## 110TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

## S. 1389

To authorize the National Science Foundation to establish a Climate Change Education Program.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 14, 2007

Mr. Obama (for himself, Ms. Snowe, and Mr. Bingaman) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

## A BILL

To authorize the National Science Foundation to establish a Climate Change Education Program.

- 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.
- This Act may be cited as the "Climate Change Edu-
- 5 cation Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds that—
- 8 (1) greenhouse gases are accumulating in the
- 9 atmosphere, causing global temperatures to rise at a
- 10 rate that poses a significant threat to the economy

- and security of the United States, to public health
  and welfare, and to the global environment;
  - (2) there is scientific consensus that human activities are the major cause of atmospheric green-house gas accumulation;
  - (3) mandatory steps will be required to slow or stop the accumulation of atmospheric greenhouse gases;
  - (4) atmospheric greenhouse gases can be significantly reduced through conservation, by shifting to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, tidal, and geothermal, and by increasing the efficiency of buildings, including domiciles, and transportation, and by advances in technology;
  - (5) providing clear information about global warming, in a variety of forms, can increase understanding and encourage individuals and communities to take action;
  - (6) implementation of measures that promote energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy will greatly reduce human impact on the environment; and
  - (7) informing people of new technologies and programs as they become available will ensure max-

| 1  | imum understanding and maximum impact of those           |
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| 2  | measures.  |
| 3  | SEC. 3. CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION PROGRAM.                |
| 4  | (a) Establishment.—The Director of the National          |
| 5  | Science Foundation shall establish a Climate Change Edu- |
| 6  | cation Program to—                                       |
| 7  | (1) broaden the understanding of climate                 |
| 8  | change, possible long and short-term consequences        |
| 9  | and potential solutions;                                 |
| 10 | (2) apply the latest scientific and technological        |
| 11 | discoveries to provide formal and informal learning      |
| 12 | opportunities to people of all ages, including those of  |
| 13 | diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds; and         |
| 14 | (3) emphasize actionable information to help             |
| 15 | people understand and to promote implementation of       |
| 16 | new technologies, programs, and incentives related       |
| 17 | to energy conservation, renewable energy, and green-     |
| 18 | house gas reduction.                                     |
| 19 | (b) Program Elements.—The Climate Change                 |
| 20 | Education Program shall include—                         |
| 21 | (1) a national information campaign to dissemi-          |
| 22 | nate information on and promote implementation of        |
| 23 | the new technologies, programs, and incentives de-       |
| 24 | scribed in subsection (a)(3); and                        |

| 1  | (2) a competitive grant program to provide                  |
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| 2  | grants to States, local municipalities, educational in-     |
| 3  | stitutions, and other organizations to—                     |
| 4  | (A) create informal education materials,                    |
| 5  | exhibits, and multimedia presentations relevant             |
| 6  | to climate change and climate science;                      |
| 7  | (B) develop climate science kindergarten                    |
| 8  | through grade 12 curriculum and supple-                     |
| 9  | mentary educational materials; or                           |
| 10 | (C) publish climate change and climate                      |
| 11 | science information in print, electronic, and               |
| 12 | audio-visual forms.   |
| 13 | (c) Report to Congress.—Not later than 1 year               |
| 14 | after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually       |
| 15 | thereafter, the Director of the National Science Founda-    |
| 16 | tion shall transmit to Congress a report that evaluates the |
| 17 | scientific merits, educational effectiveness, and broader   |
| 18 | impacts of activities under this section.                   |
| 19 | SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.                    |
| 20 | There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out        |
| 21 | this Act, such sums as may be necessary.                    |

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