112TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 1611

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the designation of Clean Energy Business Zones and for tax incentives for the construction of, and employment at, energy-efficient buildings and clean energy facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 15, 2011

Mr. GRIMM (for himself and Mr. BARTLETT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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 amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the designation of Clean Energy Business Zones and for tax incentives for the construction of, and employment at, energy-efficient buildings and clean energy facilities, 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 "Clean Energy Business
5 Zone Act of 2011" and as the "Clean Energy Empower6 ment Zone Act of 2011".

1 SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ZONES

AND TAX INCENTIVES WITH RESPECT TO

3	SUCH ZONES.
4	(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of the Internal Rev-
5	enue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the
6	following new subchapter:
7	"Subchapter Z—Clean Energy Business Zones
	"Part I. Designation.
	"Part II. Tax Benefits.
8	"PART I—DESIGNATION
	"Sec. 1400V–1. Designation of Clean Energy Business Zones.
9	"SEC. 1400V-1. DESIGNATION OF CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS
10	ZONES.
11	"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may designate 40
12	clean energy business zones.
13	"(b) CONSULTATION.—In designating such zones, the
14	Secretary shall consult with—
15	"(1) the Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
16	velopment in the case of urban areas, and
17	"(2) the Secretary of Agriculture in the case of
18	rural areas.
19	"(c) DESIGNATION CRITERIA.—In designating such
20	zones, the Secretary shall consider the following factors:
21	((1) Whether the area already has a clean en-
22	ergy infrastructure or otherwise has a deteriorating
23	conventional energy infrastructure.

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"(2) Whether the area is reliant on carbon-in tensive industries and, consequently, job loss is an ticipated due to the transition to a clean energy
 economy.

5 "(3) Whether the area is home to business sec6 tors that could complement new clean energy indus7 tries.

8 "(4) Whether the area has other environmental 9 or economic conditions conducive to the establish-10 ment of facilities relating to the manufacture or re-11 search of clean energy or clean energy technologies, 12 including the components used in such manufacture 13 or research and the production of clean energy.

14 "(d) SIZE.—An area may be designated as a Clean
15 Energy Business Zone only if it meets the requirements
16 of section 1392(a)(3).

17 "(e) PERIOD DESIGNATIONS MAY BE MADE.—A des18 ignation may be made under subsection (a) only after
19 2011 and before 2014.

"(f) PERIOD FOR WHICH DESIGNATION IS IN EFFECT.—Any designation under this section shall remain
in effect during the period beginning on the date of the
designation and ending on the close of the 10th calendar
year beginning on or after such date of designation.

1	"PART II—TAX BENEFITS
	"Sec. 1400V–2. Tax benefits for clean energy business zones.
2	"SEC. 1400V-2. TAX BENEFITS FOR CLEAN ENERGY BUSI-
3	NESS ZONES.
4	"(a) WAGE CREDIT.—For purposes of section
5	1396—
6	"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the modifica-
7	tions in paragraph (2), a Clean Energy Business
8	Zone shall be treated as an empowerment zone.
9	"(2) Modifications.—In applying section
10	1396 with respect to Clean Energy Business
11	Zones—
12	"(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of quali-
13	fied wages—
14	"(i) subsection (b) thereof shall be ap-
15	plied by substituting '30 percent' for '20
16	percent', and
17	"(ii) subsection (c) thereof shall be
18	applied by substituting '\$20,000' for
19	'\$15,000' each place it appears.
20	"(B) QUALIFIED WAGES.—For purposes of
21	subparagraph (A), the term 'qualified wages'
22	means qualified zone wages (as defined in sec-
23	tion $1396(c)$) for services performed by the em-
24	ployee—

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1	"(i) in the construction of any quali-
2	fied Green building, or
3	"(ii) in any qualified clean energy fa-
4	cility.
5	"(C) COORDINATION WITH BASIC CRED-
6	IT.—The \$15,000 amount in section 1396(c)(2)
7	(without regard to this subsection) shall be re-
8	duced for any calendar year by the amount of
9	wages paid or incurred during such year which
10	are taken into account in determining the credit
11	under this subsection.
12	"(3) CREDIT TO BE REFUNDABLE.—So much
13	of the credit allowable by section 1396 solely by rea-
14	son of this subsection shall be treated as allowed
15	under subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of this
16	chapter.
17	"(b) Expansion of Work Opportunity Credit.—
18	"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 51,
19	a Clean Energy Business Zone employee shall be
20	treated as a member of a targeted group.
21	"(2) CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ZONE BUSINESS
22	EMPLOYEE.—For purposes of this subsection—
23	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Clean En-
24	ergy Business Zone employee' means, with re-

1	spect to any period, any employee of a Clean
2	Energy Business Zone business if—
3	"(i) the principal place of abode of
4	such employee during such period is within
5	a Clean Energy Business Zone,
6	"(ii) substantially all the services per-
7	formed during such period by such em-
8	ployee for such business are performed—
9	"(I) in the construction of any
10	qualified Green energy building, or
11	"(II) in a qualified clean energy
12	facility, and
13	"(iii) such employee had been em-
14	ployed in a carbon-intensive business at
15	any time during the 1-year period ending
16	on the date that the individual was first
17	hired by the employer.
18	"(B) CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ZONE
19	BUSINESS.—The term 'Clean Energy Business
20	Zone business' means any trade or business—
21	"(i) which is located in a Clean En-
22	ergy Business Zone, and
23	"(ii) at least 15 percent of the em-
24	ployees of which are residents of a Clean
25	Energy Business Zone.

1	"(C) Special rules for determining
2	AMOUNT OF CREDIT.—For purposes of applying
3	subpart F of part IV of subchapter A of this
4	chapter to wages paid or incurred to any Clean
5	Energy Business Zone business employee—
6	"(i) subsections $(c)(4)$ and $(i)(2)$ of
7	section 51 shall not apply, and
8	"(ii) in determining qualified wages,
9	the following shall apply in lieu of section
10	51(b):
11	"(I) QUALIFIED WAGES.—The
12	term 'qualified wages' means wages
13	paid or incurred by the employer to
14	individuals who are Clean Energy
15	Business Zone business employees of
16	such employer for work performed
17	during calendar year 2012.
18	"(II) ONLY FIRST \$12,000 OF
19	WAGES PER CALENDAR YEAR TAKEN
20	INTO ACCOUNT.—The amount of the
21	qualified wages which may be taken
22	into account with respect to any indi-
23	vidual shall not exceed \$12,000 per
24	calendar year.
25	"(c) Clean Renewable Energy Bonds.—

1	"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section
2	54(c)(2), the term 'qualified facility' includes—
3	"(A) any qualified Green building, and
4	"(B) any qualified clean energy facility.
5	"(2) EXTENSION.—In the case of bonds which
6	are clean renewable energy bonds under section 54
7	solely by reason of this subsection, section $54(m)$
8	shall be applied by substituting 'December 31, 2022'
9	for 'December 31, 2009'.
10	"(d) Increased Expensing Under Section
11	179.—
12	"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section
13	179, the dollar amount in effect under section
14	179(b)(1) for the taxable year shall be increased by
15	the lesser of—
16	"(A) \$250,000, or
17	"(B) the cost of qualified section 179
18	Clean Energy Business Zone property placed in
19	service during the taxable year.
20	"(2) QUALIFIED SECTION 179 CLEAN ENERGY
21	BUSINESS ZONE PROPERTY.—For purposes of this
22	subsection—
23	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified
24	section 179 Clean Energy Business Zone prop-

1	erty' means section 179 property (as defined in
2	section 179(d))—
3	"(i) which is described in section
4	168(k)(2)(A)(i) or which is nonresidential
5	real property or residential rental property,
6	"(ii) substantially all of the use of
7	which is in—
8	"(I) a qualified Green building or
9	a qualified clean energy facility, and
10	"(II) the active conduct of a
11	trade or business by the taxpayer in
12	such Zone,
13	"(iii) the original use of which in the
14	Clean Energy Business Zone commences
15	with the taxpayer on or after the date of
16	the enactment of this section,
17	"(iv) which is acquired by the tax-
18	payer by purchase (as defined in section
19	179(d)) on or after such date, but only if
20	no written binding contract for the acquisi-
21	tion was in effect before such date, and
22	"(v) which is placed in service by the
23	taxpayer during the 2-year period begin-
24	ning on such date (during the 3-year pe-
25	riod beginning on such date, in the case of

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nonresidential real property and residential
rental property).
"(B) EXCEPTIONS.—
"(i) ALTERNATIVE DEPRECIATION
PROPERTY.—Such term shall not include
any property described in section
168(k)(2)(D)(i).
"(ii) TAX-EXEMPT BOND-FINANCED
PROPERTY.—Such term shall not include
any property any portion of which is fi-
nanced with the proceeds of any obligation
the interest on which is exempt from tax
under section 103.
"(iii) Election out.—If a taxpayer
makes an election under this clause with
respect to any class of property for any
taxable year, this subsection shall not
apply to all property in such class placed
in service during such taxable year.
"(3) Special Rules.—For purposes of this
subsection, rules similar to the rules of subpara-
graph (E) of section $168(k)(2)$ shall apply, except
that such subparagraph shall be applied—
"(A) without regard to 'and before Janu-
ary 1, 2013' in clause (i) thereof, and

1	"(B) by substituting 'qualified Clean En-
2	ergy Business Zone property' for 'qualified
3	property' in clause (iv) thereof.
4	"(4) Allowance against alternative min-
5	IMUM TAX.—For purposes of this subsection, rules
6	similar to the rules of section $168(k)(2)(G)$ shall
7	apply.
8	"(5) RECAPTURE.—For purposes of this sub-
9	section, rules similar to the rules under section
10	179(d)(10) shall apply with respect to any qualified
11	section 179 Clean Energy Business Zone property
12	which ceases to be qualified section 179 Clean En-
13	ergy Business Zone property.
14	"(e) Exclusion of Capital Gain on Stock in
15	Qualified Businesses.—
16	"(1) IN GENERAL.—Gross income shall not in-
17	clude qualified capital gain from the sale or ex-
18	change of any Clean Energy Business Zone asset
19	held for more than 5 years.
20	"(2) Clean energy business zone asset.—
21	For purposes of this subsection—
22	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Clean En-
23	ergy Business Zone asset' means—
24	"(i) any Clean Energy Business Zone
25	business stock,

"(ii) any Clean Energy Business Zone 1 2 partnership interest, and 3 "(iii) any Clean Energy Business 4 Zone business property. 5 "(B) CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ZONE 6 BUSINESS STOCK.-7 "(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Clean Energy Business Zone business stock' 8 9 means any stock in a domestic corporation 10 which is originally issued after the date of 11 the enactment of this section if— 12 "(I) such stock is acquired by the 13 taxpayer, before January 1, 2015, at 14 its original issue (directly or through 15 an underwriter) solely in exchange for 16 cash, 17 "(II) as of the time such stock 18 was issued, such corporation was a 19 Clean Energy Business Zone business 20 (or, in the case of a new corporation, 21 such corporation was being organized 22 for purposes of being a Clean Energy 23 Business Zone business), and "(III) during substantially all of 24 25 the taxpayer's holding period for such

1 stock, such corporation qualified as a 2 Clean Energy Business Zone business. "(ii) REDEMPTIONS.—A rule similar 3 4 to the rule of section 1202(c)(3) shall 5 apply for purposes of this paragraph. 6 "(C) CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ZONE 7 PARTNERSHIP INTEREST.—The term 'Clean 8 Energy Business Zone partnership interest' 9 means any capital or profits interest in a do-10 mestic partnership which is originally issued 11 after the date of the enactment of this section 12 if— "(i) such interest is acquired by the 13 14 taxpayer, before January 1, 2015, from 15 the partnership solely in exchange for cash, "(ii) as of the time such interest was 16 17 acquired, such partnership was a Clean 18 Energy Business Zone business (or, in the

23 "(iii) during substantially all of the24 taxpayer's holding period for such interest,

ness), and

case of a new partnership, such partner-

ship was being organized for purposes of

being a Clean Energy Business Zone busi-

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1	such partnership qualified as a Clean En-
2	ergy Business Zone business.
3	A rule similar to the rule of subparagraph
4	(B)(ii) shall apply for purposes of this subpara-
5	graph.
6	"(D) CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ZONE
7	BUSINESS PROPERTY.—
8	"(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Clean
9	Energy Business Zone business property'
10	means property which is a qualified Green
11	building if—
12	"(I) such property was acquired
13	by the taxpayer by purchase (as de-
14	fined in section $179(d)(2)$) after the
15	date of the enactment of this section
16	and before January 1, 2015,
17	"(II) the original use of such
18	property in the Clean Energy Busi-
19	ness Zone commences with the tax-
20	payer, and
21	"(III) during substantially all of
22	the taxpayer's holding period for such
23	property, substantially all of the use
24	of such property was in a Clean En-

1	ergy Business Zone business of the
2	taxpayer.
3	"(ii) Special rule for buildings
4	WHICH ARE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED.—
5	"(I) IN GENERAL.—The require-
6	ments of subclauses (I) and (II) of
7	clause (i) shall be treated as met with
8	respect to—
9	"(aa) property which is sub-
10	stantially improved by the tax-
11	payer before January 1, 2015,
12	and
13	"(bb) any land on which
14	such property is located.
15	"(II) SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVE-
16	MENT.—For purposes of subclause
17	(I), property shall be treated as sub-
18	stantially improved by the taxpayer
19	only if, during any 24-month period
20	beginning after December 31, 1999,
21	additions to basis with respect to such
22	property in the hands of the taxpayer
23	exceed the greater of \$5,000 or an
24	amount equal to the adjusted basis of
25	such property at the beginning of

1	such 24-month period in the hands of
2	the taxpayer.
3	"(E) TREATMENT OF CLEAN ENERGY
4	BUSINESS ZONE TERMINATION.—The termi-
5	nation of the designation of the Clean Energy
6	Business Zone shall be disregarded for purposes
7	of determining whether any property is a Clean
8	Energy Business Zone asset.
9	"(F) TREATMENT OF SUBSEQUENT PUR-
10	CHASERS, ETC.—The term 'Clean Energy Busi-
11	ness Zone asset' includes any property which
12	would be a Clean Energy Business Zone asset
13	but for subparagraph $(B)(i)(I)$, $(C)(i)$, or $(D)(i)$
14	(I) or (II) in the hands of the taxpayer if such
15	property was a Clean Energy Business Zone
16	asset in the hands of a prior holder.
17	"(G) 5-year safe harbor.—If any prop-
18	erty ceases to be a Clean Energy Business Zone
19	asset by reason of subparagraph (B)(i)(III),
20	(C)(iii), or $(D)(i)(III)$ after the 5-year period
21	beginning on the date the taxpayer acquired
22	such property, such property shall continue to
23	be treated as meeting the requirements of such
24	paragraph; except that the amount of gain to

25 which paragraph (1) applies on any sale or ex-

1	change of such property shall not exceed the
2	amount which would be qualified capital gain
3	had such property been sold on the date of such
4	cessation.
5	"(3) CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ZONE BUSI-
6	NESS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term
7	'Clean Energy Business Zone business' means any
8	trade or business if—
9	"(A) all buildings located in any Clean En-
10	ergy Business Zone which are owned or occu-
11	pied by such trade or business are qualified
12	Green buildings or qualified clean energy facili-
13	ties, and
14	"(B) such business would be an enterprise
15	zone business (as defined in section 1397C) de-
16	termined—
17	"(i) by substituting '80 percent' for
18	'50 percent' in subsections $(b)(2)$ and
19	(c)(1) of section 1397C,
20	"(ii) by substituting '15 percent' for
21	'35 percent' in subsections $(b)(6)$ and
22	(c)(5) of section 1397C, and
23	"(iii) by treating no area other than
24	the Clean Energy Business Zone as an em-
25	powerment zone or enterprise community.

1	"(4) OTHER DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL
2	RULES.—
3	"(A) QUALIFIED CAPITAL GAIN.—Except
4	as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the
5	term 'qualified capital gain' means any gain
6	recognized on the sale or exchange of—
7	"(i) a capital asset, or
8	"(ii) property used in the trade or
9	business (as defined in section 1231(b)).
10	"(B) GAIN BEFORE ENACTMENT OR AFTER
11	2014 NOT QUALIFIED.—The term 'qualified cap-
12	ital gain' shall not include any gain attributable
13	to periods before the date of the enactment of
14	this section or after December 31, 2014.
15	"(C) CERTAIN GAIN NOT QUALIFIED.—The
16	term 'qualified capital gain' shall not include
17	any gain which would be treated as ordinary in-
18	come under section 1245 or under section 1250
19	if section 1250 applied to all depreciation rath-
20	er than the additional depreciation.
21	"(D) INTANGIBLES AND LAND NOT INTE-
22	GRAL PART OF CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ZONE
23	BUSINESS.—The term 'qualified capital gain'
24	shall not include any gain which is attributable
25	to real property, or an intangible asset, which

is not an integral part of a Clean Energy Business Zone business.

3 "(E) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS.— 4 The term 'qualified capital gain' shall not in-5 clude any gain attributable, directly or indi-6 rectly, in whole or in part, to a transaction with 7 a related person. For purposes of this para-8 graph, persons are related to each other if such 9 persons are described in section 267(b) or 10 707(b)(1).

"(5) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—Rules similar
to the rules of subsections (g), (h), (i)(2), and (j) of
section 1202 shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

15 "(6) SALES AND EXCHANGES OF INTERESTS IN 16 PARTNERSHIPS AND S CORPORATIONS WHICH ARE 17 CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ZONE BUSINESSES.—In 18 the case of the sale or exchange of an interest in a 19 partnership, or of stock in an S corporation, which 20 was a Clean Energy Business Zone business during 21 substantially all of the period the taxpayer held such 22 interest or stock, the amount of qualified capital 23 gain shall be determined without regard to—

24 "(A) any gain which is attributable to real25 property, or an intangible asset, which is not an

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1	integral part of a Clean Energy Business Zone
2	business, and
3	"(B) any gain attributable to periods be-
4	fore the date of the enactment of this section or
5	after December 31, 2014.
6	"(f) Expensing of Portion of Cost of Quali-
7	FIED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITIES.—
8	"(1) IN GENERAL.—A taxpayer may elect to
9	treat the cost of any qualified clean energy facility
10	property as an expense which is not chargeable to
11	capital account. Any cost so treated shall be allowed
12	as a deduction for the taxable year in which the
13	property is placed in service.
14	"(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DEDUCTION.—
15	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The deduction under
16	paragraph (1) for any taxable year shall not ex-
17	ceed \$1,000,000.
18	"(B) DEDUCTION ALLOWED FOR ONLY 5
19	YEARS.—A deduction shall be allowed under
20	this paragraph for any qualified clean energy
21	facility property only for the taxable year dur-
22	ing which the qualified clean energy facility is
23	placed in service and for the first 4 taxable
24	years thereafter.

1	"(3) QUALIFIED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITY
2	PROPERTY.—For purposes of this subsection, the
3	term 'qualified clean energy facility property' means
4	any property—
5	"(A) with respect to which depreciation (or
6	amortization in lieu of depreciation) is allow-
7	able, and
8	"(B) which is installed on or in any quali-
9	fied clean energy facility.
10	"(4) Basis reduction.—For purposes of this
11	subtitle, if a deduction is allowed under this sub-
12	section with respect to any qualified clean energy fa-
13	cility property, the basis of such property shall be
14	reduced by the amount of the deduction so allowed.
15	"(5) TERMINATION.—This subsection shall not
16	apply to property placed in service after December
17	31, 2014.
18	"(g) Definitions.—For purposes of this section—
19	"(1) QUALIFIED GREEN BUILDING.—
20	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified
21	Green building' means any building which is lo-
22	cated in a Clean Energy Business Zone and
23	which meets the standards prescribed by the
24	Administrator of the Environmental Protection

Agency under subparagraph (B) for such building.

3 "(B) STANDARDS.—The Administrator of 4 the Environmental Protection Agency shall de-5 velop and implement, in consultation with the 6 Secretary of Energy, standards for a national 7 energy and environmental building retrofit pol-8 icy for single-family and multifamily residences. 9 The Administrator shall develop and implement, 10 in consultation with the Secretary of Energy 11 and the Director of Commercial High-Perform-12 ance Green Buildings, standards for a national 13 energy and environmental building retrofit pol-14 icy for nonresidential buildings. The programs 15 to implement the residential and nonresidential 16 policies based on the standards developed under 17 this subparagraph shall together be known as 18 the Retrofit for Energy and Environmental 19 Performance (REEP) program.

20 "(2) QUALIFIED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITY.—
21 The term 'qualified clean energy facility' means any
22 facility which is located in a Clean Energy Business
23 Zone and which relates to the manufacture or re24 search of clean energy or clean energy technologies,

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including the components used in such manufacture
 or research and the production of clean energy.".

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sub4 chapters for chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding
5 at the end the following new item:

"SUBCHAPTER Z. CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ZONES.".

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act.

9 SEC. 3. WAIVER OF SBA LOAN FEES.

10 (a) SECTION 7(a) LOANS.—Paragraph (18) section
11 7(a) of the Small Business Act is amended by adding at
12 the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) NO FEE PERMITTED FOR CLEAN EN-13 14 ERGY CONSTRUCTION LOANS.—No fee may be 15 imposed under this paragraph with respect to 16 any loan made before January 1, 2022, for the 17 construction of any qualified Green building (as 18 defined in section 1400V-2(g) of the Internal 19 Revenue Code of 1986) or any qualified clean 20 energy facility (as defined in such section).".

(b) SECTION 504 LOANS.—Paragraph (2) of section
503(d) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 is
amended by adding at the end the following new sentence:
"No fee may be imposed under this paragraph with respect to any loan made before January 1, 2022, for the
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construction of any qualified Green building (as defined
 in section 1400V-2(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of
 1986) or any qualified clean energy facility (as defined
 in such section)."