

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8291

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program for tree planting to reduce residential energy consumption.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program for tree planting to reduce residential energy consumption.

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 “Tackling Residential
5 Energy burdens Efficiently Act of 2020” or the “TREE
6 Act of 2020”.

7 **SEC. 2. TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ELIGIBLE COST.—The term “eligible cost”
10 means, with respect to a project—

1 (A) the cost of implementing the project,
2 including—

3 (i) planning and designing the plant-
4 ing activity;

5 (ii) purchasing trees; and

6 (iii) preparing the site and conducting
7 planting, including the labor and cost asso-
8 ciated with the use of machinery;

9 (B) the cost of maintaining and monitoring
10 planted trees for a period of up to 3 years to
11 ensure successful establishment of the trees;

12 (C) the cost of training activities associ-
13 ated with the project; and

14 (D) any other relevant cost, as determined
15 by the Secretary.

16 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
17 ty” means—

18 (A) a State agency;

19 (B) a local governmental entity;

20 (C) an Indian Tribe;

21 (D) a nonprofit organization; and

22 (E) a retail power provider.

23 (3) ENERGY BURDEN.—The term “energy bur-
24 den” means the percentage of household income
25 spent on home energy bills.

1 (4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
2 has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in
3 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
4 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

5 (5) LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.—The term
6 “local governmental entity” means any municipal
7 government or county government with jurisdiction
8 over local land use decisions.

9 (6) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
10 “nonprofit organization” means an organization
11 that—

12 (A) is described in section 170(h)(3) of the
13 Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

14 (B) operates in accordance with one or
15 more of the purposes described in section
16 170(h)(4)(A) of that Code.

17 (7) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
18 the grant program established under subsection
19 (b)(1).

20 (8) PROJECT.—The term “project” means a
21 tree planting project carried out by an eligible entity
22 using grant funds awarded under the Program.

23 (9) RETAIL POWER PROVIDER.—The term “re-
24 tail power provider” means any entity authorized
25 under applicable State or Federal law to generate,

1 distribute, or provide retail electricity, natural gas,
2 or fuel oil service.

3 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
4 means the Secretary of Energy.

5 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
7 tion with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
8 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall estab-
9 lish a program under which the Secretary shall
10 award grants to eligible entities to conduct tree
11 planting projects in accordance with this section.

12 (2) TREE PLANTING.—Subject to the avail-
13 ability of appropriations, in carrying out the Pro-
14 gram, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent
15 practicable, award sufficient grants each year to
16 plant not less than 300,000 trees each year.

17 (c) APPLICATIONS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that seeks
19 to receive a grant under the Program shall submit
20 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
21 form, and containing such information as the Sec-
22 retary may require, including the information de-
23 scribed in paragraph (2).

24 (2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted
25 under paragraph (1) shall include—

1 (A) a description of how the project will re-
2 duce residential energy consumption;

3 (B) an estimate of the expected reduction
4 in residential energy consumption;

5 (C) a description of the total eligible costs
6 of the project and sources of funding for the
7 project;

8 (D) a description of the anticipated com-
9 munity and stakeholder engagement in the
10 project;

11 (E) a description of the tree species to be
12 planted and how that species is suitable for the
13 local environmental conditions and climate; and

14 (F) any other relevant information re-
15 quired by the Secretary.

16 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the Pro-
17 gram, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

18 (1) provide the largest potential reduction in
19 residential energy consumption for households with a
20 high energy burden;

21 (2) are located in a neighborhood with lower
22 tree canopy cover and higher maximum daytime
23 summer temperatures;

24 (3) are located in a neighborhood with high
25 amounts of senior citizens or children;

1 (4) will collaboratively engage neighbors and
2 community members that will be closely affected by
3 the tree planting; and

4 (5) will employ a substantial percentage of the
5 workforce locally, with a focus on engaging unem-
6 ployed and underemployed persons.

7 (e) COSTS.—

8 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary shall
9 award a grant to an eligible entity under the Pro-
10 gram in an amount equal to not more than 75 per-
11 cent of the eligible costs of the project, as deter-
12 mined by the Secretary.

13 (2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition
14 of receiving a grant under the Program, an eligible
15 entity shall provide, in cash or through in-kind con-
16 tributions from non-Federal sources, matching funds
17 in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of
18 the eligible costs of the project, as determined by the
19 Secretary.

20 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Pro-
22 gram \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
23 2025.

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