

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3325

To establish the Azores Cooperative Initiative Program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2015

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. MCGOVERN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish the Azores Cooperative Initiative 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.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Azores Cooperative Ini-  
5       tiative Program Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) In 1995, the United States and Portugal  
9       negotiated an agreement to institute the Azores Co-  
10      operative Initiative Program (ACIP). ACIP replaced  
11      an earlier United States lease payment agreement

1 for the use of Lajes Air Force Base on the Island  
2 of Terceira in the Azores.

3 (2) Seven hundred United States Air Force per-  
4 sonnel and their families are stationed at Lajes Air  
5 Force Base.

6 (3) In exchange for United States access to  
7 Lajes Air Force Base, the United States agreed to  
8 undertake “cooperation programs with the Azores”,  
9 including in the areas of agriculture, education,  
10 tourism, and health.

11 (4) However, the Department of Defense ceased  
12 funding ACIP because its activities have not been  
13 explicitly authorized by law.

14 (5) The Government of Portugal and the Azor-  
15 ean people have allowed the United States Air Force  
16 presence on the Island, which is an important stra-  
17 tegic location for United States security interests.

18 (6) There are many vibrant Azorean commu-  
19 nities in the United States, including in California,  
20 Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Rhode Is-  
21 land, and as a result the relationship between the  
22 United States and the Azores remains strong and  
23 important, for strategic, diplomatic, and cultural  
24 reasons.

1           (7) ACIP is a non-defense initiative, and is  
2           critically important to the United States relationship  
3           with Portugal and the Azores.

4           (8) The 65th Air Base Wing is a United States  
5           military unit stationed at Lajes Air Force Base,  
6           Azores, Portugal, and is currently the only United  
7           States military organization in the Azores.

8           (9) Lajes Air Force Base supported transiting  
9           aircraft during the course of Operations Joint  
10          Guard, Deny Flight, Provide Comfort, and Southern  
11          Watch.

12          (10) Beginning in 1997, large fighter aircraft  
13          movements called Air Expeditionary Forces filled the  
14          Lajes Air Force Base flightline. Lajes has also  
15          hosted B-52 and B-1 bomber aircraft en route from  
16          global air missions.

17          (11) Lajes Air Force Base has supported many  
18          routine North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)  
19          exercises, such as the biennial Northern Viking exer-  
20          cise.

21          (12) For Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraq  
22          Freedom, New Dawn, and Odyssey Dawn, airmen  
23          have been deployed in support of these operations  
24          and Lajes Air Force Base hosted aircraft transiting  
25          the Azores in support of these missions.

1           (13) Lajes Air Force Base is an important stra-  
2       tegic location for the United States Armed Forces  
3       and NATO, and ACIP helps to support United  
4       States strategic interests in the region.

5   **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH AZORES COOPERATIVE**  
6                   **INITIATIVE PROGRAM.**

7       (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of State is author-  
8       ized to establish a program, to be known as the “Azores  
9       Cooperative Initiative Program”, to provide bilateral co-  
10      operation, expertise, and resources to design and imple-  
11      ment solutions to the provisions of the 1995 United  
12      States-Portugal Agreement on Cooperation and Defense,  
13      in areas of science, technology, education, environment  
14      and agriculture in order to further Luso-American rela-  
15      tions.

16      (b) **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**—The program shall in-  
17      clude the following activities:

18           (1) Integrated pest management program for  
19      horticultural crops in the Azores, Portugal.

20           (2) Establishment of aquacultural research in  
21      the Azores.

22           (3) Sustainable fisheries in the Azores.

23           (4) Improvements to the Azores health care sys-  
24      tem, including epidemiology and control of Lepto-  
25      spirosis in the Azores.

- 1           (5) Geological risk monitoring.
- 2           (6) Tourism promotion.
- 3           (7) Assistance in economic policy analysis.
- 4           (8) Technical cooperation for rural develop-
- 5           ment.
- 6           (9) Export promotion of Azorean products.
- 7           (10) Training exchanges with regard to the ac-
- 8           tivities described in paragraphs (1) through (9).

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