

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1762

To exempt the Secretary of Energy of certain prohibitions with respect to an unmanned aircraft system, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2025

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To exempt the Secretary of Energy of certain prohibitions with respect to an unmanned aircraft system, 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 “Nuclear Ecosystem
5 Drone Defense Act of 2025” or the “NEDD Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF ENERGY WITH RE-**
2 **SPECT TO COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT**
3 **SYSTEMS FROM COVERED FOREIGN ENTI-**
4 **TIES.**

5 (a) EXEMPTION FROM PROHIBITION ON PROCURE-
6 MENT OF COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS
7 FROM COVERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.—Section 1823(b) of
8 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
9 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 137 Stat. 692) is amended,
10 in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “Sec-
11 retary of Energy,” after “Secretary of State,”.

12 (b) EXEMPTION FROM PROHIBITION ON OPERATION
13 OF COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FROM
14 COVERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.—Section 1824(b) of the
15 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024
16 (Public Law 118–31; 137 Stat. 693) is amended, in the
17 matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “Secretary
18 of Energy,” after “Secretary of State,”.

19 (c) EXEMPTION FROM PROHIBITION ON USE OF
20 FEDERAL FUNDS FOR PROCUREMENT AND OPERATION
21 OF COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FROM
22 COVERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.—Section 1825(b) of the
23 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024
24 (Public Law 118–31; 137 Stat. 694) is amended, in the
25 matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “Secretary
26 of Energy,” after “Secretary of State,”.

1 (d) GRANTING SECRETARY OF ENERGY AUTHORITY
2 TO DETERMINE USAGE OF CLASSIFIED TRACKING.—Sec-
3 tion 1827(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act
4 for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 137 Stat. 696)
5 is amended by striking “the Secretary’s designee” and in-
6 serting “the Secretary of Energy, as appropriate, or their
7 respective designees”.

8 (e) GRANTING SECRETARY OF ENERGY ACCOUNTING
9 EXCEPTION.—Section 1827(c) of the National Defense
10 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–
11 31; 137 Stat. 696) is amended by inserting “the Depart-
12 ment of Energy,” after “the Department of Transpor-
13 tation,”.

14 (f) EXPANSION OF SECRETARY OF ENERGY AUTHOR-
15 ITY RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF CERTAIN NU-
16 CLEAR FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIR-
17 CRAFTS OR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—Section
18 4510(e)(1)(C) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50
19 U.S.C. 2661(e)(1)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

20 “(C) owned by the United States or con-
21 tracted to the United States—

22 “(i) to store, transport, or use special
23 nuclear material; or

- 1 “(ii) for the research, design, manu-
- 2 facture, or production of non-nuclear com-
- 3 ponents for nuclear weapons.”.

