

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5529

To direct the President to seek to establish an international renewable energy agency to expand the availability and generating capacity of renewable energy to markets around the world in order to increase economic opportunity, drive technological innovation, enhance regional and global security, raise living standards, and reduce global warming pollution.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2008

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. TERRY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. HODES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the President to seek to establish an international renewable energy agency to expand the availability and generating capacity of renewable energy to markets around the world in order to increase economic opportunity, drive technological innovation, enhance regional and global security, raise living standards, and reduce global warming pollution.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “International Renew-
3 able Energy Agency (IRENA) Act of 2008”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Renewable energy technology will be critical
7 for the United States and the world in overcoming
8 dependence on oil and reducing levels of dangerous
9 global warming pollution.

10 (2) The institutional support for renewable en-
11 ergy technology needs to be strengthened to match
12 this growing level of importance to the United States
13 and the world.

14 (3) International agencies have been formed on
15 two occasions to address the unique problems and
16 geopolitical dynamics associated with different en-
17 ergy sources: the International Atomic Energy Agen-
18 cy (IAEA) and the International Energy Agency
19 (IEA).

20 (4) The IAEA, formed in 1957, represents the
21 culmination of President Eisenhower’s “Atoms for
22 Peace” proposal, emphasizing safe, secure, and
23 peaceful use of nuclear technologies. Under the guid-
24 ance and oversight of the IAEA, nuclear power has
25 grown from supplying almost none of the world’s

1 electricity at the IAEA's founding to nearly 16 per-
2 cent in 2004.

3 (5) The IEA, formed during the 1973–74 Arab
4 oil embargo, enhances energy security among oil
5 consuming countries through an oil reserve and
6 sharing program triggered in the event of an actual
7 or potentially severe oil supply disruption. With IEA
8 helping to counterbalance the Organization of Petro-
9 leum Exporting Countries, global oil consumption
10 has surged 47 percent over IEA's lifetime.

11 (6) Renewable generating capacity grew 26
12 gigawatts in 2005, expanding worldwide nonhydro
13 renewable capacity to over 182 gigawatts. However,
14 nearly two-thirds of this capacity lies in just six
15 countries. Meeting the world's energy demands in
16 the coming century while simultaneously reducing
17 heat-trapping emissions and growing the global
18 economy will require actions across nations to re-
19 form policy, expand markets for renewable energy
20 technologies, and gather and disseminate informa-
21 tion and best practices regarding renewable energy
22 resources, and appropriate technologies.

23 (7) From 1970 to 2005, the direct cost to the
24 United States of dependence on foreign oil was
25 \$7,000,000,000,000 (in constant 2000 dollars).

1 (8) Oil dependence harms the economy and con-
2 sumers, entangles the military in foreign conflicts,
3 and endangers public health and the environment
4 through the threat of global warming.

5 (9) Significant public health, national security,
6 and environmental costs are associated with the
7 emission of greenhouse gases from the burning of
8 fossil fuels. In the United States and many other
9 countries, these costs are not currently paid by the
10 polluters—a failure of competitive markets which
11 leads to the overuse of carbon-emitting energy and
12 the under-production of carbon-free energy.

13 (10) Annual revenue of solar, wind, and biofuel
14 energy companies increased to \$55,000,000,000 in
15 2006, a 39 percent increase over 2005. Venture cap-
16 ital directed towards energy technology has grown
17 from less than \$50,000,000 a year in 1996 to over
18 \$2,400,000,000 in 2006, representing nearly 10 per-
19 cent of total venture capital investment in the
20 United States.

21 (11) In the United States alone, over a billion
22 tons of greenhouse gas emissions could be eliminated
23 each year at a profit through energy efficiency meas-
24 ures by 2030, avoiding the construction of hundreds
25 of power plants.

1 (12) Renewable energy tends to have higher
2 construction and maintenance costs and low or zero
3 fuel costs, while fossil energy has an opposite cost
4 structure. This results in a higher number of jobs
5 per unit of energy generated from renewable energy
6 than conventional fossil fuels. The construction,
7 manufacturing, installation, operation and maintenance
8 jobs produced by a megawatt of photovoltaic
9 solar, for example, is 7 to 11 times greater than the
10 jobs generated by an equivalent amount of coal or
11 gas generated electricity.

12 (13) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
13 Change has stated that to stabilize greenhouse gases
14 at CO₂ equivalent concentrations of roughly 450–
15 500 parts per million—where global temperature
16 rise could be limited to 3.6–4.3°F and sea-level rise
17 due to thermal expansion limited to 4.6 feet—global
18 emissions would need to peak by 2015 and decline
19 to as little as 15 percent of 2000 levels by the year
20 2050.

21 (14) In 2004, carbon dioxide emissions from
22 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
23 (OECD) countries were surpassed for the
24 first time by emissions from non-OECD countries.
25 Carbon dioxide emissions from developing countries

1 are projected to account for over 75 percent of glob-
2 al emissions growth by 2030. Encouraging growth of
3 renewable energy in developing countries reduces the
4 extent and likelihood that these economies will follow
5 a carbon-intensive, fossil energy development path.

6 (15) At least \$20,000,000,000,000 of invest-
7 ment in energy generation and infrastructure will be
8 needed worldwide in order to meet the world's en-
9 ergy needs in 2030 (in constant 2005 dollars). En-
10 ergy generation and infrastructure typically turns
11 over every 40 years, making near-term energy in-
12 vestment decisions instrumental in determining fu-
13 ture emissions of greenhouse gases.

14 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL RENEW-**
15 **ABLE ENERGY AGENCY.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President, acting
17 through the Secretary of State and in coordination with
18 the Secretary of Energy, shall immediately seek to estab-
19 lish an international renewable energy agency to be known
20 as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
21 In addition, the President shall direct the United States
22 Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use
23 the voice and vote of the United States to seek to establish
24 such an international renewable energy agency.

1 (b) DUTIES.—The agency described in paragraph (1)
2 should—

3 (1) support governments in establishing policies
4 and programs that promote renewable energy and
5 energy efficiency measures;

6 (2) assist in conducting country studies that
7 analyze the potential of renewable energy;

8 (3) provide a global status report for renewable
9 energy and review progress on the implementation of
10 renewable energy programs and projects;

11 (4) provide long-term projections and scenarios
12 in order to identify market potential, barriers to de-
13 ployment, and failures in markets and policies, as
14 well as plan for future demand for renewable energy;

15 (5) organize training programs, information
16 campaigns, and courses relating to renewable energy
17 for civil servants, scientists, businesses, and non-
18 government organizations;

19 (6) assist in developing and supplying cur-
20 riculum relating to renewable energy for schools and
21 universities, including post-graduate education pro-
22 grams;

23 (7) cooperate with financing institutions to de-
24 velop and support innovative financing mechanisms

1 to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency
2 measures;

3 (8) facilitate the transfer of knowledge and best
4 practices gained from successful renewable energy
5 programs to interested member parties;

6 (9) develop common, nondiscriminatory inter-
7 national norms and quality standards including cer-
8 tification relating to renewable energy; and

9 (10) draft and disseminate statistics, technology
10 information, reports on project implementation, and
11 progress of legislation and policy programs relating
12 to renewable energy.

13 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The President shall seek to in-
14 clude in the membership of the agency described in para-
15 graph (1) interested member states of the United Nations.

16 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

17 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
18 of this Act, the President shall transmit to Congress a
19 report on the implementation of this Act.

20 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term
23 “energy efficiency measure” means an improvement
24 in process or technology that—

1 (A) reduces energy inputs for an identical
2 level of service; or

3 (B) increases or enhances services for an
4 identical amount of energy inputs.

5 (2) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term “greenhouse
6 gas” means—

7 (A) carbon dioxide;

8 (B) methane;

9 (C) nitrous oxide;

10 (D) hydrofluorocarbons;

11 (E) perfluorocarbons; or

12 (F) sulfur hexafluoride.

13 (3) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term “renew-
14 able energy” means an energy supply based on—

15 (A) solar radiation,

16 (B) solar heat,

17 (C) wind power,

18 (D) tidal or wave power,

19 (E) biomass,

20 (F) geothermal energy,

21 (G) small hydropower, or

22 (H) large hydropower,

23 if the energy supply is operated in accordance with
24 the recommendations of the United Nations Dams
25 and Development Project.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 To carry out this Act, there is authorized to be appro-
3 priated to the President \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2008.

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