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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste, 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 “Economic Recovery
5 for Nuclear-Affected Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) communities throughout the United States,
9 including communities in the States of California,

1 Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Mary-
2 land, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Or-
3 egon, Vermont, and Wisconsin, are tasked with deal-
4 ing with stranded nuclear waste;

5 (2) communities affected by stranded nuclear
6 waste are de facto interim nuclear waste storage
7 sites;

8 (3) the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42
9 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.)—

10 (A) directed the Secretary of Energy to
11 make annual impact assistance payments to
12 States or appropriate units of local government
13 to mitigate the social and economic impacts of
14 the establishment and operation of interim nu-
15 clear waste storage capacity within the jurisdic-
16 tional boundaries of an affected community;
17 and

18 (B) established the rate for impact assist-
19 ance payments at \$15 per kilogram of spent
20 nuclear fuel;

21 (4) decommissioning a commercial nuclear
22 power plant is often catastrophic for the host com-
23 munity because nuclear power plants are major em-
24 ployers and the primary source of local tax revenue;

1 (5) stranded nuclear waste is a profound obsta-
2 cle to future economic growth, deterring potential
3 employers and residents from considering the host
4 community;

5 (6) stranded nuclear waste prevents economic
6 development in communities in which the stranded
7 nuclear waste is located;

8 (7) stranded nuclear waste prevents commu-
9 nities from redeveloping sites where nuclear power
10 plants previously operated which further inhibits tax
11 revenues; and

12 (8) it is critical to provide resources to commu-
13 nities that—

14 (A) are challenged by stranded nuclear
15 waste; or

16 (B) will be challenged by stranded nuclear
17 waste during the 10-year period beginning on
18 the date of enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Adminis-
22 trator” means the Administrator of the U.S. Eco-
23 nomic Development Administration.

24 (2) **ELIGIBLE CIVILIAN NUCLEAR POWER**
25 **PLANT.**—The term “eligible civilian nuclear power

1 plant” means a civilian nuclear power plant (as de-
2 fined in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act
3 of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101)) that—

4 (A) has been decommissioned; or

5 (B) is in the process of being decommis-
6 sioned.

7 (3) NUCLEAR AFFECTED COMMUNITY.—The
8 term “nuclear affected community” means a unit of
9 local government, including a county, city, town, vil-
10 lage, school district, or special district, that the Ad-
11 ministrator determines to contain stranded nuclear
12 waste within the jurisdictional boundary or contain
13 an eligible civilian nuclear power plant within the ju-
14 risdictional boundary of such locality.

15 (4) STRANDED NUCLEAR WASTE.—The term
16 “stranded nuclear waste” means nuclear waste or
17 spent nuclear fuel stored in dry casks or spent fuel
18 pools (as defined in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste
19 Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101)) at the site
20 of an eligible civilian nuclear power plant.

21 **SEC. 4. TAX INCENTIVES FOR AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.**

22 (a) FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER CREDIT.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 36 of the Internal
24 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

1 (A) by inserting “**for nuclear affected**
2 **communities**” after “**credit**” in the head-
3 ing;

4 (B) in subsection (a), by striking “in the
5 United States” and inserting “in a nuclear af-
6 fected community (as such term is defined in
7 section 3 of the Economic Recovery for Nu-
8 clear-Affected Communities Act)”;

9 (C) in subsection (b), by striking para-
10 graphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraph
11 (4) as paragraph (2); and

12 (D) by striking subsections (f), (g), and
13 (h).

14 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
15 tions for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of
16 chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking the
17 item relating to section 36 and inserting the fol-
18 lowing new item:

“Sec. 36. First-time homebuyer credit for nuclear affected communities.”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The amendments made by
20 subsection (a) shall apply to the purchase of a principal
21 residence after the date of the enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 5. INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS PRIZE COMPETITION.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
25 establish a competitive prize competition (referred to in

1 this section as the “prize competition”) to award prizes
2 to proposals for affected communities to carry out alter-
3 natives to nuclear facilities, generating sites, and waste
4 sites.

5 (b) PRIZE BOARD.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an
7 advisory board (referred to in this section as the
8 “Board”) to advise the Administrator on—

9 (A) the design and implementation of the
10 prize competition; and

11 (B) the development of the pilot project
12 under subsection (d).

13 (2) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be com-
14 posed of not fewer than 9 members appointed by the
15 Administrator—

16 (A) who shall provide expertise in—

17 (i) nuclear waste;

18 (ii) workforce issues;

19 (iii) technology development; and

20 (iv) economic development; and

21 (B) who may include representatives

22 from—

23 (i) The National Laboratories;

24 (ii) nonprofit organizations; and

25 (iii) institutions of higher education.

1 (c) AWARD AMOUNT.—An award under the prize
2 competition shall be in the amount of \$500,000.

3 (d) PILOT PROGRAM.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in con-
5 sultation with the Board, shall develop a pilot
6 project based on the proposal of the winner of the
7 prize competition.

8 (2) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available
9 under section 7, the Administrator may use
10 \$500,000 to carry out the pilot project under para-
11 graph (1).

12 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
13 on which a prize is awarded under the prize competition,
14 the Administrator shall submit to the relevant committees
15 of Congress a report that describes the winning proposal
16 of the prize competition.

17 **SEC. 6. ECONOMIC IMPACT GRANTS FOR AFFECTED COM-**
18 **MUNITIES.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
21 establish and carry out a noncompetitive grant program
22 to provide grants under either subsection (b) or subsection
23 (c) to nuclear-affected communities for the purpose of—

1 (1) offsetting the economic and social impacts
2 of stranded nuclear waste on affected communities;
3 and

4 (2) supporting such communities that are in the
5 process of decommissioning an eligible civilian nu-
6 clear power plant and that are facing decreased tax
7 revenues or assessed valuation as a result of such
8 decommissioning.

9 (b) AWARDS BASED ON STRANDED NUCLEAR
10 WASTE.—

11 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—A nuclear affected commu-
12 nity shall be eligible to receive a grant under this
13 section for a fiscal year.

14 (2) AWARDS.—

15 (A) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant
16 awarded under subsection (a) shall be equal to
17 \$15 for each kilogram of spent nuclear fuel
18 stored at the eligible civilian nuclear power
19 plant in the nuclear affected community, con-
20 sistent with the price paid per kilogram for im-
21 pact assistance outlined in the Nuclear Waste
22 Policy Act of 1982.

23 (B) NUMBER AND FREQUENCY.—With re-
24 spect to each eligible civilian nuclear power
25 plant, the Administrator shall request submis-

1 sions from affected nuclear communities and
2 may only award 1 grant under subsection (a) to
3 each eligible unit of local government for each
4 fiscal year.

5 (c) AWARDS BASED ON LOST TAX REVENUE.—

6 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive fi-
7 nancial assistance under this section, the affected
8 community shall submit to the Administrator an ap-
9 plication that includes documentation that the nu-
10 clear affected community has experienced, or is pre-
11 dicted to experience, during a calendar year begin-
12 ning after December 31, 2014, and ending before
13 January 1, 2026—

14 (A) a reduction of not less than 20 percent
15 in overall tax revenue received by such affected
16 community for such year compared with the av-
17 erage of such tax revenue for the previous 5
18 years; and

19 (B) a reduction in tax revenue attributable
20 to a nuclear power plant received by such af-
21 fected community for such year, compared with
22 the average of such tax revenue for the previous
23 5 years, that is not less than 20 percent of the
24 average for such previous 5 years of the overall
25 tax revenue received by such unit.

1 For purposes of this paragraph, the term “tax revenue”
2 includes any payment in lieu of taxes received
3 by an affected community.

4 (2) ASSISTANCE.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to amounts
6 made available in advance in appropriations
7 Acts, financial assistance provided under this
8 section to a nuclear affected community shall be
9 made with respect to each year of the 8-year
10 period beginning on the first day of the calendar
11 year described in paragraph (1).

12 (B) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—Subject to
13 amounts made available in advance in appropriations
14 Acts, financial assistance provided
15 under this section to a nuclear affected community
16 for a year of an 8-year period shall be
17 equal to the lesser of \$10,000,000 and—

18 (i) in the case of the first year of the
19 8-year period, 80 percent of the loss described
20 in paragraph (1)(B) with respect to
21 such unit;

22 (ii) in the case of the second year of
23 the 8-year period, 70 percent of such loss;

24 (iii) in the case of the third year of
25 the 8-year period, 60 percent of such loss;

1 (iv) in the case of the fourth year of
2 the 8-year period, 50 percent of such loss;

3 (v) in the case of the fifth year of the
4 8-year period, 40 percent of such loss;

5 (vi) in the case of the sixth year of
6 the 8-year period, 30 percent of such loss;

7 (vii) in the case of the seventh year of
8 the 8-year period, 20 percent of such loss;

9 and

10 (viii) in the case of the eighth year of
11 the 8-year period, 10 percent of such loss.

12 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
14 priated to carry out this Act \$110,000,000 for each of
15 fiscal years 2026 through 2031 and \$120,000,000 for
16 each of fiscal years 2032 through 2036.

17 (b) NO OFFSET.—None of the funds made available
18 under this section may be used to offset the funding for
19 any other Federal program.

20 (c) LIMITATION.—No nuclear affected community
21 may receive more than one grant per calendar year, and
22 cannot receive grants under both sections 6(b) and (c) in
23 the same calendar year.