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To promote Federal-State partnerships for developing regional energy strategies and plans to mitigate risks in changing energy systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2015

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

A BILL

To promote Federal-State partnerships for developing regional energy strategies and plans to mitigate risks in changing energy systems, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Regional
5 Energy Partnerships for Advancing Resilient Energy Sys-
6 tems Act” or the “PREPARE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that—

1 (1) energy systems in the United States are in
2 a period of significant change;

3 (2) aging infrastructure, new technologies, in-
4 creasing complexity, and growing threats are posing
5 new challenges to energy systems and their resil-
6 ience;

7 (3) the interconnected nature of energy systems
8 means regional energy strategies and plans will be
9 more effective at preparing for challenges and miti-
10 gating risks;

11 (4) States have distinct needs and unique en-
12 ergy, environmental, and economic goals and will
13 play a critical role in developing and implementing
14 regional energy strategies and plans;

15 (5) the views and participation of a broad range
16 of stakeholders in the development and implementa-
17 tion of regional energy strategies and plans is need-
18 ed for success; and

19 (6) the Federal Government, in the role of a
20 long-term strategic energy partner, can effectively—

21 (A) establish strategic alliances with
22 States;

23 (B) convene stakeholders;

24 (C) facilitate the process of developing re-
25 gional energy strategies and plans; and

1 (D) provide technical assistance and sup-
2 port in implementation.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The term “co-
6 operative agreement” has the meaning given the
7 term in sections 6302 and 6305 of title 31, United
8 States Code.

9 (2) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
10 means—

11 (A) the Secretary of Energy, acting
12 through the Assistant Secretary of the Office of
13 Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability in
14 consultation with the Assistant Secretary of
15 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the
16 Assistant Secretary of Fossil Energy, and the
17 Director of the Office of Nuclear Energy,
18 Science, and Technology Programs; and

19 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting
20 through the Assistant Secretary for Land and
21 Minerals Management in consultation with the
22 Director of the Bureau of Land Management,
23 the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy
24 Management, the Assistant Secretary for In-

1 dian Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary for
2 Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

3 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means—

4 (A) a State;

5 (B) the District of Columbia;

6 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

7 and

8 (D) any other territory or possession of the
9 United States.

10 **SEC. 4. REGIONAL ENERGY PARTNERSHIPS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall provide as-
12 sistance in accordance with this section for the purpose
13 of developing energy strategies and plans that help har-
14 monize and promote national, regional, and State energy
15 goals, including goals for advancing resilient energy sys-
16 tems to mitigate risks and prepare for emerging energy
17 challenges.

18 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretaries may
19 provide such technical assistance to States, political sub-
20 divisions of States, substate regional organizations (in-
21 cluding organizations that cross State boundaries),
22 multistate regional organizations, Indian tribes, and non-
23 profit organizations as the Secretaries determine appro-
24 priate to promote—

1 (1) the development and improvement of re-
 2 gional energy strategies, where appropriate, and
 3 plans that sustain and promote energy system mod-
 4 ernization across the United States;

5 (2) investment in energy infrastructure, techno-
 6 logical capacity, innovation, and workforce develop-
 7 ment to keep pace with the changing energy eco-
 8 system;

9 (3) structural transformation of the financial,
 10 regulatory, legal, and institutional systems that gov-
 11 ern energy planning, production, and delivery within
 12 States and regions; and

13 (4) public-private partnerships for the imple-
 14 mentation of regional energy strategies and plans.

15 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries may enter
 17 into cooperative agreements with one or more States
 18 and Indian tribes, on a regional basis, to develop
 19 and implement strategies and plans to address the
 20 energy challenges of States, Indian tribes, and re-
 21 gions.

22 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A cooperative agreement
 23 entered into under this subsection shall include pro-
 24 visions covering or providing—

1 (A) the purpose and goals of the coopera-
2 tive agreement, such as advancing energy effi-
3 ciency, clean energy, fuel and supply diversity,
4 energy system resiliency, economic development,
5 or other goals to make measurable, significant
6 progress toward specified metrics and objectives
7 that are agreed to by the States or Indian
8 tribes and the Secretaries;

9 (B) the roles and responsibilities of the
10 States or Indian tribes and the Secretaries for
11 various functions of the cooperative agreement,
12 including outreach, communication, resources,
13 and capabilities;

14 (C) a comprehensive framework for the de-
15 velopment of energy strategies and plans for
16 States, Indian tribes, or regions;

17 (D) timeframes with associated metrics
18 and objectives;

19 (E) a governance structure to resolve con-
20 flicts and facilitate decisionmaking consistent
21 with underlying authorities; and

22 (F) other provisions determined necessary
23 by the Secretaries, in consultation with the
24 States or Indian tribes, to achieve the purposes
25 described in paragraph (1).

1 (d) STAFF.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
 3 the date of the entering into a cooperative agree-
 4 ment under subsection (c), the Secretaries shall, as
 5 appropriate, assign or employ individuals who have
 6 expertise in the technical and regulatory issues relat-
 7 ing to the cooperative agreement, including par-
 8 ticular expertise in (as applicable)—

9 (A) energy systems integration;

10 (B) renewable energy and energy effi-
 11 ciency;

12 (C) innovative financing mechanisms;

13 (D) utility regulatory policy;

14 (E) modeling and analysis;

15 (F) facilitation and arbitration;

16 (G) energy assurance and emergency pre-
 17 paredness; and

18 (H) cyber and physical security of energy
 19 systems.

20 (2) DUTIES.—Each individual assigned to carry
 21 out a cooperative agreement under paragraph (1)
 22 shall—

23 (A) report to a location in the applicable
 24 State, Indian tribe, or region not later than 90
 25 days after the date of assignment;

1 (B) be responsible for issues and technical
2 assistance relating to the cooperative agree-
3 ment;

4 (C) participate as part of the team of per-
5 sonnel working on developing and implementing
6 the applicable regional energy strategy and
7 plan; and

8 (D) build capacity within the State, Indian
9 tribe, or region to continue to implement the
10 goals of this Act after the expiration of the co-
11 operative agreement.

12 (e) COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK.—Under a coop-
13 erative agreement, a comprehensive framework shall be
14 developed that identifies opportunities and actions across
15 various energy sectors and cross-cutting issue areas, in-
16 cluding—

17 (1) end-use efficiency;

18 (2) energy supply, including electric generation
19 and fuels;

20 (3) energy storage and delivery;

21 (4) transportation;

22 (5) technical integration, including standards
23 and interdependencies;

24 (6) institutional structures;

25 (7) regulatory policies;

1 (8) financial incentives; and

2 (9) market mechanisms.

3 (f) AWARDS.—

4 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

5 (A) APPLICATION GROUP.—The term “ap-
6 plication group” means a group of States or In-
7 dian tribes that have—

8 (i) entered into a cooperative agree-
9 ment, on a regional basis, with the Secre-
10 taries under subsection (c); and

11 (ii) submitted an application for an
12 award under paragraph (2)(A).

13 (B) PARTNER STATE.—The term “partner
14 State” means a State or Indian tribe that is
15 part of an application group.

16 (2) APPLICATIONS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
18 graph (B), an application group may apply to
19 the Secretaries for awards under this sub-
20 section.

21 (B) INDIVIDUAL STATES.—An individual
22 State or Indian tribe that has entered into a co-
23 operative agreement with the Secretaries under
24 subsection (c) may apply to the Secretaries for
25 an award under this subsection if the State or

1 Indian tribe demonstrates to the Secretaries the
 2 uniqueness of the energy challenges facing the
 3 State or Indian tribe.

4 (3) BASE AMOUNT.—Subject to paragraph (4),
 5 the Secretaries shall provide 6 awards under this
 6 subsection, with a base amount of \$20,000,000 for
 7 each award.

8 (4) BONUS AMOUNT FOR APPLICATION
 9 GROUPS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
 11 graph (B), the Secretaries shall increase the
 12 amount of an award provided under this sub-
 13 section to an application group for a successful
 14 application under paragraph (2)(A) by the
 15 quotient obtained by dividing—

16 (i) the product obtained by multi-
 17 plying—

18 (I) the number of partner States
 19 in the application group; and

20 (II) \$100,000,000; by

21 (ii) the total number of partner States
 22 of all successful applications under this
 23 subsection.

24 (B) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a
 25 bonus determined under subparagraph (A) shall

1 not exceed an amount that represents
2 \$5,000,000 for each partner State that is a
3 member of the relevant application group.

4 (5) LIMITATION.—A State or Indian tribe shall
5 not be part of more than 1 award under this sub-
6 section.

7 (6) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting appli-
8 cations for awards under this subsection, the Secre-
9 taries shall consider—

10 (A) existing commitments from States or
11 Indian tribes, such as memoranda of under-
12 standing;

13 (B) for States that are part of the contig-
14 uous 48 States, the number of contiguous
15 States involved that cover a region;

16 (C) the diversity of the regions represented
17 by all applications;

18 (D) the amount of cost-share or in-kind
19 contributions from States or Indian tribes;

20 (E) the scope and focus of regional and
21 State programs and strategies, with an empha-
22 sis on energy system resiliency and grid mod-
23 ernization, efficiency, and clean energy;

24 (F) a management and oversight plan to
25 ensure that objectives are met;

(G) an outreach plan for the inclusion of stakeholders in the process for developing and implementing State or regional energy strategies and plans;

(H) the inclusion of tribal entities;

(I) plans to fund and sustain activities identified in regional energy strategies and plans; and

(J) the clarity of roles and responsibilities of each State and the Secretaries.

(7) USE OF AWARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Awards provided under this subsection shall be used to achieve the purpose of this section, including by—

(i) conducting technical analyses, resource studies, and energy system baselines;

(ii) convening and providing education to stakeholders on emerging energy issues;

(iii) building decision support and planning tools; and

(iv) improving communication between and participation of stakeholders.

(B) LIMITATION.—Awards provided under this subsection shall not be used for—

- 1 (i) capitalization of green banks or
- 2 loan guarantees; or
- 3 (ii) building facilities or funding cap-
- 4 ital projects.

5 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
 7 priated to carry out this Act \$250,000,000, to remain
 8 available until expended.

9 (b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amount authorized to be
 10 appropriated under subsection (a)—

11 (1) \$120,000,000 shall be used for the base
 12 amount of awards under section 4(f)(3);

13 (2) \$100,000,000 shall be used for the bonus
 14 amount of awards under section 4(f)(4); and

15 (3) \$30,000,000 shall be for the administration
 16 of this Act, including—

17 (A) the assignment of staff under section
 18 4(d); and

19 (B) if the Secretaries determine appro-
 20 priate, the sharing of best practices from re-
 21 gional partnerships by parties to cooperative
 22 agreements entered into under this Act.

23 (c) STATE ENERGY OFFICES.—Funds provided to a
 24 State under this Act shall be provided to the office within
 25 the State that is responsible for developing the State en-

1 ergy plan for the State under part D of title III of the
2 Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et
3 seq.).

4 (d) MAINTENANCE OF FUNDING.—The funding pro-
5 vided to States under this Act shall supplement (and not
6 supplant) funding provided under part D of title III of
7 the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321
8 et seq.).

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