of the

1 measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification
2 methods of net metric tons of carbon dioxide re-
3 moved pursuant to this section. Such standards
4 shall—

5 (A) require the use of the best available
6 practices used by similar carbon dioxide re-
7 moval projects;

8 (B) ensure safe, effective, and efficient re-
9 moval of carbon dioxide;

10 (C) require independent, third-party
11 verification of carbon dioxide removal and pro-
12 vide for effective oversight of such entities;

13 (D) ensure additionality, durability, and
14 net-negativity of carbon dioxide removal;

15 (E) include criteria to determine whether
16 the storage of captured carbon dioxide is dura-
17 ble;

18 (F) ensure scientifically rigorous and
19 transparent methods for measurement, moni-
20 toring, reporting, and verifying under para-
21 graph (1); and

22 (G) be regularly reviewed and, as nec-
23 essary, updated to account for scientific and
24 technological advancements.

1 (3) PROHIBITION ON DOUBLE COUNTING.—Car-
2 bon dioxide that is removed for the purposes of com-
3 pliance with any other greenhouse gas emissions
4 management program, including any foreign, Fed-
5 eral, State, local, or private greenhouse gas emis-
6 sions management program, as determined by the
7 Secretary, may not be considered removed under
8 subsection (a) for purposes of meeting the require-
9 ments of such subsection.

10 (g) PRIORITIES.—In carrying out this section, the
11 Secretary shall give priority to a project for the removal
12 of carbon dioxide based on the degree to which the
13 project—

14 (1) minimizes the amount of greenhouse gas
15 emissions released by carrying out such project;

16 (2) supports the commercialization of innovative
17 removal technologies that demonstrate—

18 (A) near- and long-term cost competitive-
19 ness relative to similar technologies; and

20 (B) a potential to achieve the economic
21 feasibility requirements established under sub-
22 section (d);

23 (3) increases the diversity of commercially
24 available eligible technologies;

1 (4) may provide for domestic job creation, with
2 a further preference for partnerships with labor or-
3 ganizations, small businesses, minority-owned busi-
4 nesses, and women-owned businesses across value
5 chains;

6 (5) sources supply chain materials domestically;

7 (6) results in economic development or eco-
8 nomic diversification in regions or localities that
9 have historically generated significant economic ac-
10 tivity from the production, processing, transpor-
11 tation, or combustion of fossil fuels, including
12 through the use of coal mines, fossil fuel-fired elec-
13 tricity generating units, and petroleum refining fa-
14 cilities;

15 (7) quantifies and mitigates risks from carbon
16 dioxide removal activities on, and provides measur-
17 able co-benefits to, nearby communities and resi-
18 dents, the environment, agriculture, and public
19 health, including by—

20 (A) improving local air quality, water qual-
21 ity, and soil quality;

22 (B) minimizing land, water, and energy
23 footprints; and

24 (C) using zero-emission energy to the ex-
25 tent practically feasible; and

1 (8) includes robust public engagement and com-
2 munity benefits, including the use of enforceable
3 community benefit agreements.

4 (h) CONTRACTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—After a transparent and
6 competitive process, the Secretary may enter into
7 one or more contracts to meet the requirements of
8 subsection (a).

9 (2) LENGTH.—A contract entered into under
10 this subsection may not be for a term of more than
11 15 years.

12 (3) MAINTENANCE OF REMOVAL COMMIT-
13 MENTS.—The Secretary shall include as a term or
14 condition in each contract entered into under this
15 subsection that the entity that enters into the con-
16 tract shall be liable to remove an additional amount
17 of carbon dioxide that is equal to any amount of car-
18 bon dioxide that is released from any location where
19 the entity stored carbon dioxide pursuant to the con-
20 tract.

21 (4) LIMITATION.—To the extent that there is a
22 sufficient number of entities capable of removing
23 carbon dioxide in a manner that meets the standards
24 and requirements of this section under a contract
25 entered into pursuant to this subsection, the Sec-

1 retary shall ensure that no one entity is responsible
2 for removing more than 25 percent of the net metric
3 tons of carbon dioxide required under subsection (a)
4 in any fiscal year.

5 (i) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2029, and
6 every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to
7 Congress, and release to the public, a report on the
8 progress of carrying out the requirements of this section,
9 which such report shall include—

10 (1) the amounts verified under subsection (f)(1)
11 and the corresponding names of each independent
12 third party that provided such verified amount;

13 (2) the total price, and price per metric ton, to
14 remove carbon dioxide for the applicable fiscal year
15 as required under subsection (a);

16 (3) each technology category, the amount of en-
17 ergy, and each storage mechanism used to remove
18 carbon dioxide for the applicable fiscal year as re-
19 quired under subsection (a);

20 (4) any location where carbon dioxide was re-
21 moved for the applicable fiscal year as required
22 under subsection (a);

23 (5) the methods associated with the measure-
24 ment, monitoring, reporting, and verification re-
25 quired under subsection (f)(1);

1 (6) the names of each entity conducting such
2 measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification
3 required under subsection (f)(1);

4 (7) an estimate of how removing carbon dioxide
5 under this section affects nearby communities and
6 residents, the environment, agriculture, and public
7 health;

8 (8) information on potential labor impacts and
9 job creation resulting from fulfilling the require-
10 ments of subsection (a); and

11 (9) an explanation of how the Secretary
12 prioritized projects under subsection (g).

13 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
15 essary to carry out this section.

16 (k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) ELIGIBLE TECHNOLOGY.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible
19 technology” means, as determined by the Sec-
20 retary, any equipment, technique, or technology
21 that—

22 (i) was placed into service after Janu-
23 ary 1, 2022; and

24 (ii) removes carbon dioxide directly
25 from ambient air or seawater.

1 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “eligible tech-
2 nology” does not include any equipment, tech-
3 nique, or technology that—

4 (i) removes carbon dioxide which is
5 deliberately released from naturally occur-
6 ring subsurface springs;

7 (ii) removes carbon dioxide using nat-
8 ural photosynthesis, except as provided in
9 subparagraph (C); or

10 (iii) uses captured carbon dioxide in
11 enhanced oil recovery.

12 (C) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBLE TECH-
13 NOLOGY.—Notwithstanding subparagraph
14 (B)(ii), any equipment, technique, or technology
15 that removes carbon dioxide using gasification,
16 pyrolysis, or sequestration of solid, nonhaz-
17 ardous, and cellulosic waste materials may be
18 considered an eligible technology under this sec-
19 tion if the Secretary, by rule—

20 (i) determines an entity that carries
21 out a removal project under this section is
22 able to adequately measure, monitor, re-
23 port, and verify the amount of greenhouse
24 gas emissions, calculated on a lifecycle
25 basis (including direct emissions and sig-

nificant indirect emissions), removed using such equipment, technique, or technology;

(ii) determines an entity that carries out a removal project under this section is able to adequately mitigate the environmental impacts (including impacts on biodiversity, land use, and air and water quality) associated with such equipment, technique, or technology; and

(iii) requires an entity carrying out a removal project under this section to—

(I) adequately measure, monitor, report, and verify the amount and storage durability of greenhouse gas emissions, calculated on a lifecycle basis (including direct emissions and significant indirect emissions), associated with using such equipment, technique, or technology; and

(II) adequately mitigate the environmental impacts (including impacts on biodiversity, land use, and air, soil, and water quality) associated with using such equipment, technique, or technology.

1 (2) LIFECYCLE BASIS.—The term “lifecycle
2 basis” means the net sum of all greenhouse gas
3 emissions (using mass values for all greenhouse
4 gases that are adjusted to account for their relative
5 global warming potential, as determined by the Sec-
6 retary in consultation with the Administrator of the
7 Environmental Protection Agency) associated with a
8 carbon dioxide removal activity from cradle to grave,
9 including any emissions associated with—

10 (A) energy and feedstock inputs in the car-
11 bon dioxide removal activity, including inputs in
12 the distribution and transportation of carbon
13 dioxide;

14 (B) indirect effects, such as land-use
15 change, as scientifically justified;

16 (C) the carbon dioxide removal process;

17 (D) carbon dioxide transport and storage,
18 including any leakage, use, and disposal of any
19 materials or products associated with such
20 transport and storage; and

21 (E) embodied emissions of the equipment
22 used in the carbon dioxide removal activity.

23 (3) REMOVE.—The term “remove” means to
24 extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by—

1 (A) capturing carbon dioxide using eligible
2 technology; and

3 (B) durably storing, on a timescale equivalent to geologic storage, such captured carbon
4 dioxide—
5

6 (i) pursuant to a permit issued under
7 part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
8 U.S.C. 300h et seq.) for a Class V or Class
9 VI injection well (as such classes of wells
10 are described in section 144.6 of title 40,
11 Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
12 regulations));

13 (ii) in building materials and mineral-
14 ized carbon materials; or

15 (iii) using other durable storage meth-
16 ods, as determined by the Secretary.

17 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Energy.

19 (5) SMALL REMOVAL PROJECT.—The term
20 “small removal project” means a project for the re-
21 moval of carbon dioxide that, on an annual basis,
22 does not remove more than 5 percent of the net met-
23 ric tons of carbon dioxide required to be removed for
24 the applicable fiscal year under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 3. STUDY ON THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF FEDERAL**
2 **CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL MANAGEMENT.**

3 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with
5 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
6 pheric Administration, the Administrator of the Environ-
7 mental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Depart-
8 ment of Agriculture, and other relevant Federal agencies,
9 shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce
10 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
11 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that
12 evaluates and makes recommendations for potential pro-
13 gram design elements and financing options for a Federal
14 carbon dioxide removal offtake program that can be scaled
15 to achieve carbon dioxide removal from the atmosphere
16 and the oceans at a gigaton scale annually by 2050. Such
17 report shall include consideration of potential management
18 and organizational structures for the program, includ-
19 ing—

- 20 (1) a government sponsored enterprise;
21 (2) a government corporation;
22 (3) a program office with the Department of
23 Energy or other Federal agency; and
24 (4) a contracted service provider.

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