H. R. 4190

To promote innovation, investment, and economic growth by accelerating spectrum efficiency through a challenge prize competition.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DECEMBER 8, 2015
Ms. MATSUI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL
To promote innovation, investment, and economic growth by accelerating spectrum efficiency through a challenge prize competition.

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 “Spectrum Challenge Prize Act of 2015”.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS.
Congress finds the following:
(1) The future competitiveness and global technology leadership of the United States depend, in
part, upon the availability and efficient use of spec-
trum.

(2) Dramatic improvement in spectrum effi-
ciency would spur innovation, investment, and eco-
nomic growth.

(3) Radio frequency spectrum is vital for emer-
gency communications, national security, law en-
forcement, aviation, maritime safety, space commu-
nications, and numerous other Federal functions.

(4) Prize competitions can spur innovation in
the private and public sectors.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Commission” means the Federal
Communications Commission;

(2) the term “prize competition” means a prize
competition conducted by the Secretary under sec-
tion 4(a); and

(3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
of Commerce.

SEC. 4. SPECTRUM CHALLENGE PRIZE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and
Information and in consultation with the Under Secretary
of Commerce for Standards and Technology, shall—
(1) conduct prize competitions to dramatically accelerate the development and commercialization of technology that improves spectrum efficiency and is capable of cost-effective deployment; and

(2) define a measurable set of performance goals for participants in the prize competitions to demonstrate their solutions on a level playing field while making a significant advancement over the current state of the art.

(b) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary may—

(1) enter into a grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other agreement with a private sector for-profit or nonprofit entity to administer the prize competitions;

(2) invite the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Commission, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, or any other Federal agency to provide advice and assistance in the design or administration of the prize competitions; and

(3) award not more than $5,000,000, in the aggregate, to the winner or winners of the prize competitions.
SEC. 5. CRITERIA.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall publish a technical paper on spectrum efficiency providing criteria that may be used for the design of the prize competitions.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.