

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1971

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. LEE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. HAHN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate.

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 “Climate Solutions Act
5 of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) The United States has the objective of sta-
2 bilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmos-
3 phere at a level that would prevent “dangerous an-
4 thropogenic interference” with the climate system by
5 becoming a party to the 1992 United Nations
6 Framework Convention on Climate Change, pledging
7 to China to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 28
8 percent of their 2005 levels by 2025, and regulating
9 greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources,
10 mobile sources, and electrical power suppliers.

11 (2) To achieve this objective, the increase in
12 global mean surface temperature should not exceed
13 2°C (3.6°F) above preindustrial temperature, much
14 of which is already projected to occur by the Inter-
15 governmental Panel on Climate Change.

16 (3) The risks associated with a temperature in-
17 crease above 2°C (3.6°F) are grave, including the
18 disintegration of the Greenland ice sheet, which, if
19 it were to melt completely, would raise global aver-
20 age sea level by approximately 23 feet, devastating
21 many of the world’s coastal areas and population
22 centers.

23 (4) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
24 Change projects that temperatures will rise between
25 1.8°C to 4.0°C (3.2°F to 7.2°F) by the end of the

1 century, under a range of expected emissions trends,
2 but if there are common goals to limit greenhouse
3 gas emissions, the temperature increase can be lim-
4 ited to 2°C (3.6°F) or less.

5 (5) Serious global warming impacts have al-
6 ready been observed in the United States and world-
7 wide, including—

8 (A) increases in heat waves and other ex-
9 treme weather events;

10 (B) rise in sea level, retreat of glaciers and
11 polar ice;

12 (C) decline in mountain snowpack, in-
13 creased drought (including droughts in the
14 West and South United States) resulting in
15 damage to our economy and property;

16 (D) extreme weather conditions resulting
17 in wildfires, stronger hurricanes and polar vor-
18 tex occurrences resulting in further damage to
19 property and our economy;

20 (E) damage to our environment such as
21 ocean acidification, extensive coral bleaching,
22 migrations, and shifts in the yearly cycles of
23 plants and animals; and

24 (F) effects on human population including
25 population displacement and adverse health ef-

1 fects such as the spread of infectious diseases
2 and climate-related conditions such as asthma.

3 (6) Scientists project that under a midrange es-
4 timate of global warming, by 2050, roughly 25 per-
5 cent of animal and plant species will be committed
6 to extinction.

7 (7) Decisive action is needed to minimize the
8 many dangers posed by global warming.

9 (8) The timing of such action is critical, given
10 that greenhouse gases can persist in the atmosphere
11 for more than a century.

12 (9) The International Energy Agency has
13 warned in its most recent World Energy Outlook re-
14 port that, unless there is a serious commitment to
15 investing in zero carbon renewable energy resources,
16 much of the amount of projected limits necessary to
17 avoid greenhouse-gas-emission-caused dangerous an-
18 thropogenic interference with the climate system will
19 be locked in and exceeded.

20 (10) PricewaterhouseCoopers Low Carbon
21 Economy Index Report estimates that carbon-based
22 fuel use needs to be reduced 6.5 percent per year
23 through the year 2100, nearly six times the current
24 rate, to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference
25 with the climate system.

1 (11) With only 5 percent of the world popu-
2 lation, the United States emits approximately 20
3 percent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions
4 and must be a leader in addressing global warming.

5 (12) The State of California, the 8th largest
6 economy in the world, has shown that renewable en-
7 ergy standards and greenhouse gas emissions regula-
8 tion can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while fos-
9 tering significant economic growth.

10 (13) Existing energy efficiency and clean, re-
11 newable energy technologies can reduce global warm-
12 ing pollution, while saving consumers money, reduc-
13 ing our dependence on oil, enhancing national secu-
14 rity, cleaning the air, and protecting pristine places
15 from drilling and mining.

16 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
17 Congress that the United States should participate in ne-
18 gotiations under the 1992 United Nations Framework
19 Convention on Climate Change and honor its commit-
20 ments therefrom with the objective of securing United
21 States participation in agreements that—

22 (1) establish mitigation commitments by all
23 countries that are major emitters of greenhouse
24 gases, consistent with the principle of common but
25 differentiated responsibilities;

1 (2) achieve reductions in global greenhouse gas
2 emissions at a pace and level sufficient to avoid dan-
3 gerous interference with the Earth’s climate; and

4 (3) advance and protect the economic and na-
5 tional security interests of the United States.

6 **TITLE I—RENEWABLE ENERGY**

7 **SEC. 101. NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD.**

8 Title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act
9 of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a–4 et seq.) is amended by adding
10 at the end the following:

11 **“SEC. 610. NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate
13 regulations requiring that—

14 “(1) beginning in calendar year 2020, the per-
15 centage of electric energy generated from renewable
16 sources that is sold at the retail level in the United
17 States shall increase each year;

18 “(2) in calendar year 2030 and each subse-
19 quent calendar year, such percentage shall be not
20 less than 40 percent of the total electric energy sold
21 at the retail level in the United States; and

22 “(3) in calendar year 2050 and each subse-
23 quent calendar year, such percentage shall not be
24 less than 80 percent of the total electric energy sold
25 at the retail level in the United States.

1 “(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
2 this section in consultation with the Administrator of the
3 Environmental Protection Agency.

4 “(c) SUBSEQUENT INCREASES.—Upon petition or
5 upon the Secretary’s own initiative, the Secretary may in-
6 crease the percentage required by subsection (a)(2).

7 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
8 tion shall be construed to preempt or limit State actions
9 to enhance renewable energy generation or energy effi-
10 ciency.”.

11 **TITLE II—ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

12 **SEC. 201. NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARD.**

13 Title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act
14 of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a–4 et seq.), as amended by sec-
15 tion 101 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end
16 the following:

17 **“SEC. 611. NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARD.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate
19 regulations in accordance with this section setting end-
20 user savings targets for retail electric energy and natural
21 gas suppliers.

22 “(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
23 this section in consultation with the Administrator of the
24 Environmental Protection Agency.

1 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to targets under
2 subsection (a):

3 “(1) The targets shall require each supplier to
4 secure annual savings of a set percentage of the sup-
5 plier’s most recent year’s sales to retail customers.

6 “(2) The savings shall be achieved through end-
7 use efficiency improvements at customer facilities.

8 “(3) The targets—

9 “(A) for retail electric energy suppliers
10 shall increase gradually from 0.25 percent of
11 sales in 2018 to 1.5 percent of sales in 2023
12 and each year thereafter through 2028; and

13 “(B) for retail natural gas suppliers shall
14 increase gradually from 0.25 percent of sales in
15 2018 to 0.5 percent of sales in 2023 and each
16 year thereafter through 2028.

17 “(4) The targets are cumulative. Each year’s
18 savings shall be achieved in addition to the previous
19 years’ savings.

20 “(d) REQUIRED PERCENTAGES AFTER 2028.—The
21 Secretary may, upon petition or upon the Secretary’s own
22 initiative, increase the required percentage of end-user
23 savings for years after 2028.

1 “(e) MARKET-BASED TRADING SYSTEM.—The Sec-
2 retary shall allow suppliers to achieve the targets under
3 subsection (a) through a market-based trading system.

4 “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
5 tion shall be construed to preempt or limit State actions
6 to enhance renewable energy generation or energy effi-
7 ciency.”.

8 **TITLE III—SCIENCE-BASED** 9 **REDUCTIONS**

10 **SEC. 301. EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS.**

11 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
12 of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-
13 tection Agency (in this title referred to as the “Adminis-
14 trator”) shall promulgate annual emission reduction tar-
15 gets for each of calendar years 2030 through 2050, so as
16 to ensure that the quantity of United States greenhouse
17 gas emissions—

18 (1) in 2035, is at least 40 percent below the
19 quantity of such emissions in 1990; and

20 (2) in 2050, is at least 80 percent below the
21 quantity of such emissions in 1990.

22 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL ACADEMIES REVIEW.**

23 Not later than 5 years after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Admin-
25 istrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National

1 Academies (or, if the National Academies decline to enter
2 into such arrangement, another appropriate entity) under
3 which the National Academies, acting through the Na-
4 tional Academy of Sciences and the National Research
5 Council, will submit a report to the Administrator and the
6 Congress on the prospects for avoiding dangerous anthro-
7 pogenic interference with the climate system and the
8 progress made to date. Each such report shall—

9 (1) evaluate whether the emission reduction tar-
10 gets promulgated pursuant to section 301 and the
11 policies to reduce United States greenhouse gas
12 emissions under this Act, the amendments made by
13 this Act, and other provisions of law, including the
14 Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), are likely
15 to be sufficient to avoid dangerous climate change,
16 taking into account the actions of other nations; and

17 (2) if the National Academies concludes that
18 such targets and policies are not likely to be suffi-
19 cient to avoid dangerous climate change—

20 (A) identify the needed amount of further
21 reductions in atmospheric greenhouse gas con-
22 centrations; and

23 (B) recommend additional United States
24 and international actions to further reduce at-
25 mospheric greenhouse gas concentrations.

1 **SEC. 303. REGULATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

3 (1) not later than 7 years after the date of en-
4 actment of this Act, promulgate final regulations to
5 implement the emission reduction targets under sec-
6 tion 301; and

7 (2) not less than every 5 years thereafter—

8 (A) review such regulations, taking into ac-
9 count the reports under section 302; and

10 (B) revise such regulation as necessary to
11 implement such emission reduction targets.

12 (b) RULEMAKING ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF NA-
13 TIONAL ACADEMIES.—If any report under section 302 in-
14 cludes a recommendation under section 302(2)(B) for reg-
15 ulatory action by a Federal department or agency, and
16 such regulatory action is within the authority of such de-
17 partment or agency (under law other than this sub-
18 section), the head of such department or agency shall, not
19 later than 2 years after the submission of such report, fi-
20 nalize a rulemaking—

21 (1) to carry out such regulatory action; or

22 (2) to explain the reasons for declining to act.

23 (c) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.—The regulations
24 promulgated under subsection (a) may include additional
25 regulations to reduce emissions of United States green-
26 house gases from any source or sector. Any such regula-

1 tions that address sources whose greenhouse gas emissions
2 are regulated pursuant to section 111(d) of the Clean Air
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 7411(d)) shall account for the compliance
4 schedule promulgated pursuant to such section 111(d).
5 Regulations under this section may include market-based
6 measures, emissions performance standards, efficiency
7 performance standards, best management practices, tech-
8 nology-based requirements, and other forms of require-
9 ments.

10 (d) **RELATION TO OTHER AUTHORITY.**—The author-
11 ity vested by this title is in addition to the authority to
12 regulate greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to other pro-
13 visions of law.

14 **SEC. 304. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

15 Nothing in this title shall be interpreted to preempt
16 or limit State actions to address climate change.

17 **SEC. 305. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this title:

19 (1) **GREENHOUSE GAS.**—The term “greenhouse
20 gas” means—

21 (A) carbon dioxide;

22 (B) methane;

23 (C) nitrous oxide;

24 (D) hydrofluorocarbons;

25 (E) perfluorocarbons;

1 (F) sulfur hexafluoride; or

2 (G) any other anthropogenically emitted
3 gas that is determined by the Administrator,
4 after notice and comment, to contribute to glob-
5 al warming to a non-negligible degree.

6 (2) UNITED STATES GREENHOUSE GAS EMIS-
7 SIONS.—The term “United States greenhouse gas
8 emissions” means the total quantity of greenhouse
9 gas emissions calculated by the Administrator on an
10 annual basis and reported to the United Nations
11 Framework Convention on Climate Change Secre-
12 tariat.

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