

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7424

To direct the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Energy to jointly conduct a study on the development of facilities for solar energy generation, solar energy storage, and solar energy transmission or distribution on available Federal land adjacent to the National Highway System, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. TRONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Energy to jointly conduct a study on the development of facilities for solar energy generation, solar energy storage, and solar energy transmission or distribution on available Federal land adjacent to the National Highway System, 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 Roadsides  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON DEVELOPING AVAILABLE FEDERAL LAND**  
2 **ADJACENT TO THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYS-**  
3 **TEM FOR SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION,**  
4 **SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE, AND SOLAR EN-**  
5 **ERGY TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION FA-**  
6 **CILITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31,  
8 2025, the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary  
9 of Energy shall jointly conduct a study on the development  
10 of facilities for solar energy generation, solar energy stor-  
11 age, and solar energy transmission or distribution on  
12 available Federal land adjacent to the National Highway  
13 System.

14 (b) SCOPE OF STUDY.—When conducting the study  
15 required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transpor-  
16 tation and the Secretary of Energy shall—

17 (1) evaluate the suitability of available Federal  
18 land adjacent to the National Highway System for  
19 the development of facilities for solar energy genera-  
20 tion, solar energy storage, and solar energy trans-  
21 mission or distribution; and

22 (2) identify the issues and policies impeding the  
23 development of such facilities on available Federal  
24 land adjacent to the National Highway System, in-  
25 cluding existing laws, safety concerns, land suit-  
26 ability, development feasibility, and competition with

1 other priorities that the Federal Government has  
2 identified for such Federal land.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2026, the  
4 Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Energy  
5 shall jointly issue to Congress a report, which shall in-  
6 clude—

7 (1) the results of the study required under sub-  
8 section (a);

9 (2) recommendations on how to facilitate the  
10 development of facilities for solar energy generation,  
11 solar energy storage, and solar energy transmission  
12 or distribution on available Federal land adjacent to  
13 the National Highway System;

14 (3) the identification of Federal requirements  
15 for developing such facilities on available Federal  
16 land adjacent to the National Highway System, in-  
17 cluding any safety or environmental issues involved  
18 in developing such facilities and the steps required  
19 to mitigate such issues; and

20 (4) recommendations for a process for entities  
21 to apply to the Department of Transportation and  
22 the Department of Energy for a lease, an easement,  
23 or a joint-use agreement to build and operate such  
24 facilities on available Federal land adjacent to the

1 National Highway System for a term that is not  
2 shorter than the useful life of such facilities.

3 (d) NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this  
4 section, the term “National Highway System” means the  
5 Federal-aid highway system described in section 103(b) of  
6 title 23, United States Code.

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