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H. R. 2858

To establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2017

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. CARBAJAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, 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 “SUpEr Pollutant Emis-
5 sions Reduction Act of 2017” or the “SUPER Act of
6 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
3 ings:

4 (1) Carbon dioxide emissions are estimated to
5 account for 40 to 45 percent of anthropogenic radi-
6 ative forcing (or manmade global warming), while
7 the remainder is driven by non-carbon dioxide cli-
8 mate pollutants, primarily short-lived climate pollut-
9 ants. These short-lived climate pollutants, or “super
10 pollutants”, have shorter atmospheric lifespans than
11 carbon dioxide, but cause about 25 to 2000 times
12 more warming per ton over a 25- to 100-year period,
13 and in many cases the emissions are growing much
14 faster than carbon dioxide.

15 (2) Several of the short-lived climate pollutants
16 are also potent air pollutants that harm human
17 health and reduce crop yields. Reducing these pollut-
18 ants can save thousands of lives every year in the
19 United States and prevent millions of premature
20 deaths from air pollution worldwide, while also in-
21 creasing agricultural production.

22 (3) International efforts to address short-lived
23 climate pollutants are underway, including the Cli-
24 mate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived
25 Climate Pollutants, led by the Department of State
26 and the United Nations Environment Programme,

1 the Global Methane Initiative, and the recently final-
2 ized Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on
3 Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The
4 Kigali Amendment, agreed to by 197 countries in
5 October 2016, could mitigate 80 billion metric tons
6 of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 2050,
7 avoiding up to 0.5°C warming by the end of the cen-
8 tury.

9 (4) Many of the technologies to reduce short-
10 lived climate pollutants already exist, but in some
11 cases, adoption of such technologies has been slow.
12 Most alternatives to the super pollutant HFCs are
13 invented and produced by American companies and
14 many American companies that previously used
15 super pollutants are introducing alternatives in do-
16 mestic and export markets. The appliances that use
17 alternatives to HFCs and enhance energy efficiency
18 are also designed in the United States. United
19 States leadership and innovation in development of
20 new technologies to replace super pollutants is ex-
21 pected to result in job growth and benefits for the
22 United States economy.

23 (5) The Federal Government has a number of
24 programs and initiatives that aim to, or the out-
25 comes of which, reduce emissions of short-lived cli-

1 mate pollutants, but these programs are scattered
2 across multiple agencies and there is insufficient co-
3 ordination to maximize reductions of these pollut-
4 ants. In February 2012, the Government Account-
5 ability Office published an annual report, “Opportu-
6 nities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Frag-
7 mentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue”,
8 which examined the efficiency and efficacy of Gov-
9 ernment programs, including those that address die-
10 sel emissions that contain black carbon, a short-lived
11 climate pollutant.

12 (6) Executive Order 13514 requires Federal
13 agencies to develop plans for reducing hydrofluoro-
14 carbons and methane, but few agencies have focused
15 on these compounds in their annual Strategic Sus-
16 tainability Performance Plans. Executive Order
17 13693 directs Federal agencies to take into account
18 environmental and sustainability factors in Federal
19 acquisition processes, including in the purchase of
20 products using high-global warming potential hydro-
21 fluorocarbons. In May 2016, the Department of De-
22 fense, General Services Administration, and National
23 Aeronautics and Space Administration finalized and
24 published a rule to amend the Federal Acquisition
25 Regulation (FAR), Rule 81 FR 30429, directing

1 Federal agencies to procure, when feasible, alter-
2 natives to high-global warming potential hydroflu-
3 rocarbons. The rule also encourages improved refrig-
4 erant management and the use of reclaimed (instead
5 of virgin) hydrofluorocarbons as examples of sustain-
6 able procurement under the FAR.

7 (7) Because of their short atmospheric life-
8 times, reducing global emissions of short-lived cli-
9 mate pollutants can quickly cut the rate of global
10 temperature rise in half, by 2050, and help stabilize
11 global temperatures below 2°C above pre-industrial
12 temperatures by 2100, when combined with reduc-
13 tions of global emissions of carbon dioxide. Such re-
14 duction in short-lived climate pollutants is possible
15 with the use of currently available technologies.
16 Without short-lived climate pollutant mitigation,
17 warming can exceed 2°C within 35 years. Cutting
18 short-lived climate pollutants along with carbon diox-
19 ide can also reduce the rate of projected global sea-
20 level rise by half and total sea-level rise by a third.
21 Steps to reduce short-lived climate pollutants are
22 likely to have air quality and public health benefits
23 as well.

24 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to—

1 (1) coordinate and optimize the Federal Gov-
2 ernment’s existing efforts to address short-lived cli-
3 mate pollutants;

4 (2) reduce overlap and duplication of such ef-
5 forts; and

6 (3) encourage Federal operations, programs,
7 policies, and initiatives to reduce short-lived climate
8 pollutants by—

9 (A) ensuring that the coordinated Federal
10 programs are effective and forward-looking in
11 their efforts to control short-lived climate pol-
12 lutants;

13 (B) ensuring coordination of such Federal
14 operations, programs, policies, and initiatives
15 with State, local, regional, tribal, and industry
16 efforts; and

17 (C) supporting such State, local, regional,
18 tribal, and industry efforts.

19 **SEC. 3. TASK FORCE ON SUPER POLLUTANTS.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
22 establish the “Task Force on Super Pollutants” (referred
23 to in this section as the “Task Force”).

24 (b) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

1 (1) review existing and potential policies and
2 measures that promote reduction of short-lived cli-
3 mate pollutants, in part by identifying and evalu-
4 ating programs and activities of the Federal Govern-
5 ment that contribute, or could contribute, to such
6 reduction;

7 (2) identify and recommend specific existing
8 Federal programs and activities evaluated under
9 paragraph (1) that are unnecessarily duplicative and
10 can be consolidated to achieve greater efficiency and
11 effectiveness;

12 (3) identify gaps where programs do not exist,
13 and recommend focused programs and activities to
14 fill these gaps to achieve reductions of short-lived cli-
15 mate pollutants, with an emphasis on industry
16 standards and public-private partnerships where pos-
17 sible;

18 (4) identify and highlight programs and activi-
19 ties where reductions in short-lived climate pollut-
20 ants can continue to spur innovation and job cre-
21 ation in the private sector and increase United
22 States competitiveness in the global market for new
23 technologies to replace those using short-lived cli-
24 mate pollutants;

1 (5) identify, compile, evaluate, and develop best
2 practices for reductions of short-lived climate pollut-
3 ants, including by—

4 (A) identifying and evaluating both domes-
5 tic and international best practices and stand-
6 ards practiced and set by governments, industry
7 in each sector listed in subsection (c)(5), stand-
8 ards bodies, and other relevant institutions; and

9 (B) identifying and evaluating cost-effec-
10 tive mitigation projects, strategies, and policies
11 at the State, local, and tribal level, with the
12 greatest potential for reduction of short-lived
13 climate pollutants; and

14 (6) not later than 18 months after the date of
15 enactment of this Act, submit to Congress a report
16 on the findings and recommendations developed
17 under paragraphs (1) through (5), including quan-
18 tification of cumulative emission reductions achiev-
19 able for each short-lived climate pollutant through
20 implementation of Task Force recommendations.

21 (c) MEMBERS.—The Task Force established under
22 subsection (a) shall include representatives of—

23 (1) all relevant Federal agencies, including—

24 (A) the Secretary of Energy;

1 (B) the Administrator of the Environ-
2 mental Protection Agency;

3 (C) the Secretary of the Interior;

4 (D) the Secretary of Transportation;

5 (E) the Secretary of Agriculture;

6 (F) the Secretary of State;

7 (G) the Secretary of Commerce; and

8 (H) the Secretary of Health and Human
9 Services;

10 (2) relevant offices and councils within the Ex-
11 ecutive Office of the President, including—

12 (A) the Office of Management and Budget;

13 (B) the Office of Science and Technology
14 Policy; and

15 (C) the Council on Environmental Quality;

16 (3) State, local, and tribal governments or asso-
17 ciations;

18 (4) academic and non-governmental organiza-
19 tions with expertise in short-lived climate pollutants;
20 and

21 (5) relevant industry organizations, rep-
22 resenting at least the following sectors:

23 (A) Energy supply and transmission, in-
24 cluding fossil fuels.

25 (B) Solid waste.

1 (C) Transportation.

2 (D) Chemical manufacturing and user in-
3 dustries.

4 (E) Agriculture.

5 (F) Wastewater.

6 (G) Buildings.

7 (H) Other sectors as determined appro-
8 priate by the President.

9 (d) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “short-lived
10 climate pollutant” means any of the following:

11 (1) Black carbon.

12 (2) Methane.

13 (3) Hydrofluorocarbons.

14 (4) Tropospheric ozone and its precursors.

15 (5) Emissions from banks of ozone-depleting
16 substances.

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