

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8543

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide grants to improve power lines.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2020

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide grants to improve power lines.

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 “Power Line Resiliency
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. POWER LINE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
8 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of En-
9 ergy shall establish a program to provide grants to electric
10 utilities to carry out eligible activities.

1 (b) GRANTS.—

2 (1) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant pro-
3 vided under this section, an electric utility shall sub-
4 mit to the Secretary of Energy an application at
5 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
6 formation as the Secretary of Energy may require.

7 (2) SELECTION.—The Secretary of Energy
8 shall provide grants under this section—

9 (A) on a competitive basis; and

10 (B) to geographically diverse electric utili-
11 ties.

12 (3) PRIORITY.—The Secretary of Energy shall
13 prioritize providing a grant under this section to an
14 electric utility that sells electricity in an area that
15 has a history of extreme weather events.

16 (c) SUNSET.—The program established under sub-
17 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after
18 the date of enactment of this Act.

19 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) ELECTRIC UTILITY.—The term “electric
21 utility” has the meaning given such term in section
22 3(22) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.
23 796(22)).

24 (2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible ac-
2 tivity” means an activity that—

3 (i) is designed to improve the per-
4 formance or efficiency of a power line;

5 (ii) makes a power line more resilient
6 to an extreme weather event; or

7 (iii) otherwise ensures that an end-
8 user has access to electricity during an ex-
9 treme weather event.

10 (B) INCLUDES.—The term “eligible activ-
11 ity” includes—

12 (i) burying a power line;

13 (ii) hardening a power line; and

14 (iii) if burying a power line is not fea-
15 sible, providing a generator to a household
16 that is located in a remote area.

17 (3) EXTREME WEATHER EVENT.—The term
18 “extreme weather event” means an historically rare
19 or severe natural disaster, including a heat wave,
20 drought, flood, tornado, and hurricane.

21 (4) POWER LINE.—The term “power line” in-
22 cludes distribution lines and transmission lines.

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