

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 487

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a natural gas demand response pilot program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

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

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a natural gas demand response pilot program, 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 “Energy Infrastructure  
5 Demand Response Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATURAL GAS DEMAND RESPONSE PILOT PRO-  
7 GRAM.**

8       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9           (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
10          means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

## 6 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

13 (A) to reduce the cost of energy for con-  
14 sumers:

15 (B) to reduce market price volatility:

16 (C) to increase reliability of the energy sys-  
17 tem; and

18 (D) to achieve reductions in air emissions  
19 and other benefits

20 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES —

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
22 subparagraph (B), to be eligible to participate  
23 in the pilot program an entity shall be—

24 (i) a gas utility, including a local dis-  
25 tribution company;

1 (ii) a State public utilities commis-  
2 sion;

3 (iii) an electric utility, including a  
4 local distribution company;

5 (iv) a municipality;

(v) a large industrial consumer, large commercial consumer, or retail marketer of natural gas; or

9 (vi) a third-party energy efficiency  
10 program administrator.

11 (B) LIMITATIONS.—An entity described in  
12 any of clauses (ii) through (v) of subparagraph  
13 (A) shall not be eligible to participate in the  
14 pilot program if the State law to which the enti-  
15 ty is subject specifically precludes the participa-  
16 tion of the entity in a natural gas demand re-  
17 sponse pilot program.

#### 23 (4) DATA COLLECTION.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the  
25 pilot program, the Secretary shall collect data,

1 including data on, with respect to the regions in  
2 which the pilot program is carried out—

3 (i) the reduction in natural gas usage;  
4 (ii) decreases in the frequency and se-  
5 verity of natural gas infrastructure con-  
6 straints; and  
7 (iii) changes in energy costs and reli-  
8 ability.

9 (B) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit  
10 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
11 sources of the Senate and the Committee on  
12 Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-  
13 resentatives a report describing—

14 (i) how to improve data collection;  
15 (ii) the metrics that should be used to  
16 quantify natural gas demand response  
17 usage; and  
18 (iii) opportunities to improve the  
19 measurement and verification of changes in  
20 natural gas consumption resulting from  
21 natural gas demand response measures, in-  
22 cluding opportunities to collect data that  
23 could be used to estimate the quantity of  
24 natural gas that could be shifted through

1 the implementation of natural gas demand  
2 response measures.

3 (c) APPLICATIONS; CERTIFICATION.—

9 (2) SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 200  
11 days after the date of enactment of this Act,  
12 each eligible entity desiring certification to par-  
13 ticipate in the pilot program shall submit to the  
14 Secretary an application containing such infor-  
15 mation as the Secretary may require.

16 (B) AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE CERTAIN IN-  
17 FORMATION.—The Secretary may require as  
18 part of the application under subparagraph (A)  
19 information on—

20 (i) the current energy prices and en-  
21 ergy supply issues in the region in which  
22 the eligible entity is located; and

23 (ii) how implementation of the pilot  
24 program in the region in which the eligible  
25 entity is located can alleviate the current

1 energy prices and energy supply issues in  
2 the region.

9 (d) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-  
10 nate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which  
11 the pilot program is established under subsection (b)(1).

12 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
13 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the pilot pro-  
14 gram \$10,000,000.