

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8961

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on Federal agency use of renewable energy certificates.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2024

Ms. BROWNLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on Federal agency use of renewable energy certificates.

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
5 Certificate Study Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES STUDY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
8 United States shall conduct a study of the use of renew-
9 able energy certificates by Federal agencies.

1 (b) CONSIDERATION.—In conducting the study under
2 subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall evaluate—

3 (1) the extent to which the aggregate market
4 demand for each type of renewable energy certifi-
5 cate, or other energy attribute certificate, leads to
6 new investments in renewable energy generation ca-
7 pacity relative to scenarios in which such demand is
8 absent;

9 (2) the progress Federal agencies have made to-
10 wards complying with Executive Order 14057 (85
11 Fed. Reg 70935; relating to catalyzing clean energy
12 industries and jobs through Federal sustainability),
13 regarding the directives of such Executive Order for
14 energy procurement and compliance with existing
15 statutory requirements, by using—

16 (A) renewable energy certificates, including
17 the progress made by using each type of renew-
18 able energy certificate; and

19 (B) approaches other than renewable en-
20 ergy certificates;

21 (3) whether renewable energy certificates,
22 power purchase agreements, or onsite renewables,
23 could be used by Federal agencies to meet the re-
24 quirements of Executive Order 14057 and section
25 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.

1 15852), and the trade-offs of using one such form
2 of compliance over the others, including—

3 (A) the difference in the average cost of
4 each form of compliance to Federal agencies;
5 and

6 (B) the risk to Federal agencies of becom-
7 ing noncompliant with Executive Order 14057
8 and section 203 of the Energy Policy Act for
9 each form of compliance;

10 (4) the average cost Federal agencies have in-
11 curred by using renewable energy certificates to
12 fund—

13 (A) existing renewable energy projects; and

14 (B) new renewable energy projects that
15 otherwise would not have been implemented
16 without the sale of renewable energy certifi-
17 cates; and

18 (5) the average cost Federal agencies would
19 incur by only using renewable energy certificates,
20 power purchase agreements, or onsite renewables to
21 fund new renewable energy projects.

22 (c) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall submit
23 to Congress a report—

24 (1) detailing the findings of the study con-
25 ducted under subsection (a); and

1 (2) providing recommendations for legislation
2 and administrative action, the Comptroller General
3 considers appropriate, to improve the impact the re-
4 newable energy certificates market has on Federal
5 Government investments in renewable energy gen-
6 eration.

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