

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5191

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a renewable energy grant program for territories of the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 11, 2023

Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and 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

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a renewable energy grant program for territories of the United States, 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 “Renewable Energy for  
5 U.S. Territories Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-  
4 culture shall establish a renewable energy program (in this  
5 section referred to as the “program”) under which the  
6 Secretary may award grants to covered entities to facili-  
7 tate projects, in territories of the United States, described  
8 in subsection (c).

9 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under  
10 the program, a covered entity shall submit to the Sec-  
11 retary an application at such time, in such form, and con-  
12 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

13 (c) GRANT USES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—A covered entity receiving a  
15 grant under the program may use grant funds for  
16 a project, in a territory of the United States—

17 (A) to develop or construct a renewable en-  
18 ergy system;

19 (B) to carry out an activity to increase en-  
20 ergy efficiency;

21 (C) to develop or construct an energy stor-  
22 age system or device for—

23 (i) a system developed or constructed  
24 under subparagraph (A); or

25 (ii) an activity carried out under sub-  
26 paragraph (B);

1 (D) to develop or construct—

2 (i) a smart grid; or

3 (ii) a microgrid; or

4 (E) to train residents of the territory of  
5 the United States to develop, construct, main-  
6 tain, or operate a renewable energy system.

7 (2) LIMITATION.—A covered entity receiving a  
8 grant under the program may not use grant funds  
9 to develop or construct a facility that generates elec-  
10 tricity using energy derived from—

11 (A) fossil fuels; or

12 (B) nuclear power.

13 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of En-  
14 ergy shall ensure that Department of Energy national lab-  
15 oratories offer to provide technical assistance to each cov-  
16 ered entity carrying out a project assisted with a grant  
17 under the program.

18 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the estab-  
19 lishment of the program, and on an annual basis there-  
20 after, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report con-  
21 taining—

22 (1) an estimate of the amount of funds dis-  
23 bursed under the program;

24 (2) an estimate of the energy conservation  
25 achieved as a result of the program;

1           (3) a description of challenges encountered in  
2           implementing projects described in subsection (c)(1);  
3           and

4           (4) recommendations as to additional legislative  
5           measures to increase the use of renewable energy in  
6           territories of the United States, as appropriate.

7           (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8           are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
9           necessary to carry out this section.

10 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY AND REPORT.**

11           (a) IN GENERAL.—

12           (1) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 180  
13           days after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
14           Comptroller General of the United States shall—

15                   (A) conduct a study regarding renewable  
16                   energy and energy efficiency in territories of the  
17                   United States; and

18                   (B) submit to Congress a report con-  
19                   taining—

20                           (i) the findings of the study; and

21                           (ii) related recommendations.

22           (2) COMPONENTS.—The study conducted under  
23           paragraph (1) shall consider, in relation each terri-  
24           tory of the United States, the potential—

1 (A) to modify existing electric power sys-  
2 tems to use renewable energy sources;

3 (B) to expand the use of microgrids; and

4 (C) to improve energy resiliency.

5 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6 authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000 to carry out this  
7 section.

8 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

10 (1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-  
11 tity” means a not-for-profit organization determined  
12 eligible by the Secretary of Agriculture for purposes  
13 of this Act.

14 (2) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL LAB-  
15 ORATORIES.—The term “Department of Energy na-  
16 tional laboratories” has the same meaning as the  
17 term “National Laboratory” under section 2 of the  
18 Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

19 (3) MICROGRID.—The term “microgrid” means  
20 an electric system—

21 (A) that serves the local community with a  
22 power generation and distribution system; and

23 (B) that has the ability—

24 (i) to disconnect from a traditional  
25 electric grid; and

1 (ii) to operate autonomously when dis-  
2 connected.

3 (4) RENEWABLE ENERGY; RENEWABLE ENERGY  
4 SYSTEM.—The terms “renewable energy” and “re-  
5 newable energy system” have the meanings given  
6 those terms in section 9001 of the Farm Security  
7 and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101).

8 (5) SMART GRID.—The term “smart grid”  
9 means an intelligent electric grid that uses digital  
10 communications technology, information systems,  
11 and automation to, while maintaining high system  
12 reliability—

13 (A) detect and react to local changes in  
14 usage;

15 (B) improve system operating efficiency;  
16 and

17 (C) reduce spending costs.

18 (6) TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES.—The  
19 term “territory of the United States” means the  
20 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the United  
21 States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the  
22 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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