

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4251

To promote the use of resilient energy systems to rebuild infrastructure following disasters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 3, 2017

Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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 promote the use of resilient energy systems to rebuild infrastructure following disasters.

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 “Rebuilding Resilient
5 Energy Systems Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) EFFICIENT.—The term “efficient” means,
2 with respect to a technology, product, material,
3 equipment, or practice, the use of the technology,
4 product, material, equipment, or practice in a man-
5 ner that results in reduced energy consumption or
6 energy costs for the same level of service or a higher
7 level of service.

8 (2) RESILIENT.—The term “resilient” means,
9 with respect to a system or a component of a sys-
10 tem, the ability of the system or component to adapt
11 to a changing condition and withstand and rapidly
12 recover from a disruption.

13 **SEC. 3. USE OF RESILIENT ENERGY SYSTEMS TO REBUILD**
14 **FOLLOWING DISASTERS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
16 sion of law, any amounts awarded under sections 403,
17 404, 406, 408, and 428 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
18 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b,
19 5170c, 5172, 5174, 5189f) may be used to build, repair,
20 restore, reconstruct, or replace an energy system or build-
21 ing as a result of a major disaster or emergency des-
22 ignated by the President under the Robert T. Stafford
23 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
24 5121 et seq.) during calendar year 2017 in a manner
25 that—

1 (1) is more resilient;

2 (2) is more efficient;

3 (3) provides continuous flow of power to facili-
4 ties critical to public health, safety, and welfare;

5 (4) maximizes the use of clean energy resources
6 and energy storage technologies; and

7 (5) promotes lower energy bills to the extent
8 feasible.

9 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
10 section (a) creates eligibility for assistance for any energy
11 provider that is not otherwise eligible for assistance under
12 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
13 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

14 (c) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
16 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall des-
17 ignate a representative of the Agency to coordinate
18 with one or more private entities that are interested
19 in donating energy system technologies and services
20 to rebuild in accordance with subsection (a) fol-
21 lowing a major disaster or emergency.

22 (2) COORDINATION AMONG AGENCIES.—In car-
23 rying out paragraph (1), the Administrator of the
24 Federal Emergency Management Agency is encour-

1 aged to coordinate with the Secretary of Energy and
2 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

3 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, each National
6 Laboratory (as defined in section 2 of the Energy
7 Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)), in coordina-
8 tion with the programs of the Department of Energy
9 that provide assistance to States and industry, shall
10 make technical assistance available to Federal,
11 State, and local agencies and private entities that
12 are interested in—

13 (A) developing plans or providing guidance
14 on the design of a resilient and efficient energy
15 system or building; and

16 (B) building, repairing, restoring, recon-
17 structing, or replacing an energy system or
18 building in accordance with subsection (a) fol-
19 lowing a major disaster or emergency.

20 (2) CONSULTATION AMONG AGENCIES.—The
21 Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
22 ment Agency is encouraged to consult with the Sec-
23 retary of Defense regarding the experience of the

- 1 Department of Defense in building resilient power
- 2 systems.

