

Third, it ensures that we have access to the broadest possible range of potential cybersecurity experts by conducting outreach to historically Black colleges and universities, Tribal colleges and universities, and minority-serving institutions.

Taken together, these three provisions in this bill will expand and improve our energy cybersecurity workforce and help us protect our critical infrastructure from growing threats.

I thank my colleague, Representative ROSS, for introducing this important legislation, and Representative CAREY for joining her as the Republican lead on this bipartisan effort. It deserves our full support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS).

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7569, the Energy Cybersecurity University Leadership Act.

As all Members know, the United States has witnessed an alarming rise in cybersecurity threats and attacks against our energy infrastructure. My home State of North Carolina is no exception.

Just over a year ago, a disastrous cyberattack on the Colonial Pipeline caused the company to halt all pipeline operations, leading to panic-buying of gasoline and diesel fuels across my home State. Roughly two-thirds of North Carolina's gas stations ran out of fuel, including over 70 percent of gas stations in Raleigh, the largest city in my district.

Our constituents rely on dependable energy sources for their lives and their livelihoods, and we cannot afford continued exposures to these types of attacks.

The Energy Cybersecurity University Leadership Act, a bipartisan bill I coled with Congressman CAREY, will help address this vulnerability.

Our bill will confront growing cyber threats against our country's critical energy infrastructure by making real investments in a strong and diverse workforce that is ready to meet the challenges we face.

It will provide financial assistance to support graduate students studying the convergence of cybersecurity and energy infrastructure, in addition to providing hands-on training and experience at our national laboratories and utilities.

It will also expand the Department of Energy's outreach to HBCUs, minority-serving institutions, and Tribal colleges.

I represent much of the Research Triangle, home to institutions and universities that are propelling our Nation's innovation in cybersecurity, as well as clean energy.

From NC State to Shaw, to Saint Augustine's, and Wake Tech, this legislation will better equip our brilliant students and researchers in North

Carolina and beyond to tackle the changing cybersecurity landscape.

I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for their leadership in bringing forth this bill and the other Science Committee bills we are considering today. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, our energy industry infrastructure quite literally keeps our country running. Cyberattacks that damage our grids, shut down our pipelines, interrupt our energy transmissions can have real and dangerous consequences for families and businesses across the country.

We know our energy sector is an attractive target for our foreign adversaries, so we need to do everything within our power to keep it secure and reliable.

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H.R. 7569 will help develop the most important weapon we have in our arsenal against cyberattacks: a highly skilled and engaged workforce.

I appreciate the work that Representatives ROSS and CAREY have done to get this bill to the House floor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it today so we can move quickly to begin developing cybersecurity resources.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, with great thanks to Ms. ROSS for her leadership and to my friend, Ranking Member LUCAS, for his support, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7569, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7569.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COST-SHARE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2022

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6933) to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require reporting relating to certain cost-share requirements.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6933

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) REPORTING.—Not later than 120 days after the enactment of the Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022, and at least quarterly thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and shall make publicly available, a report on the use by the Department during the period covered by the report of the authority to reduce or eliminate cost-sharing requirements provided by subsections (b)(3) or (c)(2).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6933, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 6933, the Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022. Many of the clean-energy technologies deployed throughout the Nation today have benefited from financial support from the Department of Energy. The Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022 would strengthen reporting requirements related to certain cost-share requirements at the Department of Energy. Better reporting on financial assistance will help us ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely.

Madam Speaker, I thank Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee Ranking Member OBERNOLTE and Chairman FOSTER for their work on this important legislation, and I urge adoption of H.R. 6933.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6933, the Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022.

As the ranking member of the House Science Committee, I am proud of the work my colleagues and I have done to support innovative research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities for the Department of Energy.

To give just a few examples, last summer, the full House passed H.R. 3593, our comprehensive reauthorization of the Office of Science. Additionally, the committee passed bipartisan legislation authorizing cutting-edge R&D activities across a variety of

fields such as biomanufacturing, abandoned well remediation, microelectronics, and low-emissions manufacturing.

However, directing the Department to conduct these activities is only a part of our job. Congress must be an active partner for the Department of Energy in ensuring we get the best return on our Federal research and development investments. This legislation institutes a basic, commonsense reporting requirement that facilitates congressional oversight of the Department of Energy's financial awards.

As a bit of background, for each research, development, demonstration, or commercial application award the Department of Energy issues, it must require that a non-Federal source pay a certain percentage of the cost of the project. However, the Department has the authority to reduce or eliminate this requirement under certain circumstances and fund a larger percentage of the project's cost.

This authority to modify these cost-share requirements is useful for supporting the development of novel technologies and encouraging new potential partner organizations to compete for awards. However, the Department must wield this authority carefully and be a responsible steward of the taxpayers' dollars.

The Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022 requires the Department to submit quarterly reports to Congress on the use of its authority to modify or eliminate the statutory cost-share requirement for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities that it funds. This legislation requires the Department to make these reports public, increasing public awareness and transparency regarding the Department's funding decisions.

The reports will be an important tool for Congress in monitoring the Department's energy technology programs and holding it accountable for its fiscal decisions. Additionally, these reports can inform future legislation on research and development programs and any potential adjustments to the cost-share requirements.

This basic reporting requirement in no way impedes the Department's ability to continue to use its authority to waive the cost-share requirement. Again, it simply provides Congress and the public with more data on how and when the Department exercises its authority.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this simple reporting requirement, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), my friend and colleague, for yielding time.

Research and development grants from the Department of Energy play a vital role in catalyzing the development of new energy technology in the United States. The awarding of those grants is governed by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Among other things, the act requires the DOE to impose a cost-sharing requirement on non-Federal applicants for those grants. This is very appropriate because it gives the grant applicants some skin in the game, some financial participation of their own.

These cost-sharing requirements can be as low as 20 percent with respect to research and development grants and as high as 50 percent for grants like commercialization or demonstration projects.

As the gentleman from Oklahoma said, the DOE is empowered to, in appropriate circumstances, waive those cost-sharing requirements.

Several months ago, the SST Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee had a hearing in which we examined some of the circumstances under which that discretion to waive or reduce cost-sharing had been applied by the DOE.

Now, to be clear, we actually concluded that the DOE had appropriately used its authority in these circumstances. However, we were very surprised by the lack of transparency in this process and how difficult it was to obtain the information about how often the DOE was using this authority and under what circumstances.

This bill is a very simple answer to that difficulty and a solution to this problem. H.R. 6933, the Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022, will impose a reporting requirement on the DOE in which it will be required quarterly to make reports to both the relevant committees of jurisdiction in the House and the Senate on the number of occasions and the circumstances in which it wielded this authority to reduce or eliminate cost-shares in grants that it awards.

This will allow us here in Congress to better fulfill our oversight responsibilities toward the Department of Energy.

Also, and equally importantly, it will provide transparency to the applicants for these grants under what circumstances it is appropriate for the DOE to waive these cost-sharing requirements.

This is a basic good-governance bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it. I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER), my friend and colleague, for being my bipartisan co-lead on this legislation.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Cost-Share Accountability Act of 2022 institutes a simple reporting requirement to assist Congress in monitoring the Department of Energy's financial awards under its research, development, demonstration, and commercial applications programs.

The reports required by this bill will provide valuable information to Congress on how the Department administers the statutory cost-share requirement. They will also assist Congress in fulfilling its responsibilities to oversee our Federal agencies' use of taxpayers' resources.

This legislation is a simple improvement to support accounting at the Department of Energy for its spending decisions and helps maximize the value of our R&D dollars.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I also urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6933, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6933.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FEDERAL PFAS RESEARCH EVALUATION ACT

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7289) to provide for the National Academies to study and report on a Federal research agenda to advance the understanding of PFAS, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7289

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal PFAS Research Evaluation Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used in a wide range of products since the 1940s including firefighting foam, carpeting, packaging, and cookware. There are more than 5,000 types of registered PFAS compounds. This chemical class is not currently regulated at the Federal level.

(2) PFAS have been detected in air, water, soil, food, biosolids, and more. They can accumulate and remain in the body for a long time, and potentially lead to serious health effects including cancer, low infant birthweight, liver and kidney issues, reproductive and developmental problems, and more.

(3) There remains much unknown about PFAS toxicity, human and environmental health effects, exposure pathways, as well as effective removal, treatment, and destruction methods, and safe alternatives to PFAS.

(4) Federal research efforts have been fragmented at various agencies and struggled to