

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2901

To increase the quantity of solar photovoltaic electricity by providing rebates for the purchase and installation of an additional 10,000,000 photovoltaic systems by 2024, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To increase the quantity of solar photovoltaic electricity by providing rebates for the purchase and installation of an additional 10,000,000 photovoltaic systems by 2024, 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 “10 Million Solar Roofs
5 Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) there is enormous potential for increasing
2 the quantity of electricity produced in the United
3 States from distributed solar photovoltaic systems;

4 (2) as the market for solar technology continues
5 to grow, the industry will achieve economies of scale
6 that make the cost of solar-generated electricity
7 broadly competitive with the cost of electricity from
8 fossil fuels;

9 (3) producing electricity from distributed solar
10 photovoltaic systems helps to reduce greenhouse gas
11 emissions and does not result in emissions of harm-
12 ful air pollutants such as mercury, sulfur dioxide,
13 and nitrogen oxides;

14 (4) increasing the quantity of electricity gen-
15 erated from domestic renewable energy sources en-
16 hances national energy security;

17 (5) investments in solar energy and other re-
18 newable energy sources lead to the creation of green
19 jobs that provide substantial economic benefits;

20 (6) the United States solar industry employed
21 more than 140,000 people spread across all 50
22 States in 2013, which is a 53 percent increase over
23 2010, according to the Solar Foundation; and

24 (7) the solar industry is investing almost
25 \$15,000,000,000 in the United States economy an-

1 nually, according to GTM Research and the Solar
2 Energy Industries Association.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM.—The term “pho-
6 tovoltaic system” includes—

7 (A) solar panels;

8 (B) roof support structures;

9 (C) inverters;

10 (D) an energy storage system, if the en-
11 ergy storage system is integrated with the pho-
12 tovoltaic system; and

13 (E) any other hardware necessary for the
14 installation of a photovoltaic system.

15 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
16 the Secretary of Energy.

17 **SEC. 4. REBATES FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF**
18 **PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
20 program under which the Secretary shall provide rebates
21 to eligible individuals or entities for the purchase and in-
22 stallation of photovoltaic systems for residential and com-
23 mercial properties in order to install, over the 10-year pe-
24 riod beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, at
25 least an additional 10,000,000 photovoltaic systems in the

1 United States (as compared to the number of photovoltaic
2 systems installed in the United States as of the date of
3 enactment of this Act) with a cumulative capacity of at
4 least 60,000 megawatts.

5 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a rebate
7 under this section—

8 (A) the recipient of the rebate shall be a
9 homeowner, business, nonprofit entity, or State
10 or local government that purchased and in-
11 stalled a photovoltaic system for a property lo-
12 cated in the United States; and

13 (B) the recipient of the rebate shall meet
14 such other eligibility criteria as are determined
15 to be appropriate by the Secretary.

16 (2) OTHER ENTITIES.—After public review and
17 comment, the Secretary may identify other individ-
18 uals or entities located in the United States that
19 qualify for a rebate under this section.

20 (c) AMOUNT.—Subject to subsection (d)(2), the
21 amount of a rebate provided to an eligible individual or
22 entity for the purchase and installation of a photovoltaic
23 system for a property under this section shall be equal
24 to the lesser of—

1 (1) 15 percent of the initial capital costs for
2 purchasing and installing the photovoltaic system,
3 including costs for hardware, permitting and other
4 “soft costs”, and installation; or

5 (2) \$10,000.

6 (d) INTERMEDIATE REPORT.—As soon as practicable
7 after the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date
8 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
9 the appropriate committees of Congress, and publish on
10 the website of the Department of Energy, a report that
11 describes—

12 (1) the number of photovoltaic systems for resi-
13 dential and commercial properties purchased and in-
14 stalled with rebates provided under this section; and

15 (2) any steps the Secretary will take to ensure
16 that the goal of the installation of an additional
17 10,000,000 photovoltaic systems in the United
18 States is achieved by 2024.

19 (e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—The authority
20 provided under this section shall be in addition to any
21 other authority under which credits or other types of fi-
22 nancial assistance are provided for installation of a photo-
23 voltaic system for a property.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
3 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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