

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1495

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to provide support on the use of industrial heat pumps, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 9, 2023

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to provide support on the use of industrial heat pumps, 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 “Heat pump Energy
5 Assistance and Training Act” or the “HEAT Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **INDUSTRIAL HEAT PUMP.**—The term “in-
9 dustrial heat pump” means a vapor compression de-

1 vice that transforms low grade production waste
2 heat by increasing the temperature of air or process
3 fluid, such as water, to meet the heating needs of
4 agricultural, industrial, or commercial processes.

5 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of Agriculture.

7 **SEC. 3. INDUSTRIAL HEAT PUMP PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
9 a working group to coordinate activities carried out by the
10 Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Rural Utili-
11 ties Service, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and
12 the National Institute of Food and Agriculture—

13 (1) to build awareness of the use of industrial
14 heat pumps;

15 (2) to create materials for and provide technical
16 support to farmers, ranchers, and rural small busi-
17 nesses relating to—

18 (A) the use of industrial heat pumps; and

19 (B) the availability of Federal programs to
20 assist in the adoption to using industrial heat
21 pumps;

22 (3) to support an improved technical under-
23 standing of the opportunities for and applications of
24 industrial heat pumps in the agricultural experiment
25 station network at land-grant colleges and univer-

1 sities, for the purpose of providing training and as-
2 sistance to State-level programs serving farmers,
3 ranchers, and rural small businesses;

4 (4) to increase knowledge of industrial heat
5 pump applications and benefits for rural utilities to
6 support applications of industrial heat pumps for
7 farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses; and

8 (5) to support education on and awareness of
9 industrial heat pump opportunities, applications, and
10 benefits among extension specialists and extension
11 agents.

12 (b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary is encouraged to
13 coordinate with the Department of Energy with respect
14 to the implementation of industrial heat pump programs.

15 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
17 such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2024
18 through 2028.

19 **SEC. 4. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

20 Section 9007(c)(1)(A) of the Farm Security and
21 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(c)(1)(A))
22 is amended—

23 (1) in clause (i)(II), by inserting “, including to
24 purchase and install industrial heat pumps (as de-

1 fined in section 2(a) of the Heat pump Energy As-
 2 sistance and Training Act)” before “; and”; and

3 (2) in clause (ii), in the matter preceding sub-
 4 clause (I), by striking “processing” and inserting
 5 “processing, including industrial heat pumps (as so
 6 defined),”.

7 **SEC. 5. REPORTING.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
 9 date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
 10 the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congres-
 11 sional committees a report describing progress made in
 12 building awareness, creating materials, and providing sup-
 13 port for farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses
 14 under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

15 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The report under subsection (a)
 16 shall include—

17 (1) an identification of important applications
 18 of industrial heat pumps in rural markets;

19 (2) an assessment of the level of awareness of
 20 industrial heat pumps by key market actors, includ-
 21 ing Department of Agriculture program staff, heat
 22 pump suppliers, and rural utilities;

23 (3) the number of applications to the Rural En-
 24 ergy for America Program established under section
 25 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment

1 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) and the Rural Energy
2 Savings Program established under section 6407 of
3 that Act (7 U.S.C. 8107a) for measures incor-
4 porating the installation of industrial heat pumps;

5 (4) the number of loans and grants provided
6 under the Rural Energy for America Program estab-
7 lished under section 9007 of the Farm Security and
8 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) and
9 the Rural Energy Savings Program established
10 under section 6407 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 8107a) for
11 measures incorporating the installation of industrial
12 heat pumps; and

13 (5) a description of the barriers to adoption of
14 industrial heat pumps in rural markets.

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