

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 570

To authorize microenterprise assistance for renewable energy projects in developing countries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2017

Mr. SERRANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize microenterprise assistance for renewable energy projects in developing countries.

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 “Solar Villages Initia-
5 tive Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MICROENTERPRISE ASSISTANCE FOR RENEWABLE**
7 **ENERGY PROJECTS IN DEVELOPING COUN-**
8 **TRIES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the
10 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-

1 national Development and in consultation with the Sec-
2 retary of State and the Secretary of Energy, is authorized
3 to provide assistance for renewable energy projects de-
4 scribed in subsection (b) in developing countries to in-
5 crease the availability of credit, savings, and other services
6 to microfinance and microenterprise clients lacking full ac-
7 cess to capital, training, technical assistance, and business
8 development services.

9 (b) TYPES OF PROJECTS.—The renewable energy
10 projects described in this subsection include projects to as-
11 sist small and micro businesses that loan or sell solar lan-
12 terns or lamps and other solar energy technologies.

13 (c) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance under sub-
14 section (a), the President shall give priority to empowering
15 female-owned businesses in developing countries.

16 (d) RELATION TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES.—Assist-
17 ance provided under subsection (a) shall be made available
18 under the authorities of section 252 of the Foreign Assist-
19 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2211a).

20 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry
22 out this section \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2018,
23 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2019, \$7,500,000 for fiscal year

1 2020, \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2021, \$10,000,000 for
2 fiscal year 2022, and \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

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