

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2986

To require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 4, 2014

Mr. SCHATZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. STUDY OF ELECTRIC RATES IN THE INSULAR**  
2 **AREAS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.—The term  
5 “comprehensive energy plan” means a comprehen-  
6 sive energy plan prepared and updated under sub-  
7 sections (c) and (e) of section 604 of the Act entitled  
8 “An Act to authorize appropriations for certain in-  
9 sular areas of the United States, and for other pur-  
10 poses”, approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C.  
11 1492).

12 (2) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—The term “energy  
13 action plan” means the plan required by subsection  
14 (d).

15 (3) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term  
16 “Freely Associated States” means the Federated  
17 States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall  
18 Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

19 (4) INSULAR AREAS.—The term “insular areas”  
20 means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the  
21 Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and  
22 the Virgin Islands.

23 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
24 the Secretary of the Interior.

25 (6) TEAM.—The term “team” means the team  
26 established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall,  
3 within the Empowering Insular Communities activity, es-  
4 tablish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts—

5 (1) to develop an energy action plan addressing  
6 the energy needs of each of the insular areas and  
7 Freely Associated States; and

8 (2) to assist each of the insular areas and Free-  
9 ly Associated States in implementing such plan.

10 (c) PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL UTILITY ORGANI-  
11 ZATIONS.—In establishing the team, the Secretary shall  
12 consider including regional utility organizations.

13 (d) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—In accordance with sub-  
14 section (b), the energy action plan shall include—

15 (1) recommendations, based on the comprehen-  
16 sive energy plan where applicable, to—

17 (A) reduce reliance and expenditures on  
18 fuel shipped to the insular areas and Freely As-  
19 sociated States from ports outside the United  
20 States;

21 (B) develop and utilize domestic fuel en-  
22 ergy sources; and

23 (C) improve performance of energy infra-  
24 structure and overall energy efficiency;

1 (2) a schedule for implementation of such rec-  
2 ommendations and identification and prioritization  
3 of specific projects;

4 (3) a financial and engineering plan for imple-  
5 menting and sustaining projects; and

6 (4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward  
7 implementation.

8 (e) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year  
9 after the date on which the Secretary establishes the team  
10 and annually thereafter, the team shall submit to the Sec-  
11 retary a report detailing progress made in fulfilling its  
12 charge and in implementing the energy action plan.

13 (f) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
14 than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary re-  
15 ceives a report submitted by the team under subsection  
16 (e), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate commit-  
17 tees of Congress a summary of the report of the team.

18 (g) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY REQUIRED.—The en-  
19 ergy action plan shall not be implemented until the Sec-  
20 retary approves the energy action plan.

21 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED NATURAL**  
22 **RESOURCES ACT.**

23 Section 6 of Public Law 94–241 (90 Stat. 263; 122  
24 Stat. 854) is amended—

1           (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “December  
2           31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) and  
3           (d)” and inserting “December 31, 2019”; and

4           (2) in subsection (d)—

5                 (A) in the third sentence of paragraph (2),  
6                 by striking “not to extend beyond December 31,  
7                 2014, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5  
8                 of this subsection” and inserting “ending on  
9                 December 31, 2019”;

10                (B) by striking paragraph (5); and

11                (C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as  
12                paragraph (5).

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