

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6882

To authorize the National Science Foundation to award a monetary prize for achievement in electricity storage.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

Mr. GOHMERT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

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## A BILL

To authorize the National Science Foundation to award a monetary prize for achievement in electricity storage.

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 “Electricity Prize Act  
5 of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Dramatic advances have been made in the  
9 manner and means of acquiring oil, natural gas,  
10 coal, and other forms of carbon-based energy fuel.

1           (2) Dramatic advances have been made in the  
2 manner and means of producing new sources of en-  
3 ergy.

4           (3) Dramatic advances have been made in the  
5 manner and means of producing electricity from var-  
6 ious forms of fuel.

7           (4) No dramatic advances have been made in  
8 the manner and means of storing electricity, so elec-  
9 tricity, when produced, must flow and be used  
10 promptly or lost.

11           (5) If the technology and the ability to store  
12 electricity for even weeks or months were developed,  
13 the energy needs of our Nation could be produced  
14 almost entirely by solar power and may even lead to  
15 capturing lightening.

16           (6) The value to the United States of being able  
17 to store electricity for 30 days or more is incalcu-  
18 lable and would free the Nation from reliance on for-  
19 eign energy.

20           (7) Though \$300,000,000 is a sizable cash  
21 prize, if such a prize produced the technology and  
22 the ability to store electricity, it would save every  
23 American innumerable times that much.

1 **SEC. 3. PRIZE AUTHORITY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National  
3 Science Foundation (in this Act referred to as the “Direc-  
4 tor”) shall carry out a competition to award a cash prize  
5 to the first participant to develop the ability to store multi-  
6 megawatt electricity for 30 consecutive days with less than  
7 a 10 percent decrease in the electricity stored.

8 (b) ADMINISTERING THE COMPETITION.—The Direc-  
9 tor shall—

10 (1) widely advertise the prize competition; and

11 (2) develop any additional criteria and defini-  
12 tions necessary to award the prize authorized under  
13 this Act, with the intention of this Act to be able to  
14 immediately, after the award of the prize, be capable  
15 to build facilities that will store electricity for wide  
16 scale grid usage.

17 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY.**

18 To be eligible to win the prize under this Act, an indi-  
19 vidual or entity—

20 (1) in the case of a private entity, shall be in-  
21 corporated in and maintain a primary place of busi-  
22 ness in the United States, and in the case of an in-  
23 dividual, whether participating singly or in a group,  
24 shall be a citizen of, or an alien lawfully admitted  
25 for permanent residence in, the United States; and

1           (2) shall not be a Federal entity, a Federal em-  
2           ployee acting within the scope of his employment, or  
3           an employee of a national laboratory acting within  
4           the scope of his employment.

5 **SEC. 5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.**

6           The Federal Government shall not, by virtue of offer-  
7           ing or awarding the prize under this Act, be entitled to  
8           any intellectual property rights derived as a consequence  
9           of the participation by a participant in the prize competi-  
10          tion authorized by this Act. This section shall not be con-  
11          strued to prevent the Federal Government from negoti-  
12          ating a license for the use of intellectual property devel-  
13          oped for the prize competition under this Act.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15          (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
16          authorized to be appropriated \$300,000,000 to carry out  
17          this Act.

18          (b) CARRYOVER OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated to  
19          carry out this Act shall remain available until expended.

20 **SEC. 7. NONSUBSTITUTION.**

21          The prize competition authorized under this Act shall  
22          not be considered a substitute for Federal research and  
23          development programs.

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