

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5063

To establish in the Department of State a Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2026

Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. HEINRICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To establish in the Department of State a Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology program, 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 “FIRST Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUNDATIONAL INFRASTRUC-**
2 **TURE FOR RESPONSIBLE USE OF SMALL**
3 **MODULAR REACTOR TECHNOLOGY PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the
6 Department of State a Foundational Infrastructure for
7 Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology
8 program (hereafter in this section referred to as the
9 “FIRST program”).

10 (b) PROGRAM FUNCTIONS.—The Under Secretary for
11 Arms Control and International Security, or the designee
12 of the Under Secretary, shall manage the FIRST pro-
13 gram, which shall—

14 (1) promote responsible deployment of civil nu-
15 clear energy internationally that benefits United
16 States economic and national security interests;

17 (2) advocate, through relevant bilateral and
18 multilateral diplomatic engagements and forums, for
19 civil nuclear energy projects, technology, and prod-
20 ucts sourced or exported from United States busi-
21 nesses;

22 (3) engage in diplomacy with partner govern-
23 ments on prioritizing the highest safety, security,
24 and nonproliferation standards as requirements for
25 civil nuclear reactor deployment decisions, including

1 with regard to small modular reactor infrastructure,
2 technology, and products;

3 (4) provide consultation to partner countries re-
4 garding best practices in the field of licensing, legal,
5 and regulatory frameworks for the importation or
6 adoption of United States nuclear reactor infrastruc-
7 ture, technology, or products;

8 (5) provide early-stage commercial project de-
9 velopment support, including feasibility and engi-
10 neering studies, support for grid integration, and
11 workforce development, all of which are critical to
12 launching United States commercial civil nuclear
13 projects abroad and ensure fair market access for
14 United States businesses relative to state-backed
15 competitors; and

16 (6) cooperate with partner countries in the
17 areas of training programs, technical resource shar-
18 ing, and potential coordination of codes and stand-
19 ards to support the facilitation of small modular re-
20 actor fleet deployment.

21 (c) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
24 Under Secretary for Arms Control and International
25 Security, or the designee of such Under Secretary,

1 shall provide to the appropriate congressional com-
2 mittees a report that includes—

3 (A) details on the implementation of the
4 FIRST program;

5 (B) a description of FIRST program diplo-
6 matic outreach and activities, including bilateral
7 and multilateral engagements that promote ac-
8 tivities described in subsection (b);

9 (C) the list of current contributing part-
10 ners of the FIRST program;

11 (D) details relating to potential or ongoing
12 cooperation with contributing partners of the
13 FIRST program related to program activities
14 described in subsection (b);

15 (E) a description of engagements and ac-
16 tivities conducted by the Department of State
17 to promote and expand the FIRST program to
18 additional potential contributing partners;

19 (F) a description of FIRST program-re-
20 lated engagements with United States busi-
21 nesses in the civil nuclear sector; and

22 (G) a description of funds expended on
23 FIRST program-related activities, including
24 programming that uses funds from Non-
25 proliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining, and

1 Related Programs and related funding sources
2 within the Department.

3 (2) FORM.—The report required by this sub-
4 section shall be submitted in unclassified form but
5 may include a classified annex submitted separately
6 from the unclassified portion.

7 (d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
9 the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International
10 Security, or the designee of the Under Secretary, shall
11 provide to the appropriate congressional committees a
12 briefing that includes the information required in sub-
13 section (c).

14 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
16 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
17 mittees” means—

18 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
19 the House of the Representatives; and

20 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
21 the Senate.

22 (2) UNITED STATES BUSINESS.—The term
23 “United States business” has the meaning given
24 such term in section 2304 of the Export Enhance-
25 ment Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4724).

1 (f) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on June
2 8, 2034.

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