

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3538

To require the Secretary of Commerce to maintain and operate at least one Doppler weather radar site within 55 miles of each city in the United States that has a population of more than 700,000 individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Mr. PITTINGER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Commerce to maintain and operate at least one Doppler weather radar site within 55 miles of each city in the United States that has a population of more than 700,000 individuals, 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 “Metropolitan Weather
5 Hazards Protection Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR OPERATION OF DOPPLER**
2 **WEATHER RADAR SITES NEAR LARGE CITIES.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than 450
4 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
5 retary of Commerce shall—

6 (1) maintain and operate at least one Doppler
7 weather radar site within 55 miles of each city in
8 the United States that has a population of more
9 than 700,000 individuals; and

10 (2) ensure that each radar maintained and op-
11 erated near a city described in paragraph (1) is
12 available to the office of the National Weather Serv-
13 ice that provides services to such city.

14 (b) STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that
15 each radar maintained and operated under subsection (a)
16 conforms with the same standards that apply to radars
17 operated by the Secretary, acting through the Adminis-
18 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
19 tration, on the day before the date of the enactment of
20 this Act, including standards relating to the use of dual-
21 polarization technology or other technologies included in
22 Weather Surveillance Radar, 1988, Doppler (WSR-88D)
23 radars.

24 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—When determining the loca-
25 tion for constructing a radar to meet the requirements of
26 subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into consideration

1 nearby counties that have populations of more than
2 130,000 and do not otherwise have radar beam coverage
3 below 10,000 feet from Weather Surveillance Radar,
4 1988, Doppler (WSR-88D) radars.

5 (d) REPORT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
8 retary shall submit to Congress a report detailing
9 the Doppler weather radar sites that need to be con-
10 structed or acquired in order to meet the require-
11 ment of subsection (a).

12 (2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
13 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

14 (A) Feasible locations for placement and
15 construction of radar sites, determined by the
16 Secretary to provide the necessary meteorolog-
17 ical capabilities to best protect a city described
18 in subsection (a).

19 (B) A timeline for when construction or
20 acquisition of each radar site will be complete.

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