

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7237

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish an Office of Advanced Clean Energy Technologies and manage a network of Regional Energy Innovation and Development Institutes to advance regional decarbonization strategies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish an Office of Advanced Clean Energy Technologies and manage a network of Regional Energy Innovation and Development Institutes to advance regional decarbonization strategies.

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 “Regional Clean Energy
5 Innovation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF ADVANCED CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy
3 shall establish an Office of Advanced Clean Energy Tech-
4 nologies within the Department to manage a network of
5 Regional Energy Innovation and Development Institutes
6 (in this Act, referred to as “REIDIs”) that accelerate
7 clean energy innovation in the post-research stage to help
8 projects overcome obstacles to deployment and commer-
9 cialization, connect Federally funded research and devel-
10 opment with State and regional initiatives, and advance
11 decarbonization strategies.

12 (b) OFFICE OF ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY TECH-
13 NOLOGIES.—The purpose of the Office of Advanced Clean
14 Energy Technologies shall be to—

15 (1) support the creation and development of
16 REIDIs and covered entities by providing incentives
17 to States, regions, academic institutions, Tribes,
18 local governments, and businesses to organize and
19 address a specific targeted clean energy technology
20 and market intersection;

21 (2) leverage existing state, local, regional, Trib-
22 al, and national initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas
23 emissions to help facilitate an effective transition to
24 more clean energy technologies, and improve resil-
25 ience and environmental outcomes, especially for

1 rural and low-income households, communities of
2 color, and Tribal communities;

3 (3) analyze and establish region-specific path-
4 ways to decarbonization and net-zero emissions and
5 use the REIDIs to advance these goals;

6 (4) facilitate development of clean energy tech-
7 nologies from laboratory research stage to market by
8 promoting collaboration and resource sharing among
9 REIDIs;

10 (5) provide technical assistance to the REIDIs
11 and verify quality of projects of REIDIs;

12 (6) assist States, regions, Tribes, local govern-
13 ments, academic institutions, and businesses in ap-
14 plying for designation as a REIDI;

15 (7) share best practices across the REIDIs net-
16 work;

17 (8) support REIDIs in the navigation of regu-
18 latory processes;

19 (9) disseminate Federal funding to REIDIs and
20 provide support for operating capabilities;

21 (10) support REIDIs that address environ-
22 mental justice and energy justices issues in geo-
23 graphically diverse regions, including efforts to im-
24 prove public health, resilience, and environmental
25 outcomes for rural and low-income households, com-

1 communities of color, Tribal communities, and commu-
2 nities that are disproportionately vulnerable to the
3 effects of climate change and greenhouse gas emis-
4 sions; and

5 (11) work with other Federal offices and pro-
6 grams to complement clean energy innovation
7 projects and avoid duplication of efforts.

8 (c) DIRECTOR.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
10 Advanced Clean Energy Technologies shall be ap-
11 pointed by the President, with the advice and con-
12 sent of the Senate and shall report to the Secretary.

13 (2) BACKGROUND OF DIRECTOR.—The Director
14 shall have professional background and experience
15 on clean energy challenges specific to regional en-
16 ergy resources, market needs, and innovation capa-
17 bilities and have such qualifications to advise the
18 Secretary on, and manage research programs ad-
19 dressing barriers to the development of clean energy
20 technologies.

21 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of
22 the Director shall include—

23 (A) assessing existing regional capabilities
24 and needs for clean energy technologies;

1 (B) establishing goals for the REIDIs and
2 publicizing the goals to relevant local and State
3 governments, Tribes, academic institutions, and
4 the public and private sectors;

5 (C) identifying cost-sharing arrangements
6 for REIDIs with State, local, and regional part-
7 ners;

8 (D) reviewing and approving the designa-
9 tion of covered entities as REIDIs and initia-
10 tives within the Office, considering an appro-
11 priate balance of geographical interests, existing
12 innovation ecosystems, national laboratories,
13 and resources, regional variations in and resil-
14 ience of energy supply and demand, and capa-
15 bilities to support job creation;

16 (E) developing funding criteria for REIDIs
17 and assessing the success of the REIDIs
18 through the establishment of technical mile-
19 stones, including terminating the designation of
20 REIDIs that are not achieving the goals of the
21 Office;

22 (F) establishing and maintaining a staff
23 with sufficient qualifications and expertise to
24 enable the Office to carry out its responsibilities

1 in conjunction with other operations of the De-
2 partment; and

3 (G) coordinating with other programs and
4 laboratories within the Department and other
5 Federal research agencies to avoid duplication
6 and working together to address dispersed gaps
7 in energy innovation and deployment.

8 (d) REIDIs.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish
10 a program to designate, fund, and support REIDIs
11 in accordance with this subsection.

12 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a REIDIs shall
13 be to—

14 (A) increase and leverage connectivity of
15 existing clean energy research capabilities and
16 needs at the regional level to advance mid-stage
17 and late-stage innovation;

18 (B) support clean energy technology devel-
19 opment, with a focus on regional resources to
20 advance early adoption market connections;

21 (C) connect regional market needs and
22 innovators to address regional variation in en-
23 ergy distribution, use, risks, and capabilities;

24 (D) support access to technical resources,
25 modeling, and test beds through the Office of

Advanced Clean Energy Technologies and Department National Laboratories;

(E) create a regional innovation ecosystem through mentorship, business development, education, and research and development investments;

(F) identify regulatory structures that create obstacles for market deployment of clean energy technologies; and

(G) design and implement initiatives to stimulate market demand for clean energy technologies that will substantially contribute to regional net-zero pathways.

(3) FUNDING.—The Director shall require, as a condition of designation of a REIDI and of funding under this subsection, that each REIDI shall be funded such that not less than 50 percent of Funding shall come from sources other than the Federal government.

(4) APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To apply for designation as a REIDI, a local, State, or Tribal government in coordination with regional public and private partners shall submit an application to the Secretary containing a description and

1 plan for the activities to be carried out by the
2 REIDI with Federal funds and opportunities
3 for regional cost-sharing. Such application shall
4 include a description—

5 (i) the local or regional partnership
6 that will be supported by the REIDI, in-
7 cluding the lead partners;

8 (ii) the clean energy sectors that will
9 be served by the REIDI, and a description
10 of how such sectors were identified in rela-
11 tion to regional market needs, and how the
12 activities of the REIDI will align with
13 State, local, regional, and Tribal policies
14 and substantially contribute to regional
15 net-zero pathways;

16 (iii) the potential of the planned
17 REIDI activities to achieve significant re-
18 ductions in carbon emissions at a declining
19 unit cost over time and increase market
20 competitiveness of the clean energy tech-
21 nologies;

22 (iv) how the partners in the REIDI
23 plan to work to support clean energy
24 projects at the post-research stage to help
25 reach proof of concept, pilot testing, dem-

1 onstration, and commercial readiness to
2 address market need in deployment of
3 clean energy technologies;

4 (v) demonstrated relationships be-
5 tween research, job creation, and tech-
6 nology deployment in the clean energy in-
7 dustry;

8 (vi) coordination with nongovern-
9 mental entities for demonstration of tech-
10 nologies and research applications;

11 (vii) mechanisms for commercial dem-
12 onstration and application of successful en-
13 ergy technology development projects, in-
14 cluding existing partnerships with commer-
15 cial entities;

16 (viii) the services that will be sup-
17 ported through Federal funds and funding
18 sources for equal regional cost sharing;

19 (ix) levels of performance with respect
20 to the purposes described in section 2(a);
21 and

22 (x) such other subjects as the Sec-
23 retary may require.

24 (B) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall review
25 applications under this paragraph in consulta-

1 tion with the Director of the Office of Advanced
2 Clean Energy Technologies.

3 (e) REPORTS AND EVALUATION.—

4 (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—As part of the annual
5 budget request submitted for each fiscal year, the
6 Director shall provide to the relevant authorizing
7 and appropriations committees of Congress a report
8 describing projects supported by each REIDI during
9 the previous fiscal year.

10 (2) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than one year
11 after enactment, the Director shall provide to the
12 relevant authorizing and appropriations committees
13 of Congress a roadmap describing the strategic plan
14 that the Office will use to guide the choices of
15 REIDI investments for the following five fiscal years
16 including how they will contribute to regional net-
17 zero pathways. A revised plan shall be submitted at
18 least once every 5 years thereafter. Commercial and
19 financial information obtained and considered privi-
20 leged or confidential and not subject to disclosure,
21 including:

22 (A) Plans for commercialization of tech-
23 nologies developed by the REIDI, business
24 plans, technology-to-market plans, market stud-
25 ies, and cost and performance models.

1 (B) Investments provided to a REIDI from
2 third parties.

3 (C) Additional financial support that the
4 partner plans to or has invested into the tech-
5 nology developed under the REIDI or is seeking
6 from third parties.

7 (D) Revenue from the licensing or sale of
8 new products or services resulting from re-
9 search conducted by the REIDI.

10 (f) AUTHORIZATIONS.—There are authorized to be
11 appropriated to carry out this section \$150,000,000 annu-
12 ally for fiscal years 2021 through 2025, which shall in-
13 clude—

14 (1) \$125,000,000 for grants to REIDIs per
15 year; and

16 (2) \$25,000,000 for administration of the Of-
17 fice under this section.

18 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

19 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
20 means the Department of Energy.

21 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
22 the Director of the Office of Advanced Clean Energy
23 Technologies.

1 (3) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-
2 fice of Advanced Clean Energy Technologies estab-
3 lished under subsection (b).

4 (4) REIDIS.—The term “Regional Energy In-
5 novation and Development Institute” or “REIDI”
6 means a partnership between local, State, regional,
7 Tribal governments, academic institutions, busi-
8 nesses, DOE national laboratories, and other clean
9 energy entities that the Director designates under
10 section 2(d) to advance the development of early-
11 stage innovations and support after proof concept to
12 help clean energy innovations reach viability for
13 commercial demonstration and deployment.

14 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Energy.

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