

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5839

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the establishment of a small business voucher program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2018

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the establishment of a small business voucher 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 “Promoting Small Busi-
5 ness Innovation through Partnerships with National Labs
6 Act of 2018”.

7 **SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY AND ASSISTANCE.**

8 Section 1003 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
9 U.S.C. 16393) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
3 by striking “, and may require the Director of
4 a single-purpose research facility,” and insert-
5 ing “(as defined in section 2) and the Director
6 of each single-purpose research facility”;

7 (B) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) by striking “increase” and insert-
9 ing “encourage”; and

10 (ii) by striking “collaborative re-
11 search,” and inserting “research, develop-
12 ment, demonstration, and commercial ap-
13 plication activities, including product devel-
14 opment,”;

15 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “procure-
16 ment and collaborative research” and inserting
17 “the activities described in paragraph (1)”;

18 (D) in paragraph (3)—

19 (i) by inserting “facilities,” before
20 “training”; and

21 (ii) by striking “procurement and col-
22 laborative research activities” and insert-
23 ing “the activities described in paragraph
24 (1)”;

1 (E) in paragraph (5), by striking “for the
2 program under subsection (b)” and inserting
3 “and metrics for the programs under sub-
4 sections (b) and (c)”;

5 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
6 subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

7 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(c) SMALL BUSINESS VOUCHER PROGRAM.—

10 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

11 “(A) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’
12 means—

13 “(i) the Director of each National
14 Laboratory; and

15 “(ii) the Director of each single-pur-
16 pose research facility.

17 “(B) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term
18 ‘National Laboratory’ has the meaning given
19 the term in section 2.

20 “(C) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’
21 means the program established under para-
22 graph (2).

23 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, work-
24 ing with the Office of Technology Transitions and
25 the Technology Transfer Coordinator appointed

1 under section 1001(a), and in consultation with the
2 Directors, shall establish a program to provide small
3 business concerns with vouchers under paragraph
4 (3)—

5 “(A) to achieve the goal described in sub-
6 section (a)(1); and

7 “(B) to improve the products, services, and
8 capabilities of small business concerns in the
9 mission space of the Department.

10 “(3) VOUCHERS.—Under the program, the Di-
11 rectors are authorized to provide to small business
12 concerns vouchers to be used at National Labora-
13 tories and single-purpose research facilities for—

14 “(A) research, development, demonstra-
15 tion, technology transfer, or commercial appli-
16 cation activities; or

17 “(B) any other activities that the applica-
18 ble Director determines appropriate.

19 “(4) EXPEDITED CONTRACTING.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, work-
21 ing with the Directors, shall establish a stream-
22 lined approval process for expedited contracting
23 between—

1 “(i) small business concerns selected
2 to receive a voucher under the program;
3 and

4 “(ii) the National Laboratories and
5 single-purpose research facilities.

6 “(B) DECISIONMAKING AUTHORITY.—The
7 Secretary shall determine the appropriate deci-
8 sionmaking authority at the National Labora-
9 tories and single-purpose research facilities with
10 respect to the expedited contracting described
11 in subparagraph (A).

12 “(5) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—In car-
13 rying out the program, the Secretary shall require
14 cost-sharing in accordance with section 988.”; and

15 (4) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by
16 striking “\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006
17 through 2008” and inserting “\$25,000,000 for fiscal
18 year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

○