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114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3113

To prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from obligating or expending funds for alternative energy generation projects unless specifically authorized by law, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2015

Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, 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

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A BILL

To prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from obligating or expending funds for alternative energy generation projects unless specifically authorized by law, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Empowering Our Veterans Act of 2015".

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The primary responsibility of the Department of Veterans Affairs is to provide the best possible medical care to wounded veterans.

(2) Since 2009, the Department has expended at least $420,000,000 on solar and wind renewable energy projects at facilities of the Department.

(3) The wind power generation projects at facilities of the Department have been full of costly delays and expensive overages, thereby wasting millions of taxpayers' dollars and distracting the Department from accomplishing its primary responsibility.

(4) The current disability claims backlog and appointment wait times are an unacceptable national disgrace.

(5) The Department should use all required resources to ensure that all qualified veterans receive the best medical care available.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—No funds may be appropriated for any fiscal year, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not obligate or expend funds, for any alter-

native energy generation project unless funds for that project have been specifically authorized by law.

(b) TRANSFER.—The Secretary shall transfer all unobligated funds appropriated to the Secretary before the date of the enactment of this Act for an alternative energy generation project to the ''Medical Services'' account of the Department to provide medical care to veterans in the health care system established under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

(c) ALTERNATIVE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''alternative energy generation project'' means a project carried out under the administration of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to produce electrical or thermal energy if the primary energy source for the project is not oil, natural gas, coal, or nuclear power.

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