

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 508

To establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2015

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. CROWLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, 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 “Super Pollutant Emis-
5 sions Reduction Act of 2015” or the “SUPER Act of
6 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
3 ings:

4 (1) Carbon dioxide is estimated to account for
5 55 to 60 percent of anthropogenic radiative forcing
6 (or manmade global warming), while the remainder
7 is driven by non-carbon dioxide climate pollutants,
8 primarily short-lived climate pollutants. These short-
9 lived climate pollutants, or “super pollutants”, have
10 shorter atmospheric lifespans than carbon dioxide
11 but cause much more warming per molecule, and in
12 many cases the emissions are growing much faster
13 than carbon dioxide.

14 (2) Several of the short-lived climate pollutants
15 are also potent air pollutants that harm human
16 health and reduce crop yields. Reducing these pollut-
17 ants can save thousands of lives every year in the
18 United States and millions globally, while also in-
19 creasing agricultural production.

20 (3) International efforts to address short-lived
21 climate pollutants are underway, including the Cli-
22 mate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived
23 Climate Pollutants, led by the Department of State
24 and the United Nations Environment Programme,
25 the Global Methane Initiative, and the negotiation of

1 amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances
2 that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

3 (4) Many of the technologies to reduce short-
4 lived climate pollutants already exist, but adoption
5 of such technologies has been slow.

6 (5) The Federal Government has a number of
7 programs and initiatives some of which aim to, or
8 the outcomes of which, reduce emissions of short-
9 lived climate pollutants, but these programs are
10 scattered across multiple agencies and there is insuf-
11 ficient coordination to maximize reductions of these
12 pollutants. In February 2012, the Government Ac-
13 countability Office published an annual report, “Op-
14 portunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and
15 Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Rev-
16 enue”, which examined the efficiency and efficacy of
17 government programs, including those that address
18 diesel emissions that contain black carbon, a short-
19 lived climate pollutant.

20 (6) Executive Order 13514 requires Federal
21 agencies to develop plans for reducing hydrofluoro-
22 carbons and methane, but few agencies have focused
23 on these compounds in their annual Strategic Sus-
24 tainability Performance Plans.

1 (7) Because of their short atmospheric life-
2 times, reducing global emissions of short-lived cli-
3 mate pollutants can quickly cut the rate of global
4 temperature rise in half, by 2050, and help stabilize
5 global temperatures below 2°C above pre-industrial
6 temperatures by 2100, when combined with reduc-
7 tions of global emissions of carbon dioxide. Cutting
8 short-lived climate pollutants along with carbon diox-
9 ide can also reduce the rate of projected global sea-
10 level rise by half and total sea-level rise by a third.
11 Steps to reduce short-lived climate pollutants are
12 likely to have air quality and public health benefits
13 as well.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to—

15 (1) coordinate and optimize the Federal Gov-
16 ernment’s existing efforts to address short-lived cli-
17 mate pollutants;

18 (2) reduce overlap and duplication of such ef-
19 forts; and

20 (3) encourage Federal operations, programs,
21 policies, and initiatives to reduce short-lived climate
22 pollutants by—

23 (A) ensuring that the coordinated Federal
24 programs are effective and forward-looking in

1 their efforts to control short-lived climate pol-
2 lutants;

3 (B) ensuring coordination of such Federal
4 operations, programs, policies, and initiatives
5 with State, local, regional, tribal, and industry
6 efforts; and

7 (C) supporting such State, local, regional,
8 tribal, and industry efforts.

9 **SEC. 3. TASK FORCE ON SUPER POLLUTANTS.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
12 establish the “Task Force on Super Pollutants” (referred
13 to in this section as the “Task Force”).

14 (b) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

15 (1) review existing and potential policies and
16 measures that promote reduction of short-lived cli-
17 mate pollutants, in part by identifying and evalu-
18 ating programs and activities of the Federal govern-
19 ment that contribute, or could contribute, to such
20 reduction;

21 (2) identify and recommend specific existing
22 Federal programs and activities evaluated under
23 paragraph (1) that are unnecessarily duplicative and
24 can be consolidated to achieve greater efficiency and
25 effectiveness;

1 (3) identify gaps where programs do not exist,
2 and recommend focused programs and activities to
3 fill these gaps to achieve reductions of short-lived cli-
4 mate pollutants, with an emphasis on industry
5 standards and public-private partnerships where pos-
6 sible;

7 (4) identify, compile, evaluate, and develop best
8 practices for reductions of short-lived climate pollut-
9 ants, including by—

10 (A) identifying and evaluating both domes-
11 tic and international best practices and stand-
12 ards practiced and set by governments, industry
13 in each sector listed in subsection (c)(5), stand-
14 ards bodies, and other relevant institutions; and

15 (B) identifying and evaluating cost-effec-
16 tive mitigation projects, strategies, and policies
17 at the State, local, and tribal level, with the
18 greatest potential for reduction of short-lived
19 climate pollutants; and

20 (5) not later than 18 months after the date of
21 enactment of this Act, submit to Congress a report
22 on the findings and recommendations developed
23 under paragraphs (1) through (4).

24 (c) MEMBERS.—The task force established under
25 subsection (a) shall include representatives of—

- 1 (1) all relevant Federal agencies, including—
 - 2 (A) the Secretary of Energy;
 - 3 (B) the Administrator of the Environ-
4 mental Protection Agency;
 - 5 (C) the Secretary of the Interior;
 - 6 (D) the Secretary of Transportation;
 - 7 (E) the Secretary of Agriculture;
 - 8 (F) the Secretary of State;
 - 9 (G) the Secretary of Commerce; and
 - 10 (H) the Secretary of Health and Human
11 Services;
- 12 (2) relevant offices and councils within the Ex-
13 ecutive Office of the President, including—
 - 14 (A) the Office of Management and Budget;
 - 15 (B) the Office of Science and Technology
16 Policy; and
 - 17 (C) the Council on Environmental Quality;
- 18 (3) State, local, and tribal governments or asso-
19 ciations;
- 20 (4) academic and non-governmental organiza-
21 tions with expertise in short-lived climate pollutants;
22 and
- 23 (5) relevant industry organizations, rep-
24 resenting at least the following sectors:

1 (A) Energy supply and transmission, in-
2 cluding fossil fuels.

3 (B) Solid waste.

4 (C) Transportation.

5 (D) Chemical manufacturing and user in-
6 dustries.

7 (E) Agriculture.

8 (F) Wastewater.

9 (G) Buildings.

10 (H) Other sectors as determined appro-
11 priate by the President.

12 (d) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “short-lived
13 climate pollutant” means any of the following:

14 (1) Black carbon.

15 (2) Methane.

16 (3) Hydrofluorocarbons.

17 (4) Tropospheric ozone and its precursors.

18 (5) Emissions from banks of ozone-depleting
19 substances.

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