I

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3246

To provide for a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2009

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BIGGERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

---

A BILL

To provide for a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy.

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 ''Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According to the Energy Information Administration, the transportation sector accounts for approximately 28 percent of the United States pri-

mary energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions, and 24 percent of global oil demand.

(2) The United States transportation sector is over 95 percent dependent on petroleum, and over 60 percent of petroleum demand is met by imported supplies.

(3) United States heavy truck fuel consumption will increase 23 percent by 2030, while overall transportation energy use will decline by 1 percent.

(4) The domestic automotive and commercial vehicle manufacturing sectors have increasingly limited resources for research and development of advanced technologies.

(5) Vehicle, engine, and component manufacturers are playing a more important role in vehicle technology development, and should be better integrated into Federal research efforts.

(6) Priorities for the Department of Energy's vehicle technologies research have shifted drastically in recent years among diesel hybrids, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, and plug-in electric hybrids, with little continuity among them.

(7) The integration of vehicle, communication, and infrastructure technologies has great potential

for efficiency gains through better management of the total transportation system.

(8) The Federal Government should balance its role in researching longer-term exploratory concepts and developing nearer-term transformational technologies for vehicles.

SEC. 3. OBJECTIVES.

The objectives of this Act are to—

(1) develop technologies and practices that—

(A) improve the fuel efficiency and emissions of all vehicles produced in the United States; and

(B) reduce transportation sector reliance on petroleum-based fuels;

(2) support domestic research and manufacturing of advanced vehicles, engines, and components;

(3) enable moving larger volumes of freight and more passengers with less energy and emissions;

(4) allow for greater consumer choice of vehicle technologies and fuels;

(5) shorten technology development and integration cycles in the vehicle industry;

(6) ensure a proper balance and diversity of Federal investment in vehicle technologies; and

(7) strengthen partnerships between Federal and State governmental agencies and the private and academic sectors.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Energy.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The following sums are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of vehicles and related technologies, including activities authorized under this Act:

(1) $550,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

(2) $560,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

(3) $570,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

(4) $580,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

(5) $590,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.

(b) MEDIUM AND HEAVY DUTY COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.—From the amounts authorized in under subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for carrying out title II—

(1) $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(2) $210,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

(3) $220,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

(4) $230,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

(5) $240,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.

(c) USER FACILITIES.—From the amounts authorized in under subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for carrying out section 104—

(1) $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(2) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

(3) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

(4) $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

(5) $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.

(d) NON-ROAD PILOT PROGRAM.—From the amounts authorized in under subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for carrying out section 214—

(1) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(2) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

(3) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

TITLE I—VEHICLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 101. PROGRAM.

(a) ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall conduct a program of basic and applied research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities on materials, technologies, and processes with the potential to sub-

stantially reduce or eliminate petroleum use and the related emissions of the Nation's automotive and commercial vehicle sectors, including activities in the areas of—

(1) hybridization or full electrification of vehicle systems;

(2) batteries and other energy storage devices;

(3) power electronics;

(4) vehicle manufacturing technologies and processes;

(5) engine efficiency and combustion optimization;

(6) waste heat recovery;

(7) transmission and drivetrains;

(8) hydrogen fuel cells and internal combustion engines, infrastructure, and related technologies;

(9) aerodynamics, rolling resistance, and accessory power loads of vehicles and associated equipment;

(10) vehicle weight reduction;

(11) friction and wear reduction;

(12) engine and component durability;

(13) innovative propulsion systems;

(14) engine compatibility with and optimization for nonpetroleum fuels;

(15) modeling and simulation of vehicle and transportation systems;

(16) refueling and charging infrastructure for alternative fueled and electric or plug-in electric hybrid vehicles;

(17) sensing, communications, and actuation technologies for vehicle, electrical grid, and infrastructure;

(18) efficient use and recycling of rare earth materials, and reduction of precious metals and other high-cost materials in vehicles;

(19) aftertreatment technologies;

(20) thermal management of battery systems;

(21) development of common standards, specifications, and architectures for both transportation and stationary battery applications;

(22) consumer education and outreach; and

(23) other research areas as determined by the Secretary.

(b) TRANSFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGY.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Department continues to support activities and maintains competency in mid- to long-term transformational vehicle technologies with potential to achieve deep reductions in petroleum use and emissions, including activities in the areas of—

(1) hydrogen fuel cells, internal combustion engines, storage, infrastructure, and technology validation, and development of hydrogen safety codes and standards;

(2) multiple battery chemistries and novel energy storage devices;

(3) communication and connectivity among vehicles, infrastructure, and the electrical grid; and

(4) other innovative technologies research and development, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, activities under this Act shall be carried out in partnership or collaboration with automotive manufacturers, heavy commercial and transit vehicle manufacturers, vehicle and engine equipment and component manufacturers, manufacturing equipment manufacturers, advanced vehicle service providers, fuel producers and energy suppliers, electric utilities, universities, national laboratories, and independent research laboratories. In carrying out this Act the Secretary shall—

(1) determine whether a wide range of domestic manufacturers and suppliers are represented in ongoing public-private partnership activities and, where possible, partner with firms that have not tradition-

ally participated in federally-sponsored research and development activities;

(2) leverage the capabilities and resources of, and formalize partnerships with, industry-led stakeholder organizations, nonprofit organizations, industry consortia, and trade associations with expertise in the research and development of, and education and outreach activities in, advanced automotive and commercial vehicle technologies;

(3) streamline processes for transferring technologies and research findings to industry and consumers;

(4) give consideration to conversion of existing or former vehicle technology manufacturing facilities for the purposes of this Act; and

(5) make every effort to ensure that technologies developed under this Act are produced in the United States.

(d) INTERAGENCY AND INTRAAGENCY COORDINATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall coordinate research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities among—

(1) relevant programs within the Department, including—

(A) the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy;

(B) the Office of Science;

(C) the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability;

(D) the Office of Fossil Energy;

(E) the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy; and

(F) other offices as determined by the Secretary; and

(2) relevant technology research and development programs within other Federal agencies, as determined by the Secretary or an officer of the Executive Office of the President.

(e) FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION OF TECHNOLOGIES.—The Secretary shall make information available to procurement programs of Federal agencies regarding the potential to demonstrate technologies resulting from activities funded through programs under this Act.

(f) INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall seek opportunities to leverage resources and support initiatives of State and local governments in developing and promoting advanced vehicle technologies, manufacturing, and infrastructure.

SEC. 102. SENSING AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES.

The Secretary, in coordination with the relevant research programs of other Federal agencies, shall conduct research, development, and demonstration activities on connectivity of vehicle and transportation systems, including on sensing, computation, communication, and actuation technologies that allow for reduced fuel use, optimized traffic flow, improved freight logistics, and vehicle electrification, including technologies for—

(1) onboard vehicle, engine, and component sensing and actuation;

(2) vehicle-to-vehicle sensing and communication;

(3) vehicle-to-infrastructure sensing and communication; and

(4) vehicle integration with the electrical grid.

SEC. 103. MANUFACTURING.

The Secretary shall carry out a research, development, demonstration, and commercial application program of advanced vehicle manufacturing technologies and practices, including innovative processes to—

(1) increase the production rate and decrease the cost of advanced battery manufacturing;

(2) vary manufacturing facility capability to accommodate different battery chemistries and configurations;

(3) reduce waste streams, emissions, and energy-intensity of vehicle, engine, and component manufacturing processes;

(4) recycle and remanufacture used batteries and other vehicle components for reuse in vehicles or stationary applications;

(5) produce cost-effective lightweight materials such as advanced metal alloys and carbon fiber;

(6) design and manufacture purpose-built hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles and components; and

(7) produce permanent magnets for advanced vehicles.

SEC. 104. USER FACILITIES.

Activities under this Act may include construction, expansion, or modification of new and existing vehicle, engine, and component research and testing facilities for—

(1) testing or simulating interoperability of a variety of vehicle components;

(2) subjecting whole or partial vehicle platforms to fully representative duty cycles and operating conditions;

(3) developing and demonstrating a range of chemistries and configurations for advanced vehicle battery manufacturing; and

(4) developing and demonstrating test cycles for new and alternate fuels, and other advanced vehicle technologies.

TITLE II—MEDIUM AND HEAVY DUTY COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

SEC. 201. PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in partnership with relevant research and development programs in other Federal agencies, and diverse industrial stakeholders, shall carry out a program of cooperative research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities on advanced technologies for medium- to heavy-duty commercial and transit vehicles, including activities in the areas of—

(1) engine efficiency and combustion research;

(2) waste heat recovery and conversion;

(3) improved aerodynamics and tire rolling resistance;

(4) energy and space-efficient emissions control systems;

(5) heavy hybrid, hybrid hydraulic, plug-in hybrid, and electric platforms, and energy storage technologies;

(6) drivetrain optimization;

(7) friction and wear reduction;

(8) engine idle and parasitic energy loss reduction;

(9) electrification of accessory loads;

(10) onboard sensing and communications technologies;

(11) advanced lightweight materials and vehicle designs;

(12) increasing freight capacity per vehicle;

(13) thermal management of battery systems;

(14) recharging infrastructure;

(15) complete vehicle modeling and simulation;

(16) vehicle and driver management systems;

(17) retrofitting advanced technologies onto existing truck fleets; and

(18) integration of these and other advanced systems onto a single truck and trailer platform.

(b) LEADERSHIP.—The Secretary shall appoint a full-time Director to coordinate research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in medium- to heavy-duty commercial and transit vehicle

technologies. Responsibilities of the Director, reporting to the Program Manager for Vehicle Technologies, include—

(1) improving coordination and developing consensus between government agency and industry partners, and proposing new processes for program management and priority setting to better align activities and budgets among partners;

(2) frequent convening of workshops, site visits, demonstrations, conferences, investor forums, and other events in which information and research findings are shared among program participants and interested stakeholders;

(3) developing a budget for the Department's activities with regard to the interagency program, and providing consultation and guidance on vehicle technology funding priorities across agencies;

(4) determining a process for reviewing program technical goals, targets, and timetables and, where applicable, aided by life-cycle impact and cost analysis, proposing revisions in light of program progress, available funding, and rate of technology adoption;

(5) evaluating ongoing activities of the program and recommending project modifications, including the termination of projects, where applicable; and

(6) recruiting new industry participants to the interagency program, including truck, trailer, and component manufacturers who have not traditionally participated in federally sponsored research and technology development activities.

(c) REPORTING.—At the end of each fiscal year the partnership shall submit to the Secretary and relevant Congressional committees of jurisdiction an annual report describing activities undertaken in the previous year, active industry participants, efforts to recruit new participants, progress of the program in meeting goals and timelines, and a strategic plan for funding of activities across agencies.

SEC. 202. CLASS 8 TRUCK DEMONSTRATION.

The Secretary shall conduct a competitive grant program to demonstrate the integration of multiple advanced technologies on long-haul Class 8 truck and trailer platforms with a goal of improving overall freight efficiency, as measured in ton-miles per gallon, by 50 percent, including a combination of technologies listed in section 201(a). Applicant teams may be comprised of truck and trailer manufacturers, engine and component manufacturers, fleet customers, university researchers, and other applicants as appropriate for the development and demonstration of integrated Class 8 truck and trailer systems.

SEC. 203. TECHNOLOGY TESTING AND METRICS.

The Secretary, in coordination with the partners of the interagency research program described in section 201(a)—

(1) shall develop standard testing procedures and technologies for evaluating the performance of advanced heavy vehicle technologies under a range of representative duty cycles and operating conditions, including for heavy hybrid propulsion systems;

(2) may evaluate heavy vehicle performance using metrics other than those based on miles per gallon, including those based on units of volume or weight transported for freight applications, and appropriate metrics based on the work performed by nonroad systems; and

(3) may construct heavy duty truck and bus testing facilities.

SEC. 204. NONROAD SYSTEMS PILOT PROGRAM.

The Secretary is authorized to undertake a pilot program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial applications of technologies to improve total machine or system efficiency for heavy duty nonroad equipment, and shall seek opportunities to transfer relevant research findings and technologies between the nonroad and on-highway equipment and vehicle sectors.

○