

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. ____

To support remediation of illicit cross-border tunnels , and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. LESKO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To support remediation of illicit cross-border tunnels, 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.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Illicit Border Tunnel Defense Act”.

SEC. 2. COUNTER-TUNNEL OPERATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.** -- Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and one year thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the operations carried out to identify, breach, assess, and remediate illicit cross-border tunnels including performance measures.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 and 2022 to carry out tunnel remediation operations.

(c) COUNTER TUNNEL OPERATIONS STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall establish a strategic plan to address the following:

(A) Risk-based criteria to be used to prioritize the identification, breach, assessment, and remediation of illicit cross-border tunnels.

(B) Promotion of the use of innovative technologies to identify, breach, assess, and remediate illicit cross-border tunnels in a manner that, among other things, reduces the impact on surrounding communities.

(C) Processes to share relevant illicit cross-border tunnel location and technical information.

(D) Indicators of specific types of illicit cross-border tunnels found in each U.S. Border Patrol sector identified through program operations to be periodically disseminated to U.S. Border Patrol sector chiefs to educate field personnel.

(E) A counter tunnel operations resource needs assessment that includes consideration of the following:

(i) Technology needs for conducting counter tunnel operations.

(ii) Staffing needs, including the following:

(I) A position description for personnel directly involved in counter tunnel operations.

(II) Any specialized skills and training requirements for personnel directly involved in counter tunnel operations.

(III) The number of full time personnel directly involved in counter tunnel operations, disaggregated by U.S. Border Patrol sector.

(2) **REPORT TO CONGRESS ON STRATEGIC PLAN.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the implementation of subsection (c).