

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4877

To amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to authorize concurrent compacts for purposes of regional economic integration and cross-border collaborations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2014

Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. SMITH of Washington) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to authorize concurrent compacts for purposes of regional economic integration and cross-border collaborations, 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 “Millennium Compacts
5 for Regional Economic Integration Act” or “M-CORE
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) For more than a decade, six of the world's
2 10 fastest growing economies are located in sub-Sa-
3 haran Africa.

4 (2) Many African nations are landlocked and
5 their economies are isolated and will require greater
6 support to benefit from regional integration of mar-
7 kets, infrastructure, and trade promotion type poli-
8 cies.

9 (3) By connecting isolated African economies,
10 there exists the potential to increase investment op-
11 portunities and support market-based growth.

12 (4) While the African continent has experienced
13 positive economic growth trends, successfully ad-
14 dressing the continent's infrastructure gaps could in-
15 crease gross domestic product growth by an esti-
16 mated two percent.

17 (5) In recent years, the World Bank has dou-
18 bled its investment in African regional integration
19 from \$1.8 billion to \$3.6 billion for projects to ad-
20 dress infrastructure deficiencies, unemployment, and
21 poverty reduction.

22 (6) African nations, including regional economic
23 bodies, have increasingly realized that a key driver
24 to economic growth must involve greater cross-bor-
25 der collaboration and regional economic integration

1 to address deficiencies in areas such as communica-
2 tions, transport, and energy networks.

3 (7) The Millennium Challenge Corporation’s
4 compacts have increased access to reliable power, en-
5 hanced highway corridors, and upgraded regional
6 trading hubs, thereby promoting economic growth
7 and cross-border engagement between and among
8 African nations.

9 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

10 This purpose of this Act is to expand the Millennium
11 Challenge Corporation’s ability to develop compacts with
12 nations, particularly in Africa, that promote regional eco-
13 nomic integration and cross-border collaborations.

14 **SEC. 4. MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE COMPACT.**

15 (a) CONCURRENT COMPACTS.—Section 609 of the
16 Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7708) is
17 amended—

18 (1) by striking the first sentence of subsection
19 (k); and

20 (2) by inserting after subsection (k) the fol-
21 lowing new subsection:

22 “(l) CONCURRENT COMPACTS.—In accordance with
23 the requirements of this title, an eligible country and the
24 United States may enter into and have in effect more than
25 one Compact at any given time, including a concurrent

1 Compact for purposes of regional economic integration or
2 cross-border collaborations, only if the Board determines
3 that the country is making considerable and demonstrable
4 progress in implementing the terms of existing Compacts
5 and supplementary agreements thereto.”.

6 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
7 section (a) apply with respect to Compacts entered into
8 between the United States and an eligible country under
9 the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 before, on, or after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act.

11 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
12 613(b)(2)(A) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7712(b)(2)(A)) is
13 amended by striking “the” before “Compact” and insert-
14 ing “any”.

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