

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5480

To prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from obligating or expending funds for alternative energy generation projects unless specifically authorized by law, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself and Mr. SCHWEIKERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from obligating or expending funds for alternative energy generation projects unless specifically authorized by law, 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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Empowering Our Veterans Act of 2014”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The primary responsibility of the Depart-
2 ment of Veterans Affairs is to provide the best pos-
3 sible medical care to wounded veterans.

4 (2) Since 2009, the Department has expended
5 at least \$420,000,000 on solar and wind renewable
6 energy projects at facilities of the Department.

7 (3) The wind power generation projects at fa-
8 cilities of the Department have been full of costly
9 delays and expensive overages, thereby wasting mil-
10 lions of taxpayers' dollars and distracting the De-
11 partment from accomplishing its primary responsi-
12 bility.

13 (4) The current disability claims backlog and
14 appointment wait times are an unacceptable national
15 disgrace.

16 (5) The Department should use all required re-
17 sources to ensure that all qualified veterans receive
18 the best medical care available.

19 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE EN-**
20 **ERGY GENERATION PROJECTS OF DEPART-**
21 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

22 (a) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—No funds may be appro-
23 priated for any fiscal year, and the Secretary of Veterans
24 Affairs may not obligate or expend funds, for any alter-

1 native energy generation project unless funds for that
2 project have been specifically authorized by law.

3 (b) TRANSFER.—The Secretary shall transfer all un-
4 obligated funds appropriated to the Secretary before the
5 date of the enactment of this Act for an alternative energy
6 generation project to the “Medical Services” account of
7 the Department to provide medical care to veterans in the
8 health care system established under section 1705(a) of
9 title 38, United States Code.

10 (c) ALTERNATIVE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT
11 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “alternative energy
12 generation project” means a project carried out under the
13 administration of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to
14 produce electrical or thermal energy if the primary energy
15 source for the project is not oil, natural gas, coal, or nu-
16 clear power.

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