

RELIABLE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

FEBRUARY 4, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GUTHRIE, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 4690]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4690) to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to repeal certain Federal building energy efficiency performance standards, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:
Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act”.

SEC. 2. REVISED FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 305(a)(3)(D)(i) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D)(i)) is amended—

(1) by striking subclauses (I) and (II); and

(2) in subclause (III), by inserting after the third sentence the following: “The certification system and level may not prohibit a building from obtaining a certification as a green building or high-performance green building solely based on direct or indirect consumption of fossil fuels.”

(b) **STANDARDS.**—

(1) **REPEAL OF CERTAIN STANDARDS.**—Subpart B of part 435, and subpart B of part 433, of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall have no force or effect.

(2) **TRANSITION.**—Until such time as the Secretary of Energy issues new or revised regulations pursuant to subsection (d) relating to the revised Federal building energy efficiency performance standards under section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D)) to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a)(1) of this section, such section 305(a)(3)(D) shall be implemented as though the requirements of subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) of such section 305(a)(3)(D) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) had never taken effect.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 436(h) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17092(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **PROHIBITION.**—The system identified under paragraph (1) may not prohibit a building from obtaining a certification as a green building or high-performance green building solely based on direct or indirect consumption of fossil fuels.”

(d) **REVISION OF REGULATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall issue such new or revised regulations as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the amendments made by this Act.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 4690, the Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act, was introduced by Representative Langworthy (R-NY) on July 23, 2025 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 23, 2025. H.R. 4690 repeals section 433 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to revise federal energy efficiency performance standards for new buildings and major renovations with designs that phase out on-site fossil fuel-generated energy consumption.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In 2007, Congress passed the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA)¹ which, among other things, aimed to increase energy efficiency and the availability of renewable energy in the United States. Key provisions included target goals for Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE), new energy efficiency standards for residential appliances and commercial equipment, and modified renewable fuel standards.

Section 433 of EISA requires the Secretary of Energy to establish, by rule, federal building energy standards that shift energy consumption away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy.²

¹Pub. L. No. 110–140, 121 Stat. 1492.

²42 U.S.C. § 6834.

Requirements for federal building energy use in section 433 include mandated renewable energy specifications that meet or exceed standards set by energy code establishing bodies;³ sustainable design principals for the citing and construction of federal buildings;⁴ and building designs that reduce the use of fossil fuel-generated energy consumption and eventually completely eliminate the use of fossil-fuel in federal buildings by 2030.⁵

These requirements perpetuate a one-size-fits-all electrification mandate for energy used in federal buildings, jeopardizing the reliability and security of our nation's critical infrastructure. Concerns have been raised to the Committee regarding not only the significant vulnerabilities these requirements expose our federal infrastructure to, but additionally the steep upfront and life cycle costs incurred by forced electrification. For example, section 433 would force federal facilities to abandon natural gas for space heating and instead use electrified heating systems, like heat pumps. However, in the vast majority of states, the least efficient natural gas furnace is still more efficient than the most efficient electric heat pump.⁶ Additionally, this policy could increase energy consumption, as the direct use of natural gas is about 92 percent efficient, compared to 38 percent for electricity.⁷

Various issues with section 433 have been cited by multiple administrations, including the Obama Administration, which urged significant modification or full elimination of section 433. The Obama Administration acknowledged the mandated costs for compliance, impacts to military installations, as well as the fact that the goal to reduce fossil fuel use by 100 percent in federal buildings is far more aggressive than any other similar legislative effort.⁸ Additionally, the Obama administration highlighted the bias this policy creates given the essential role natural gas plays in meeting the energy needs of our country.⁹

These concerns remain today, and the Committee believes that a full repeal of section 433 of EISA is necessary. H.R. 4690 will repeal these requirements, as well as associated enforcing regulations, while maintaining important high performance certification systems and levels for building projects. This measure improves grid reliability, prioritizes savings for taxpayers, and ensures the protection of our national security assets.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On September 16, 2025, the Subcommittee on Energy held a legislative hearing on H.R. 4690. The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Jeff Novak, Acting General Counsel and Principal Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Department of Energy;

³ 42 U.S.C. § 6834(a)(2)(A).

⁴ 42 U.S.C. § 6834(a)(3)(D)(i)(III).

⁵ 42 U.S.C. § 6834(a)(3)(D)(i)(I).

⁶ American Gas Association, *Natural Gas or a Heat Pump? Where you Live Matters*, (Jan. 26, 2026), <https://www.aga.org/natural-gas-or-a-heat-pump-where-you-live-matters/>.

⁷ American Gas Association, *Building for Efficiency, Home Appliance Cost and Emissions Comparison*, (last visited Dec. 12, 2025), <https://www.aga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AGA-Report-2024-Building-for-Efficiency-08-MV.pdf>.

⁸ Issue Brief from the Obama Whitehouse, *Fossil Fuel Elimination*, (Mar. 19, 2012), https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/oira_1904/1904-04112012-1.pdf.

⁹ *Id.*

- George Lowe, Vice President of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy, American Gas Association;
- Jennifer Cleary, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers;
- Brian Tebbenkamp, President and Owner, Patriot Homes Inc; and,
- Andrew deLaski, Executive Director, Appliance Standards Awareness Project.

On November 19, 2025, the Subcommittee on Energy met in open markup session and forwarded H.R. 4690, as amended, to the full Committee by a record vote of 16 yeas and 14 nays. On December 3, 2025, the full Committee on Energy and Commerce met in open markup session and ordered H.R. 4690, without amendment, favorably reported to the House by a record vote of 27 yeas and 21 nays.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. The following reflects the record votes taken during the Committee consideration:

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
119TH CONGRESS
ROLL CALL VOTE # 14**

BILL: H.R. 4690, Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act

AMENDMENT: Final Passage

DISPOSITION: Agreed to, by a roll call vote of 27 yeas and 21 nays.

REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT	REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
Mr. Guthrie	X			Mr. Pallone		X	
Mr. Latta	X			Ms. DeGette		X	
Mr. Griffith	X			Ms. Schakowsky		X	
Mr. Bilirakis				Ms. Matsui		X	
Mr. Hudson				Ms. Castor		X	
Mr. Carter (GA)	X			Mr. Tonko		X	
Mr. Palmer	X			Ms. Clarke			
Mr. Dunn	X			Mr. Ruiz		X	
Mr. Crenshaw				Mr. Peters		X	
Mr. Joyce	X			Mrs. Dingell		X	
Mr. Weber	X			Mr. Veasey			
Mr. Allen	X			Ms. Kelly			
Mr. Balderson	X			Ms. Barragán		X	
Mr. Fulcher	X			Mr. Soto		X	
Mr. Pfluger	X			Ms. Schrier		X	
Mrs. Harshbarger	X			Ms. Trahan		X	
Mrs. Miller-Meeks	X			Ms. Fletcher		X	
Mrs. Cammack	X			Ms. Ocasio-Cortez		X	
Mr. Obernolte	X			Mr. Auchincloss		X	
Mr. James	X			Mr. Carter (LA)		X	
Mr. Bentz	X			Mr. Menendez		X	
Mrs. Houchin	X			Mr. Mullin		X	
Mr. Fry	X			Mr. Landsman		X	
Ms. Lee	X			Ms. McClellan		X	
Mr. Langworthy	X						
Mr. Kean	X						
Mr. Rulli	X						
Mr. Evans	X						
Mr. Goldman	X						
Mrs. Fedorchak	X						

12/03/2025

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee held hearings and made findings that are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 4690 would result in no new or increased budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII, at the time this report was filed, the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not available.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to repeal section 433 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to revise federal building energy efficiency performance standards for new buildings and major renovation with designs that phase out on-site fossil fuel-generated energy consumption.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 4690 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

RELATED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following related hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 4690:

On February 5, 2025, the Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing on H.R. 4690. The title of the hearing was “Powering America’s Future: Unleashing American Energy.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Amanda Eversole, Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy Officer, American Petroleum Institute;
- Brigham McCown, Senior Fellow and Director, Initiative on American Energy Security, The Hudson Institute;
- Gary Arnold, Business Manager, Denver Pipefitters Local 208; and,
- Tyler O’Conner, Partner, Crowell & Moring LLP.

On February 26, 2025, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on H.R. 4690. The title of the hearing was “Examining the Biden Administration’s Energy and Environment Spending Push.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Johnathan Black, Chief Advisor for Strategic Planning and Program Oversight, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy;
- J. Alfredo Gomez, Director, Natural Resources and Environment team, U.S. Government Accountability Office;
- Nicole Murley, Acting Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and,
- Frank Rusco, Director, Natural Resources and Environment team, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

On March 5, 2025, the Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing on H.R. 4690. The title of the hearing was “Scaling for Growth: Meeting the Demand for Reliable, Affordable Electricity.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Todd Brickhouse, CEO and General Manager, Basin Electric Power Cooperative;
- Asim Z. Haque, Senior Vice President for Governmental and Member Services, PJM;
- Noel W. Black, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Southern Company; and,
- Tyler H. Norris, James B. Duke Fellow, Duke University.

On September 9, 2025, the Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing on H.R. 4690. The title of the hearing was “Building the American Dream: Examining Affordability, Choice, and Security in Appliance and Buildings Policies.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Buddy Hughes, Chairman, National Association of Home Builders;
- Ben Lieberman, Senior Fellow, Competitive Enterprise Institute;
- Jim Steffes, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Washington Gas; and,
- Kara Saul-Rinaldi, Chief Policy Officer, Building Performance Association.

On September 16, 2025, the Subcommittee on Energy held a legislative hearing on H.R. 4690. The title of the hearing was “Appliance and Buildings Policies: Restoring the American Dream of Home Ownership and Consumer Choice.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Jeff Novak, Acting General Counsel and Principal Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Department of Energy;
- George Lowe, Vice President of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy, American Gas Association;
- Jennifer Cleary, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers;
- Brian Tebbenkamp, President and Owner, Patriot Homes Inc.; and,
- Andrew deLaski, Executive Director, Appliance Standards Awareness Project.

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. At the time this report was filed, the estimate was not available.

EARMARK, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 4690 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1: Short title

Section 1 provides a short title of the “Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act.”

Section 2: Repeal of revised federal building energy efficiency performance standards

Section 2 repeals certain sections of the Energy Conservation and Production Act, which require new and newly renovated federal buildings to phase out the use of on-site fossil fuel generated energy. This section also repeals certain enforcing standards for the underlying statute.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND PRODUCTION ACT

* * * * *

TITLE III—ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR NEW BUILDINGS

* * * * *

SEC. 305. FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.

(a)(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, the Secretary, after consulting with appropriate Federal agencies, CABO, ASHRAE, the National Association of Home Builders, the Illuminating Engineering Society, the American Institute of Architects, the National Conference of the States on Building Codes and Standards, and other appropriate persons, shall establish, by rule, Federal building energy standards that require in new Federal buildings those energy efficiency measures that are technologically feasible and economically justified. Such standards shall become effective no later than 1 year after such rule is issued.

(2) The standards established under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) contain energy saving and renewable energy specifications that meet or exceed the energy saving and renewable energy specifications of the 2004 International Energy Conservation Code (in the case of residential buildings) or ASHRAE Standard 90.1–2004 (in the case of commercial buildings);

(B) to the extent practicable, use the same format as the appropriate voluntary building energy code; and

(C) consider, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal agencies, and where appropriate contain, measures with regard to radon and other indoor air pollutants.

(3)(A) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall establish, by rule, revised Federal building energy efficiency performance standards that require that—

(i) if life-cycle cost-effective for new Federal buildings—

(I) the buildings be designed to achieve energy consumption levels that are at least 30 percent below the levels established in the version of the ASHRAE Standard or the International Energy Conservation Code, as appropriate, that is in effect as of the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

(II) sustainable design principles are applied to the siting, design, and construction of all new and replacement buildings;

(ii) if water is used to achieve energy efficiency, water conservation technologies shall be applied to the extent that the technologies are life-cycle cost-effective; and

(iii) if lifecycle cost-effective, as compared to other reasonably available technologies, not less than 30 percent of the hot water demand for each new Federal building or Federal building undergoing a major renovation be met through the installation and use of solar hot water heaters.

(B) Not later than 1 year after the date of approval of each subsequent revision of the ASHRAE Standard or the International Energy Conservation Code, as appropriate, the Secretary shall determine, based on the cost-effectiveness of the requirements under the amendment, whether the revised standards established under this paragraph should be updated to reflect the amendment.

(C) In the budget request of the Federal agency for each fiscal year and each report submitted by the Federal agency under sec-

tion 548(a) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8258(a)), the head of each Federal agency shall include—

(i) a list of all new Federal buildings owned, operated, or controlled by the Federal agency; and

(ii) a statement specifying whether the Federal buildings meet or exceed the revised standards established under this paragraph.

(D) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the Secretary shall establish, by rule, revised Federal building energy efficiency performance standards that require that:

(i) For new Federal buildings and Federal buildings undergoing major renovations, with respect to which the Administrator of General Services is required to transmit a prospectus to Congress under section 3307 of title 40, United States Code, in the case of public buildings (as defined in section 3301 of title 40, United States Code), or of at least \$2,500,000 in costs adjusted annually for inflation for other buildings:

[(I) The buildings shall be designed so that the fossil fuel-generated energy consumption of the buildings is reduced, as compared with such energy consumption by a similar building in fiscal year 2003 (as measured by Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey or Residential Energy Consumption Survey data from the Energy Information Agency), by the percentage specified in the following table:

[Fiscal Year	Percentage Reduction
2010	55
2015	65
2020	80
2025	90
2030	100.

[(II) Upon petition by an agency subject to this subparagraph, the Secretary may adjust the applicable numeric requirement under subclause (I) downward with respect to a specific building, if the head of the agency designing the building certifies in writing that meeting such requirement would be technically impracticable in light of the agency’s specified functional needs for that building and the Secretary concurs with the agency’s conclusion. This subclause shall not apply to the General Services Administration.]

(III) Sustainable design principles shall be applied to the siting, design, and construction of such buildings. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the Secretary, after reviewing the findings of the Federal Director under section 436(h) of that Act, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense for considerations relating to those facilities under the custody and control of the Department of Defense, shall identify a certification system and level for green buildings that the Secretary determines to be the most likely to encourage a comprehensive and environ-

mentally-sound approach to certification of green buildings. The identification of the certification system and level shall be based on a review of the Federal Director's findings under section 436(h) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and the criteria specified in clause (iii), shall identify the highest level the Secretary determines is appropriate above the minimum level required for certification under the system selected, and shall achieve results at least comparable to the system used by and highest level referenced by the General Services Administration as of the date of enactment of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. *The certification system and level may not prohibit a building from obtaining a certification as a green building or high-performance green building solely based on direct or indirect consumption of fossil fuels.* Within 90 days of the completion of each study required by clause (iv), the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense for considerations relating to those facilities under the custody and control of the Department of Defense, shall review and update the certification system and level, taking into account the conclusions of such study.

(ii) In establishing criteria for identifying major renovations that are subject to the requirements of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall take into account the scope, degree, and types of renovations that are likely to provide significant opportunities for substantial improvements in energy efficiency.

(iii) In identifying the green building certification system and level, the Secretary shall take into consideration—

(I) the ability and availability of assessors and auditors to independently verify the criteria and measurement of metrics at the scale necessary to implement this subparagraph;

(II) the ability of the applicable certification organization to collect and reflect public comment;

(III) the ability of the standard to be developed and revised through a consensus-based process;

(IV) an evaluation of the robustness of the criteria for a high-performance green building, which shall give credit for promoting—

(aa) efficient and sustainable use of water, energy, and other natural resources;

(bb) use of renewable energy sources;

(cc) improved indoor environmental quality through enhanced indoor air quality, thermal comfort, acoustics, day lighting, pollutant source control, and use of low-emission materials and building system controls; and

(dd) such other criteria as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(V) national recognition within the building industry.

(iv) At least once every 5 years, and in accordance with section 436 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the Administrator of General Services shall conduct a study to

evaluate and compare available third-party green building certification systems and levels, taking into account the criteria listed in clause (iii).

(v) The Secretary may by rule allow Federal agencies to develop internal certification processes, using certified professionals, in lieu of certification by the certification entity identified under clause (i)(III). The Secretary shall include in any such rule guidelines to ensure that the certification process results in buildings meeting the applicable certification system and level identified under clause (i)(III). An agency employing an internal certification process must continue to obtain external certification by the certification entity identified under clause (i)(III) for at least 5 percent of the total number of buildings certified annually by the agency.

(vi) With respect to privatized military housing, the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary may, through rulemaking, develop alternative criteria to those established by subclauses (I) and (III) of clause (i) that achieve an equivalent result in terms of energy savings, sustainable design, and green building performance.

(vii) In addition to any use of water conservation technologies otherwise required by this section, water conservation technologies shall be applied to the extent that the technologies are life-cycle cost-effective.

(b) REPORT ON COMPARATIVE STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall identify and describe, in the report required under section 308, the basis for any substantive difference between the Federal building energy standards established under this section (including differences in treatment of energy efficiency and renewable energy) and the appropriate voluntary building energy code.

(c) PERIODIC REVIEW.—The Secretary shall periodically, but not less than once every 5 years, review the Federal building energy standards established under this section and shall, if significant energy savings would result, upgrade such standards to include all new energy efficiency and renewable energy measures that are technologically feasible and economically justified.

(d) INTERIM STANDARDS.—Interim energy performance standards for new Federal buildings issued by the Secretary under this title as it existed before the date of the enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 shall remain in effect until the standards established under subsection (a) become effective.

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ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

* * * * *

SEC. 436. HIGH-PERFORMANCE GREEN FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish within the General Services Administration an Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings, and appoint an individual to serve as Federal Director in, a position in the career-reserved Senior Executive service, to—

(1) establish and manage the Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings; and

(2) carry out other duties as required under this subtitle.

(b) COMPENSATION.—The compensation of the Federal Director shall not exceed the maximum rate of basic pay for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code, including any applicable locality-based comparability payment that may be authorized under section 5304(h)(2)(C) of that title.

(c) DUTIES.—The Federal Director shall—

(1) coordinate the activities of the Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings with the activities of the Office of Commercial High-Performance Green Buildings, and the Secretary, in accordance with section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D));

(2) ensure full coordination of high-performance green building information and activities within the General Services Administration and all relevant agencies, including, at a minimum—

(A) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive;

(C) the Office of Federal Procurement Policy;

(D) the Department of Energy;

(E) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(F) the Department of Defense;

(G) the Department of Transportation;

(H) the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

and

(I) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;

(3) establish a senior-level Federal Green Building Advisory Committee under section 474, which shall provide advice and recommendations in accordance with that section and subsection (d);

(4) identify and every 5 years reassess improved or higher rating standards recommended by the Advisory Committee;

(5) ensure full coordination, dissemination of information regarding, and promotion of the results of research and development information relating to Federal high-performance green building initiatives;

(6) identify and develop Federal high-performance green building standards for all types of Federal facilities, consistent with the requirements of this subtitle and section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D));

(7) establish green practices that can be used throughout the life of a Federal facility;

(8) review and analyze current Federal budget practices and life-cycle costing issues, and make recommendations to Congress, in accordance with subsection (d); and

(9) identify opportunities to demonstrate innovative and emerging green building technologies and concepts.

(d) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—The Federal Director, in consultation with the Commercial Director and the Advisory Committee, and consistent with the requirements of section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D)) shall—

(1) identify, review, and analyze current budget and contracting practices that affect achievement of high-performance green buildings, including the identification of barriers to high-performance green building life-cycle costing and budgetary issues;

(2) develop guidance and conduct training sessions with budget specialists and contracting personnel from Federal agencies and budget examiners to apply life-cycle cost criteria to actual projects;

(3) identify tools to aid life-cycle cost decisionmaking; and

(4) explore the feasibility of incorporating the benefits of high-performance green buildings, such as security benefits, into a cost-budget analysis to aid in life-cycle costing for budget and decisionmaking processes.

(e) INCENTIVES.—Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Director shall identify incentives to encourage the expedited use of high-performance green buildings and related technology in the operations of the Federal Government, in accordance with the requirements of section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D)), including through—

(1) the provision of recognition awards; and

(2) the maximum feasible retention of financial savings in the annual budgets of Federal agencies for use in reinvesting in future high-performance green building initiatives.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Federal Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) describes the status of compliance with this subtitle, the requirements of section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D)), and other Federal high-performance green building initiatives in effect as of the date of the report, including—

(A) the extent to which the programs are being carried out in accordance with this subtitle and the requirements of section 305(a)(3)(D) of that Act; and

(B) the status of funding requests and appropriations for those programs;

(2) identifies within the planning, budgeting, and construction process all types of Federal facility procedures that may affect the certification of new and existing Federal facilities as high-performance green buildings under the provisions of section 305(a)(3)(D) of that Act and the criteria established in subsection (h);

(3) identifies inconsistencies, as reported to the Advisory Committee, in Federal law with respect to product acquisition guidelines and high-performance product guidelines;

(4) recommends language for uniform standards for use by Federal agencies in environmentally responsible acquisition;

(5) in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, reviews the budget process for capital programs with respect to alternatives for—

(A) restructuring of budgets to require the use of complete energy and environmental cost accounting;

(B) using operations expenditures in budget-related decisions while simultaneously incorporating productivity and health measures (as those measures can be quantified by the Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings, with the assistance of universities and national laboratories);

(C) streamlining measures for permitting Federal agencies to retain all identified savings accrued as a result of the use of life-cycle costing for future high-performance green building initiatives; and

(D) identifying short-term and long-term cost savings that accrue from high-performance green buildings, including those relating to health and productivity;

(6) identifies green, self-sustaining technologies to address the operational needs of Federal facilities in times of national security emergencies, natural disasters, or other dire emergencies;

(7) summarizes and highlights development, at the State and local level, of high-performance green building initiatives, including executive orders, policies, or laws adopted promoting high-performance green building (including the status of implementation of those initiatives); and

(8) includes, for the 2-year period covered by the report, recommendations to address each of the matters, and a plan for implementation of each recommendation, described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings shall carry out each plan for implementation of recommendations under subsection (f)(8).

(h) IDENTIFICATION OF CERTIFICATION SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of this section, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Director shall identify and shall provide to the Secretary pursuant to section 305(a)(3)(D) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(D)), a certification system that the Director determines to be the most likely to encourage a comprehensive and environmentally-sound approach to certification of green buildings.

(2) BASIS.—The system identified under paragraph (1) shall be based on—

(A) a study completed every 5 years and provided to the Secretary pursuant to section 305(a)(3)(D) of that Act, which shall be carried out by the Federal Director to compare and evaluate standards;

(B) the ability and availability of assessors and auditors to independently verify the criteria and measurement of metrics at the scale necessary to implement this subtitle;

(C) the ability of the applicable standard-setting organization to collect and reflect public comment;

(D) the ability of the standard to be developed and revised through a consensus-based process;

(E) an evaluation of the robustness of the criteria for a high-performance green building, which shall give credit for promoting—

(i) efficient and sustainable use of water, energy, and other natural resources;

(ii) use of renewable energy sources;

(iii) improved indoor environmental quality through enhanced indoor air quality, thermal comfort, acoustics, day lighting, pollutant source control, and use of low-emission materials and building system controls;

(iv) reduced impacts from transportation through building location and site design that promote access by public transportation; and

(v) such other criteria as the Federal Director determines to be appropriate; and

(F) national recognition within the building industry.

(3) *PROHIBITION.—The system identified under paragraph (1) may not prohibit a building from obtaining a certification as a green building or high-performance green building solely based on direct or indirect consumption of fossil fuels.*

* * * * *

MINORITY VIEWS

H.R. 4690, the “Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act,” would enable government waste and increase costs for taxpayers by repealing the phase out of fossil fuel-generated energy consumption in new and substantially renovated Federal buildings. Specifically, H.R. 4690 removes key components of Section 305 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (ECPA). Additionally, the bill repeals Congressionally directed standards that reduce fossil fuel-generated energy consumption for Federal commercial and multi-family high rise residential buildings and Federal low rise residential buildings.¹ Repealing the standards will increase costs and air pollution, as well as harm innovation and grid reliability. For these reasons, the Committee Minority strongly opposes H.R. 4690.

H.R. 4690 amends Section 305 of ECPA which establishes energy conservation requirements for Federal buildings. Section 433 of the bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 amended Section 305 of ECPA, explicitly directing the Department of Energy (DOE) to issue regulations not later than one year after the date of enactment that require certain Federal buildings and Federal buildings undergoing major renovations be designed to progressively reduce and eventually phase out their fossil-fuel generated energy consumption. Notably, Congress passed EISA in a bipartisan fashion and President George W. Bush signed it into law. Section 433 specifies the percentage reduction that DOE must abide by when establishing Federal building energy performance standards, requiring a 90 percent reduction by 2025 compared to 2003 levels and a complete reduction by 2030. Section 433 also allows Federal agencies to petition DOE to request a downward adjustment for certain federal buildings, allowing for flexibility when technologically necessary. Amending Section 433 of EISA dismantles DOE’s ability to issue such Congressionally directed regulations.

H.R. 4690 also revokes DOE’s long-overdue 2024 rule establishing such standards for the phase out of fossil fuel use in new or renovated Federal buildings as required by Section 433. As stipulated by the law, the rule calls for a 90 percent reduction in on-site fossil fuel use between 2025 and 2029 and the elimination of on-site fossil fuel use by 2030 for certain Federal buildings. Fossil fuel-generated energy consumption can be reduced through building design measures such as electric equipment for water and space heating, or insulation, ductwork, and electrical work.

Overall, the net benefits of the rule would amount to \$2.83 billion in savings per year for buildings constructed between 2025–

¹ 10 CFR Part 433 Subpart B; 10 CFR Part 435 Subpart B.

2054, providing savings for American taxpayers.² The standards also slash planet-warming emissions and provide health benefits to Federal workers and neighboring communities through reduced air pollution. Additionally, since the Federal government is the single largest property owner and energy consumer in the United States, it's important that the Federal government lead by example in efficient building design to enable the private market to follow suit.³ DOE's 2024 rule will help drive innovation in the energy efficiency sector and clean energy market. In turn, the Federal government's purchasing power can help drive down the cost of efficient and clean technologies, like electric water heaters, while also growing American jobs. Electrification and energy efficiency also helps reduce reliance on volatile fossil fuels, thereby strengthening American energy independence and boosting resilience. The Committee Minority believes it is important to support this standard and the crucial savings it will provide to American taxpayers.

Section 433 of EISA is imperative to ensure that the Federal government is a good steward of taxpayers' dollars by upgrading the Federal building portfolio through efficiency and electrification measures. H.R. 4690 ensures that the Federal government wastes taxpayer dollars and resources, locking the Federal government into the past.

For the reasons stated above, I dissent from the views contained in the Committee's report and oppose H.R. 4690.

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Ranking Member.

²Department of Energy, *Clean Energy for New Federal Buildings and Major Renovations of Federal Buildings*, 89 Fed. Reg. 35384 (May 1, 2024) (final rule).

³U.S. Department of Energy, *About the Federal Energy Management Program* (<https://www.energy.gov/femp/about-federal-energy-management-program#:~:text=With%20more%20than%20350%2C000%20energy,the%20nation's%20largest%20energy%20consumer>) (accessed Jan. 27, 2026).

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES OF REFERRAL

BRETT GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY
CHAIRMAN

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-3641
Minority (202) 225-2927

January 30, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves:

I write this letter to kindly request that you forgo action on H.R. 4690, the "Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act." I would appreciate your willingness to do this so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

I acknowledge that your decision to forgo action on this bill would not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, nor prejudice that Committee's jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

Should you agree to forgo action, I will also include a copy of our exchange of letters on H.R. 4690 in the committee report on the bill or in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Thank you again for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



Brett Guthrie
Chairman



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Sam Graves
Chairman

Nick Christensen, Staff Director

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

February 2, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie:

Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4690, the "*Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act*." I appreciate your outreach and your consideration of the jurisdictional interests of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In the interest of permitting H.R. 4690 to proceed expeditiously to the House Floor, I am willing to forgo formal action by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with the understanding that doing so does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over this bill or similar legislation.

I appreciate your commitment to include our exchange of letters in the committee report on H.R. 4690 or in the *Congressional Record* during its consideration on the House Floor.

Thank you again for your cooperation and for your work on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure

cc: The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian

