

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2495

Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for the TIGER
Discretionary Grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2015

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. KEATING, Ms. LEE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SIRES, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. HAHN, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIMES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KILDEE, and Mrs. DINGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for

the TIGER Discretionary Grant program, 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 “TIGER Grants for
5 Job Creation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The economy is still struggling to recover
9 from the recession. According to the Bureau of
10 Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate is 5.4 per-
11 cent nationwide and is significantly higher in some
12 minority and disadvantaged communities.

13 (2) The American Society of Civil Engineers
14 gave the public infrastructure of the United States
15 a grade of “D+” in 2013 and estimated that we will
16 need to invest \$3.6 trillion by 2020 in order to im-
17 prove the condition of our Nation’s public infrastruc-
18 ture.

19 (3) TIGER, formally known as the Transpor-
20 tation Investment Generating Economic Recovery
21 grant program, is a nationwide competitive grant
22 program that creates jobs by funding investments in
23 transportation infrastructure by States, local govern-
24 ments, and transit agencies.

1 (4) TIGER funds projects that will have a sig-
2 nificant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area,
3 or a region.

4 (5) In distributing grants under TIGER, the
5 Secretary of Transportation is required to ensure an
6 equitable geographic distribution of funds, a balance
7 in addressing the needs of urban and rural areas,
8 and investments in a variety of modes of transpor-
9 tation.

10 (6) TIGER received an appropriation of
11 \$600,000,000 in fiscal year 2014 and an appropria-
12 tion of \$500,000,000 in fiscal year 2015.

13 (7) Past appropriations for TIGER are not suf-
14 ficient to address the need for investments in trans-
15 portation infrastructure in communities throughout
16 the United States as the amounts only fund a small
17 fraction of the transportation infrastructure projects
18 for which TIGER grant applications have been re-
19 ceived.

20 (8) The President requested an appropriation of
21 \$1.25 billion for TIGER in fiscal year 2016, as part
22 of an expanded TIGER program that will provide
23 \$7.5 billion for TIGER over 6 years.

24 (9) Appropriating \$7.5 billion in fiscal year
25 2016 for TIGER and allowing the funds to remain

1 available for 6 years will enable the Secretary of
2 Transportation to begin immediately to implement
3 the President's proposal to expand the TIGER pro-
4 gram.

5 (10) Restricting appropriations for TIGER
6 through the use of arbitrary budget caps or seques-
7 tration undermines economic recovery and job cre-
8 ation efforts; disrupts planning by States, local gov-
9 ernments, and transit agencies; and leaves critical
10 infrastructure needs unmet.

11 (11) Emergency supplemental appropriations
12 for TIGER, provided in addition to other appropria-
13 tions and not subject to sequestration, will improve
14 transportation infrastructure and create jobs
15 throughout the United States without reducing
16 funding for other domestic priorities.

17 (12) An emergency supplemental appropriation
18 of \$7.5 billion for TIGER to be made available in
19 fiscal year 2016 and to remain available for 6 years
20 will allow the Secretary of Transportation to begin
21 immediately to organize new competitions for
22 TIGER grants and allow States, local governments,
23 and transit agencies to prepare grant applications,
24 thus ensuring an efficient use of funds and timely
25 job creation.

1 **SEC. 3. SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR TIGER DIS-**
 2 **CRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 The following sums are appropriated, out of any
 4 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for fis-
 5 cal year 2016:

6 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 7 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
 8 NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

9 For an additional amount for “National Infrastruc-
 10 ture Investments” in accordance with the provisions under
 11 this heading in title I of division K of Public Law 113–
 12 235, \$7,500,000,000, to remain available through Sep-
 13 tember 30, 2021: *Provided*, That the amount under this
 14 heading is designated by the Congress as an emergency
 15 requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Bal-
 16 anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985,
 17 except that such amount shall be available only if the
 18 President subsequently so designates such amount and
 19 transmits such designation to the Congress.

20 **SEC. 4. EXEMPTION FROM SEQUESTRATION.**

21 The appropriation in section 3 shall be exempt from
 22 sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency
 23 Deficit Control Act of 1985.

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