

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8002

To establish the Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy Independence to examine whether the Russian Federation funded activities of nongovernmental organizations in Western countries which limited the ability of those countries to achieve energy independence and made them more reliant on energy exported from Russia, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2022

Mr. CAWTHORN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

---

## A BILL

To establish the Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy Independence to examine whether the Russian Federation funded activities of nongovernmental organizations in Western countries which limited the ability of those countries to achieve energy independence and made them more reliant on energy exported from Russia, 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 “Energy Independence  
5 Task Force Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF TASK FORCE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the ex-  
3 ecutive branch a task force to be known as the “Task  
4 Force on Energy Independence” (referred to in this Act  
5 as the “Task Force”).

6 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Task Force is to  
7 examine whether the Russian Federation or any agent or  
8 instrumentality of the Russian Federation funded activi-  
9 ties of nongovernmental organizations in Western coun-  
10 tries which limited the ability of those countries to achieve  
11 energy independence and made them more reliant on en-  
12 ergy exported from Russia.

13 **SEC. 3. COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE.**

14 (a) MEMBERS.—

15 (1) APPOINTMENT.—Subject to paragraph (3),  
16 the Task Force shall be composed of 10 members,  
17 of whom 2 shall be appointed not later than 30 days  
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act by each  
19 of the following:

20 (A) The Attorney General.

21 (B) The Secretary of Energy.

22 (C) The Secretary of the Treasury.

23 (D) The Director of the Central Intel-  
24 ligence Agency.

25 (E) The Secretary of State.

1           (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Task  
2 Force shall be employees of offices of the executive  
3 branch who have expertise in any of the issues de-  
4 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 4.

5           (3) STATUS AS DETAILEES.—An individual  
6 serving as a member of the Task Force shall be de-  
7 tailed, without reimbursement, by the office in which  
8 the individual serves as an employee, without inter-  
9 ruption or loss of civil service status or privilege,  
10 and the individual’s appointment shall be subject to  
11 the approval of the head of the office in which the  
12 individual serves as an employee.

13           (4) CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND MEETINGS.—Not  
14 later than 30 days after the date on which a simple  
15 majority of the members of the Task Force are ap-  
16 pointed under paragraph (1), such members shall  
17 meet to elect a chair and vice chair from among  
18 such members and shall determine a schedule of  
19 Task Force meetings.

20           (5) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—  
21 Amounts used for the salaries and expenses, includ-  
22 ing expenses for official travel, of an individual serv-  
23 ing as a member of the Task Force shall be paid out  
24 of amounts appropriated for salaries and expenses of  
25 the office in which the individual serves as an em-

1 ployee, and no additional amounts are authorized to  
2 be appropriated for such salaries and expenses.

3 (b) INITIAL MEETING.—The Task Force shall meet  
4 and begin the operations of the Task Force not later than  
5 30 days after the appointment of a simple majority of  
6 members of the Task Force.

7 (c) QUORUM AND VACANCY.—

8 (1) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the mem-  
9 bers of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum,  
10 but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

11 (2) VACANCY.—Any vacancy in the Task Force  
12 shall not affect its powers and shall be filled in the  
13 same manner in which the original appointment was  
14 made not later than 30 days after the vacancy oc-  
15 curs.

16 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE.**

17 The Task Force shall determine and analyze the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 (1) The extent of efforts backed by the Russian  
20 Federation or any agent or instrumentality of the  
21 Russian Federation to financially support non-  
22 governmental organizations in Western countries  
23 that opposed nuclear energy and fracking.

1           (2) The success or failure of these efforts to  
2           suppress investment by Western countries in diverse  
3           energy portfolios.

4           (3) The extent to which the funding of these or-  
5           ganizations has increased the reliance of Western  
6           countries on energy exported from the Russian Fed-  
7           eration.

8           (4) The assessment of the level of interdepend-  
9           ence of Western countries with the Russian Federa-  
10          tion, and the extent to which Western countries are  
11          subject to coercion by the Russian Federation, be-  
12          cause Western countries lack a diverse energy port-  
13          folio.

14          (5) An assessment of the extent to which en-  
15          ergy independence could affect the American econ-  
16          omy and provide insulation for Western countries  
17          against Russian intimidation.

18          (6) The extent to which the structure of energy  
19          agreements between the Russian Federation and  
20          other energy companies used the participation of  
21          smaller, more discreet third-party companies to pro-  
22          vide the Russian Federation with greater control  
23          over the agreements, including an assessment of the  
24          role of companies which were subsidiaries of Russian  
25          energy companies or which were controlled overtly or

1 covertly by the Russian Federation or instruments of  
2 the Russian Federation.

3 (7) An assessment of the Russian Federation's  
4 control of and investment in energy companies of  
5 Western nations, including companies involved in en-  
6 ergy distribution, electric power generation, storage  
7 of materials, pipeline maintenance, and similar ac-  
8 tivities.

9 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF TASK FORCE.**

10 (a) HEARINGS.—The Task Force may hold such  
11 hearings, meet and act at such times and places, and re-  
12 ceive such evidence as may be necessary to carry out its  
13 duties.

14 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The  
15 Attorney General and the Secretary of Energy shall work  
16 with the heads of offices of the Federal Government to  
17 ensure that the Task Force has access to such information  
18 as the Task Force considers necessary to carry out its du-  
19 ties.

20 (c) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

21 (1) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—On  
22 request of the chair of the Task Force, the Adminis-  
23 trator of General Services shall provide to the Task  
24 Force, on a reimbursable basis, administrative sup-

1 port and other assistance necessary for the Task  
2 Force to carry out its duties.

3 (2) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—In  
4 addition to the assistance provided for under para-  
5 graph (1), departments and agencies of the United  
6 States may provide to the Task Force such assist-  
7 ance as they may determine advisable and as author-  
8 ized by law.

9 (d) SUBPOENA POWER.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may issue  
11 subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of  
12 witnesses and the production of any evidence relat-  
13 ing to any matter which the Commission is empow-  
14 ered to investigate by section 4. The attendance of  
15 witnesses and the production of evidence may be re-  
16 quired from any place within the United States at  
17 any designated place of hearing within the United  
18 States.

19 (2) FAILURE TO OBEY A SUBPOENA.—If a per-  
20 son refuses to obey a subpoena issued under para-  
21 graph (1), the Commission may apply to a United  
22 States district court for an order requiring that per-  
23 son to appear before the Commission to give testi-  
24 mony, produce evidence, or both, relating to the  
25 matter under investigation. The application may be

1       made within the judicial district where the hearing  
2       is conducted or where that person is found, resides,  
3       or transacts business. Any failure to obey the order  
4       of the court may be punished by the court as civil  
5       contempt.

6           (3) SERVICE OF SUBPOENAS.—The subpoenas  
7       of the Commission shall be served in the manner  
8       provided for subpoenas issued by a United States  
9       district court under the Federal Rules of Civil Pro-  
10      cedure for the United States district courts.

11          (4) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—All process of any  
12      court to which application is made under paragraph  
13      (2) may be served in the judicial district in which  
14      the person required to be served resides or may be  
15      found.

16          (e) CONTRACTING.—The Task Force may enter into  
17      contracts to enable it to carry out its duties.

18          (f) DONATIONS.—The Task Force may accept, use,  
19      and dispose of donations of services or property.

20          (g) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Task Force may use  
21      the United States mails in the same manner and under  
22      the same conditions as a department or agency of the  
23      United States.



1 **SEC. 6. STAFF OF TASK FORCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The chair of the Task Force, in  
3 consultation with the vice chair, in accordance with rules  
4 agreed upon by the Task Force, may appoint and fix the  
5 compensation of a staff director and such other personnel  
6 as may be necessary to enable the Task Force to carry  
7 out its functions, in accordance with the provisions of title  
8 5, United States Code, except that no rate of pay fixed  
9 under this subsection may exceed the equivalent of that  
10 payable for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule  
11 under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

12 (b) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request  
13 of the chair of the Task Force, the head of any executive  
14 department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office,  
15 independent establishment, or instrumentality of the Fed-  
16 eral Government may detail, without reimbursement, any  
17 of its personnel to the Task Force to assist it in carrying  
18 out its duties under this Act. Any detail of an employee  
19 shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status  
20 or privilege.

21 (c) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—The Task Force is au-  
22 thorized to procure the services of experts and consultants  
23 in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States  
24 Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a per-  
25 son occupying a position at level IV of the Executive

1 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States  
2 Code.

3 **SEC. 7. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICA-**  
4 **BILITY.**

5 The provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee  
6 Act shall apply to the Task Force, including the staff of  
7 the Task Force.

8 **SEC. 8. REPORT; TERMINATION.**

9 (a) FINAL REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall, not  
11 later than 1 year after the date of its first meeting,  
12 submit to the individuals described in paragraph (2)  
13 a final report containing specific findings, conclu-  
14 sions, and recommendations required under this Act  
15 as have been agreed to by a majority of Task Force  
16 members.

17 (2) INDIVIDUALS.—The individuals described in  
18 this paragraph are the President, the Attorney Gen-  
19 eral, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the  
20 Treasury, the Director of the Central Intelligence  
21 Agency, the Speaker of the House of Representa-  
22 tives, the minority leader of the House of Represent-  
23 atives, the majority leader of the Senate, and the mi-  
24 nority leader of the Senate.

1           (3) CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED MATE-  
2           RIAL.—The report under this subsection shall be  
3           prepared—

4                   (A) in an unclassified version; and

5                   (B) in a version which includes a classified  
6           annex.

7           (b) TERMINATION.—

8                   (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force, and all the  
9           authorities of this Act, shall terminate on the date  
10          that is 30 days after the date of on which the Task  
11          Force submits the final report required under sub-  
12          section (a).

13                   (2) RECORDS.—Not later than the date of ter-  
14          mination of the Task Force under paragraph (1), all  
15          records and papers of the Task Force shall be deliv-  
16          ered to the Archivist of the United States for deposit  
17          in the National Archives.

○