

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2830

To authorize methane leak detection and mitigation research activities by
the Department of Energy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2017

Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. MAST) introduced
the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology

A BILL

To authorize methane leak detection and mitigation research
activities by the Department of Energy.

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 “Methane Emissions
5 Mitigation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) methane is a valuable, energy-dense fuel
9 source composing the majority of natural gas;

1 (2) in 2014, the United States lost more than
2 9.8 million metric tons of natural gas, worth almost
3 \$2 billion, through methane leaks and intentional re-
4 leases throughout the oil and gas system;

5 (3) the comparative impact of methane on cli-
6 mate change is more than 25 times greater than
7 carbon dioxide over a 100-year period, and more
8 than 80 times greater over a 20-year period; and

9 (4) identifying and eliminating leaks is a nec-
10 essary step in fighting climate change, and addi-
11 tional research is necessary to further commercialize
12 leak detection and mitigation technologies.

13 **SEC. 3. METHANE LEAK DETECTION AND MITIGATION RE-**
14 **SEARCH.**

15 (a) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of Energy shall
16 carry out a program of research and development in meth-
17 ane leak detection and mitigation.

18 (b) **PROGRAM GOAL.**—The Secretary shall set a goal
19 of developing a variety of technologies that—

20 (1) enable United States natural gas operations
21 to eliminate methane leaks by fiscal year 2025; and

22 (2) cost less to purchase and operate than the
23 market value of the gas that would have leaked but
24 for such technologies.

1 **SEC. 4. TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION PRIZE COMPETI-**
2 **TION.**

3 The Secretary of Energy shall carry out a methane
4 leak detection and mitigation technology demonstration
5 prize competition under section 24 of the Stevenson-
6 Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C.
7 3719).

8 **SEC. 5. TECHNOLOGY CLEARINGHOUSE PROGRAM.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
10 of Energy shall establish and promote a program to en-
11 courage technological innovation in development and com-
12 mercialization of methane leak detection and mitigation
13 technology.

14 (b) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—The program de-
15 scribed in subsection (a) shall include—

16 (1) the establishment of a centralized Federal
17 clearinghouse for public access to information relat-
18 ing to technologies and best practices for methane
19 leak detection and mitigation;

20 (2) the issuance of announcements seeking
21 unique and innovative technologies to advance the
22 mission of the Department under this Act; and

23 (3) the provision of information for persons
24 seeking guidance on how to pursue proposals to de-
25 velop or deploy technologies that would reduce meth-

1 ane emissions, including information relating to in-
2 dustry technology acquisition practices.

3 (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the
4 Secretary’s designated officers shall coordinate with the
5 Department of Energy’s Office of Technology Transitions.

6 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
8 retary of Energy for carrying out this Act \$25,000,000
9 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

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