

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3969

To improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2019

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CASE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, Energy and Commerce, Science, Space, and Technology, and Agriculture, 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 improve efforts to combat marine debris, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Save Our Seas 2.0 Act” or the “SOS 2.0 Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.

## TITLE I—ENHANCING THE DOMESTIC MARINE DEBRIS RESPONSE

### Subtitle A—Marine Debris Response Trust Fund

- Sec. 101. Marine Debris Response Trust Fund.

### Subtitle B—Marine Debris Foundation

- Sec. 111. Establishment and purposes of Foundation.
- Sec. 112. Board of Directors of the Foundation.
- Sec. 113. Rights and obligations of the Foundation.
- Sec. 114. Administrative services and support.
- Sec. 115. Volunteer status.
- Sec. 116. Report requirements; petition of attorney general for equitable relief.
- Sec. 117. United States release from liability.
- Sec. 118. Authorization of appropriations.

### Subtitle C—Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovations

- Sec. 121. Definitions.
- Sec. 122. Genius prize for Save Our Seas Innovations.
- Sec. 123. Save Our Seas Innovation Steering Committee.
- Sec. 124. Agreement with the marine debris foundation.
- Sec. 125. Judges.
- Sec. 126. Report to Congress.
- Sec. 127. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 128. Termination of authority.

### Subtitle D—Other Measures Relating to Combating Marine Debris

- Sec. 131. Prioritization of marine debris in existing innovation and entrepreneurship programs.
- Sec. 132. Expansion of derelict vessel recycling.
- Sec. 133. Incentive for fishermen to collect and dispose of plastic found at sea.
- Sec. 134. Amendments to Marine Debris Program.
- Sec. 135. Marine debris on National Forest System land.

### Subtitle E—Studies and Reports

- Sec. 141. Report on opportunities for innovative uses of plastic waste.
- Sec. 142. Report on microfiber pollution.
- Sec. 143. Study on United States plastic pollution data.
- Sec. 144. Report on minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.
- Sec. 145. Study on mass balance methodologies to certify circular polymers.

## TITLE II—ENHANCED GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS

- Sec. 201. Statement of policy on international cooperation to combat marine debris.
- Sec. 202. Prioritization of efforts and assistance to combat marine debris and improve plastic waste management.
- Sec. 203. United States leadership in international fora.

- Sec. 204. Enhancing international outreach and partnership of United States agencies involved in marine debris activities.
- Sec. 205. Negotiation of new international agreements.
- Sec. 206. Consideration of marine debris in negotiating international agreements.

TITLE III—IMPROVING DOMESTIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO  
PREVENT MARINE DEBRIS

- Sec. 301. Definitions.
- Sec. 302. Strategy for improving waste management, recycling, and water management.
- Sec. 303. Waste management State revolving funds.
- Sec. 304. Grant programs.
- Sec. 305. Study on repurposing plastic waste in infrastructure.
- Sec. 306. Study on options to advance technologies for converting plastic waste to chemicals, feedstocks, and other products.
- Sec. 307. Study on effects of microplastics in food supplies and sources of drinking water.
- Sec. 308. Report on eliminating barriers to increase the collection of recyclable materials.
- Sec. 309. Report on economic incentives to spur development of new end-use markets for recycled plastics.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) CIRCULAR ECONOMY.—The term “circular  
4 economy” means an economy that uses a systems-fo-  
5 cused approach and involves industrial processes and  
6 economic activities that—

7 (A) are restorative or regenerative by de-  
8 sign;

9 (B) enable resources used in such proc-  
10 esses and activities to maintain their highest  
11 values for as long as possible; and

12 (C) aim for the elimination of waste  
13 through the superior design of materials, prod-  
14 ucts, and systems (including business models).

1           (2) EPA ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “EPA  
2 Administrator” means the Administrator of the En-  
3 vironmental Protection Agency.

4           (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
5 has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in  
6 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
7 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

8           (4) MARINE DEBRIS.—The term “marine de-  
9 bris” has the meaning given that term in section 7  
10 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1956).

11           (5) MARINE DEBRIS EVENT.—The term “ma-  
12 rine debris event” means an event or related events  
13 that affects or may imminently affect the United  
14 States involving—

15                   (A) marine debris caused by a natural  
16 event, including a tsunami, flood, landslide,  
17 hurricane, or other natural source;

18                   (B) distinct, nonrecurring marine debris,  
19 including derelict vessel groundings and con-  
20 tainer spills, that have immediate or long-term  
21 impacts on habitats with high ecological, eco-  
22 nomic, or human-use values; or

23                   (C) marine debris caused by an intentional  
24 or grossly negligent act or acts that causes sub-  
25 stantial economic or environmental harm.

1           (6) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—The term “non-  
2 Federal funds” means funds provided by—

3           (A) a State;

4           (B) an Indian Tribe;

5           (C) a territory of the United States;

6           (D) one or more units of local governments  
7 or Tribal organizations (as defined in section 4  
8 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education  
9 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

10          (E) a private for-profit entity;

11          (F) a nonprofit organization; or

12          (G) a private individual.

13          (7) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
14 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that  
15 is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Rev-  
16 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under sec-  
17 tion 501(a) of such Code.

18          (8) STATE.—The term “State” means—

19          (A) a State;

20          (B) an Indian Tribe;

21          (C) the District of Columbia; and

22          (D) a territory or possession of the United  
23 States.

24          (9) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under  
25 Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce

1 for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of  
2 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
3 tion.

4 (10) WASTE MANAGEMENT.—The term “waste  
5 management” means the systems, operation, super-  
6 vision, and aftercare of processes and equipment  
7 used for waste—

8 (A) collection;

9 (B) transport;

10 (C) recovery;

11 (D) reuse;

12 (E) recycling; and

13 (F) safe disposal of waste when recovery,  
14 reuse, or recycling are not otherwise available.

15 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that—

17 (1) eliminating plastic waste from the oceans  
18 requires a multi-faceted approach, including waste  
19 reduction and prevention, reuse and recycling, and  
20 innovation;

21 (2) both domestic and international efforts are  
22 required to make progress in combating marine de-  
23bris;

24 (3) efforts by States, communities, and corpora-  
25tions to minimize the use of single-use plastic prod-

1       ucts have been successful in raising awareness of the  
2       marine debris issue; and

3               (4) while we make progress toward a more sus-  
4       tainable future, we must recognize that there is sig-  
5       nificant amount of plastic waste that has already  
6       been created that must be prevented from entering  
7       the oceans through recycling, reuse, repurposing,  
8       and other innovative means.

9       **TITLE I—ENHANCING THE DO-**  
10       **MESTIC MARINE DEBRIS RE-**  
11       **SPONSE**

12               **Subtitle A—Marine Debris**  
13               **Response Trust Fund**

14       **SEC. 101. MARINE DEBRIS RESPONSE TRUST FUND.**

15       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 98 of the  
16       Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at  
17       the end the following:

18       **“SEC. 9512. MARINE DEBRIS RESPONSE TRUST FUND.**

19               “(a) CREATION OF TRUST FUND.—There is estab-  
20       lished in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund  
21       to be known as the ‘Marine Debris Response Trust Fund’,  
22       consisting of such amounts as may be appropriated or  
23       credited to the Trust Fund as provided in this section.

24               “(b) PURPOSES OF TRUST FUND.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Marine De-  
2           bris Response Trust Fund shall be available for the  
3           National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
4           to respond to a marine debris event described in  
5           paragraph (2), which may include—

6                   “(A) monitoring, response, and prevention;

7                   “(B) providing funding to States, terri-  
8                   tories, Tribes, and other United States Govern-  
9                   ment and nongovernmental organizations sup-  
10                  porting prevention, cleanup, and response ef-  
11                  forts; or

12                  “(C) administrative costs relating to dis-  
13                  tributing amounts from the Trust Fund.

14           “(2) MARINE DEBRIS EVENT DESCRIBED.—A  
15           marine debris event described in this paragraph is  
16           an event that affects or may affect the United  
17           States involving—

18                   “(A) marine debris caused by a natural  
19                   event, including a tsunami, flood, landslide,  
20                   hurricane, or other natural source;

21                   “(B) distinct, nonrecurring marine debris,  
22                   including derelict vessel groundings and con-  
23                   tainer spills, that have immediate or long-term  
24                   impacts on habitats with high ecological, eco-  
25                   nomic, or human-use values; or



1           “(C) marine debris caused by an inten-  
2           tional or grossly negligent act or acts that  
3           causes substantial economic or environmental  
4           harm.

5           “(c) LIMITATIONS ON EXPENDITURES.—

6           “(1) MAXIMUM PER EVENT.—The maximum  
7           amount that may be paid from the Marine Debris  
8           Response Trust Fund with respect to any single  
9           event may not exceed \$100,000,000.

10          “(2) MINIMUM BALANCE.—A payment may be  
11          made from the Marine Debris Response Trust Fund  
12          only if the amount in the Trust Fund after the pay-  
13          ment will not be less than \$1,000,000.

14          “(3) MAXIMUM BALANCE.—Amounts in the Ma-  
15          rine Debris Response Trust Fund may not exceed  
16          \$500,000,000.

17          “(d) INITIAL FUNDING.—There are authorized to be  
18          appropriated to the Marine Debris Response Trust Fund  
19          \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 to establish the Trust  
20          Fund.

21          “(e) AUTHORITY TO BORROW.—

22          “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
23          appropriated to the Marine Debris Response Trust  
24          Fund, as repayable advances, such sums as may be

1 necessary to carry out the purposes of the Trust  
2 Fund.

3 “(2) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OUTSTANDING.—  
4 The maximum aggregate amount of repayable ad-  
5 vances to the Marine Debris Response Trust Fund  
6 outstanding at any one time may not exceed  
7 \$1,000,000.

8 “(3) REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Advances made to the  
10 Marine Debris Response Trust Fund shall be  
11 repaid, and interest on such advances shall be  
12 paid, to the general fund of the Treasury when  
13 the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with  
14 the Secretary of the Treasury, determines that  
15 amounts are available for such purposes in the  
16 Trust Fund.

17 “(B) FINAL REPAYMENT.—No advance  
18 may be made to the Marine Debris Response  
19 Trust Fund after September 30, 2035, and all  
20 advances to such Fund shall be repaid on or be-  
21 fore that date.

22 “(C) RATE OF INTEREST.—Interest on ad-  
23 vances made pursuant to this subsection shall  
24 be—

1           “(i) at a rate determined by the Sec-  
2           retary of the Treasury (as of the close of  
3           the calendar month preceding the month in  
4           which the advance is made) to be equal to  
5           the current average market yield on out-  
6           standing marketable obligations of the  
7           United States with remaining periods to  
8           maturity comparable to the anticipated pe-  
9           riod during which the advance will be out-  
10          standing, and

11           “(ii) compounded annually.

12          “(f) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the Ma-  
13          rine Debris Response Trust Fund shall—

14           “(1) be available without fiscal year limitation  
15           and without apportionment; and

16           “(2) shall supplement and not supplant other  
17           amounts available for responding to marine debris  
18           events.

19          “(g) INVESTMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury  
20          shall invest amounts in the Marine Debris Response Trust  
21          Fund in interest bearing obligations of the United States  
22          to the extent such amounts are not required to meet cur-  
23          rent withdrawals. Interest earned by such investments  
24          shall be credited to, and become a part of, the Trust Fund.

1       “(h) ADMINISTRATION.—The Under Secretary of  
2 Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere shall prescribe reg-  
3 ulations—

4           “(1) providing for a process for submitting a  
5 claim to the Marine Debris Response Trust Fund  
6 and for distributing amounts from the Trust Fund  
7 pursuant to those claims; and

8           “(2) providing guidance with respect to what  
9 constitutes an event for which amounts will be dis-  
10 tributed from the Trust Fund.

11       “(i) LIABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES LIMITED TO  
12 AMOUNT IN TRUST FUND.—

13           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any claim filed against the  
14 Marine Debris Response Trust Fund may be paid  
15 only out of the Trust Fund.

16           “(2) ORDER IN WHICH UNPAID CLAIMS ARE TO  
17 BE PAID.—If at any time the Marine Debris Re-  
18 sponse Trust Fund has insufficient funds to pay all  
19 of the claims out of the Trust Fund at such time,  
20 such claims shall, to the extent permitted under  
21 paragraph (1), be paid in full in the order in which  
22 they were finally determined.

23       “(j) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRUST  
24 FUND.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A gift, award, devise, or  
 2           bequest, and non-Federal amounts from legal judg-  
 3           ments or settlements may be accepted by the Marine  
 4           Debris Response Trust Fund without regard to  
 5           whether the gift, devise, or bequest is encumbered,  
 6           restricted, or subject to beneficial interests of private  
 7           persons if any current or future interest in the gift,  
 8           devise, or bequest is for the benefit of the Trust  
 9           Fund.

10           “(2) FOREIGN GIFTS.—Any gifts, awards, de-  
 11           vises, or bequests given to or received from a person  
 12           in a foreign country by or to the Marine Debris Re-  
 13           sponse Trust Fund shall be made only with the con-  
 14           currence of the Secretary of State, in consultation,  
 15           as appropriate, with the Administrator of the United  
 16           States Agency for International Development.”.

17           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
 18           for subchapter A of chapter 98 of such Code is amended  
 19           by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 9512. Marine Debris Response Trust Fund.”.

20                           **Subtitle B—Marine Debris**  
 21   **Foundation**

22           **SEC. 111. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES OF FOUNDA-**  
 23   **TION.**

24           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Ma-  
 25           rine Debris Foundation (in this subtitle referred to as the

1 “Foundation”). The Foundation is a charitable and non-  
2 profit organization and is not an agency or establishment  
3 of the United States.

4 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Foundation  
5 are—

6 (1) to encourage, accept, and administer private  
7 gifts of property for the benefit of, or in connection  
8 with, the activities and services of the National Oce-  
9 anic and Atmospheric Administration under the Ma-  
10 rine Debris Program established under section 3 of  
11 the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952), and other  
12 relevant programs and agencies;

13 (2) to undertake and conduct such other activi-  
14 ties as will further the efforts of the National Oce-  
15 anic and Atmospheric Administration to assess, pre-  
16 vent, reduce, and remove marine debris and address  
17 the adverse impacts of marine debris on the economy  
18 of the United States, the marine environment, and  
19 navigation safety;

20 (3) to participate with, and otherwise assist,  
21 State, local, and Tribal governments, foreign govern-  
22 ments, entities, and individuals in undertaking and  
23 conducting activities to assess, prevent, reduce, and  
24 remove marine debris and address the adverse im-  
25 pacts of marine debris and its root causes on the

1 economy of the United States, the marine environ-  
2 ment (including waters in the jurisdiction of the  
3 United States, the high seas, and waters in the ju-  
4 risdiction of other countries), and navigation safety;  
5 and

6 (4) to support other Federal actions to reduce  
7 marine debris.

8 **SEC. 112. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FOUNDATION.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall have a  
11 governing Board of Directors (in this subtitle re-  
12 ferred to as the “Board”), which shall consist of the  
13 Under Secretary and 12 additional Directors ap-  
14 pointed in accordance with subsection (b) from  
15 among individuals who are United States citizens.

16 (2) REPRESENTATION OF DIVERSE POINTS OF  
17 VIEW.—To the maximum extent practicable, the  
18 membership of the Board shall represent diverse  
19 points of view relating to the assessment, prevention,  
20 reduction, and removal of marine debris.

21 (3) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Appointment  
22 as a Director of the Foundation shall not constitute  
23 employment by, or the holding of an office of, the  
24 United States for the purpose of any Federal law.

25 (b) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—

1           (1) APPOINTMENT.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
2           after consulting with the EPA Administrator, the  
3           Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife  
4           Service, the Assistant Secretary of State for the Bu-  
5           reau of Oceans and International Environmental and  
6           Scientific Affairs, and the Administrator of the  
7           United States Agency for International Develop-  
8           ment, and considering the recommendations sub-  
9           mitted by the Board, the Under Secretary shall ap-  
10          point 12 Directors who meet the criteria established  
11          by subsection (a), of whom—

12                   (A) at least 4 shall be educated or experi-  
13                   enced in the assessment, prevention, reduction,  
14                   or removal of marine debris, which may include  
15                   an individual with expertise in waste manage-  
16                   ment, recycling, reuse, or a circular economy;

17                   (B) at least 2 shall be educated or experi-  
18                   enced in the assessment, prevention, reduction,  
19                   or removal of marine debris outside the United  
20                   States;

21                   (C) at least 2 shall be educated or experi-  
22                   enced in ocean and coastal resource conserva-  
23                   tion science or policy; and

24                   (D) at least 2 shall be educated or experi-  
25                   enced in international trade or foreign policy.



1 (2) TERMS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
3 graph (B), each Director (other than the Under  
4 Secretary) shall be appointed for a term of 6  
5 years.

6 (B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO NEW MEM-  
7 BER POSITIONS.—Of the Directors appointed by  
8 the Under Secretary under paragraph (1), the  
9 Secretary shall appoint, not later than 180 days  
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act—

11 (i) four Directors for a term of 6  
12 years;

13 (ii) four Directors for a term of 4  
14 years; and

15 (iii) four Directors for a term of 2  
16 years.

17 (3) VACANCIES.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary  
19 shall fill a vacancy on the Board.

20 (B) TERM OF APPOINTMENTS TO FILL UN-  
21 EXPIRED TERMS.—An individual appointed to  
22 fill a vacancy that occurs before the expiration  
23 of the term of a Director shall be appointed for  
24 the remainder of the term.

1           (4) REAPPOINTMENT.—An individual (other  
2 than an individual described in paragraph (1)) shall  
3 not serve more than 2 consecutive terms as a Direc-  
4 tor, excluding any term of less than 6 years.

5           (5) REQUEST FOR REMOVAL.—The executive  
6 committee of the Board may submit to the Under  
7 Secretary a letter describing the nonperformance of  
8 a Director and requesting the removal of the Direc-  
9 tor from the Board.

10          (6) CONSULTATION BEFORE REMOVAL.—Before  
11 removing any Director from the Board, the Under  
12 Secretary shall consult with the Assistant Secretary  
13 of State for the Bureau of Oceans and International  
14 Environmental and Scientific Affairs, the Director of  
15 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the  
16 EPA Administrator.

17          (c) CHAIRMAN.—The Chairman shall be elected by  
18 the Board from its members for a 2-year term.

19          (d) QUORUM.—A majority of the current membership  
20 of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction  
21 of business.

22          (e) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at the call of  
23 the Chairman at least once a year. If a Director misses  
24 3 consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, that individual

1 may be removed from the Board and that vacancy filled  
2 in accordance with subsection (b).

3 (f) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—Members of  
4 the Board shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed  
5 for the actual and necessary traveling and subsistence ex-  
6 penses incurred by them in the performance of the duties  
7 of the Foundation.

8 (g) GENERAL POWERS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may complete  
10 the organization of the Foundation by—

11 (A) appointing officers and employees;

12 (B) adopting a constitution and bylaws  
13 consistent with the purposes of the Foundation  
14 and the provisions of this subtitle; and

15 (C) undertaking of other such acts as may  
16 be necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
17 subtitle.

18 (2) LIMITATIONS ON APPOINTMENT.—The fol-  
19 lowing limitations apply with respect to the appoint-  
20 ment of officers and employees of the Foundation:

21 (A) Officers and employees may not be ap-  
22 pointed until the Foundation has sufficient  
23 funds to pay them for their service. Officers  
24 and employees of the Foundation shall be ap-  
25 pointed without regard to the provisions of title

1           5, United States Code, governing appointments  
2           in the competitive service, and may be paid  
3           without regard to the provisions of chapter 51  
4           and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title  
5           relating to classification and General Schedule  
6           pay rates.

7           (B) The first officer or employee appointed  
8           by the Board shall be the Secretary of the  
9           Board who—

10                   (i) shall serve, at the direction of the  
11                   Board, as its chief operating officer; and

12                   (ii) shall be knowledgeable and experi-  
13                   enced in matters relating to the assess-  
14                   ment, prevention, reduction, and removal  
15                   of marine debris.

16 **SEC. 113. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE FOUNDATION.**

17           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation—

18                   (1) shall have perpetual succession;

19                   (2) may conduct business throughout the sev-  
20                   eral States, territories, and possessions of the  
21                   United States and abroad;

22                   (3) shall have its principal offices in the Dis-  
23                   trict of Columbia or in a county in the State of  
24                   Maryland or Virginia that borders on the District of  
25                   Columbia; and

1           (4) shall at all times maintain a designated  
2           agent authorized to accept service of process for the  
3           Foundation.

4           (b) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—The serving of notice to,  
5           or service of process upon, the agent required under sub-  
6           section (a)(4), or mailed to the business address of such  
7           agent, shall be deemed as service upon or notice to the  
8           Foundation.

9           (c) SEAL.—The Foundation shall have an official seal  
10          selected by the Board which shall be judicially noticed.

11          (d) POWERS.—

12               (1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out its purposes  
13               under section 111, the Foundation shall have, in ad-  
14               dition to the powers otherwise given it under this  
15               subtitle, the usual powers of a corporation acting as  
16               a trustee in the District of Columbia, including the  
17               power—

18                       (A) to accept, receive, solicit, hold, admin-  
19                       ister, and use any gift, devise, or bequest, either  
20                       absolutely or in trust, of real or personal prop-  
21                       erty or any income therefrom or other interest  
22                       therein;

23                       (B) to acquire by purchase or exchange  
24                       any real or personal property or interest there-  
25                       in;

1 (C) to invest any funds provided to the  
2 Foundation by the Federal Government in obli-  
3 gations of the United States or in obligations or  
4 securities that are guaranteed or insured by the  
5 United States;

6 (D) to deposit any funds provided to the  
7 Foundation by the Federal Government into ac-  
8 counts that are insured by an agency or instru-  
9 mentality of the United States;

10 (E) to make use of any interest or invest-  
11 ment income that accrues as a consequence of  
12 actions taken under subparagraph (C) or (D) to  
13 carry out the purposes of the Foundation;

14 (F) to use Federal funds to make pay-  
15 ments under cooperative agreements to provide  
16 substantial long-term benefits for the assess-  
17 ment, prevention, reduction, and removal of ma-  
18 rine debris;

19 (G) unless otherwise required by the in-  
20 strument of transfer, to sell, donate, lease, in-  
21 vest, reinvest, retain or otherwise dispose of any  
22 property or income therefrom;

23 (H) to borrow money and issue bonds, de-  
24 bentures, or other debt instruments;

1 (I) to sue and be sued, and complain and  
2 defend itself in any court of competent jurisdic-  
3 tion, except that the Directors of the Founda-  
4 tion shall not be personally liable, except for  
5 gross negligence;

6 (J) to enter into contracts or other ar-  
7 rangements with, or provide financial assistance  
8 to, public agencies and private organizations  
9 and persons and to make such payments as  
10 may be necessary to carry out its functions; and

11 (K) to do any and all acts necessary and  
12 proper to carry out the purposes of the Founda-  
13 tion.

14 (2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
15 FUND.—A gift, devise, or bequest may be accepted  
16 by the Foundation without regard to whether the  
17 gift, devise, or bequest is encumbered, restricted, or  
18 subject to beneficial interests of private persons if  
19 any current or future interest in the gift, devise, or  
20 bequest is for the benefit of the Foundation.

21 (e) NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—The  
22 Foundation may not make a grant of Federal funds in  
23 an amount greater than \$100,000 unless, by not later  
24 than 15 days before the grant is made, the Foundation  
25 provides notice of the grant to the Member of Congress

1 for the congressional district in which the project to be  
2 funded with the grant will be carried out.

3 (f) COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS.—

4 Any efforts of the Foundation carried out in a foreign  
5 country, and any grants provided to an individual or entity  
6 in a foreign country, shall be made only with the concur-  
7 rence of the Secretary of State, in consultation, as appro-  
8 priate, with the Administrator of the United States Agen-  
9 cy for International Development.

10 (g) CONSULTATION WITH NOAA.—The Foundation

11 shall consult with the Under Secretary during the plan-  
12 ning of any restoration or remediation action using funds  
13 resulting from judgments or settlements relating to the  
14 damage to trust resources of the National Oceanic and  
15 Atmospheric Administration.

16 **SEC. 114. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND SUPPORT.**

17 (a) PROVISION OF SERVICES.—The Under Secretary

18 may provide personnel, facilities, and other administrative  
19 services to the Foundation, including reimbursement of  
20 expenses, not to exceed the current Federal Government  
21 per diem rates, for a period of up to 5 years beginning  
22 on the date of the enactment of this Act.

23 (b) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Foundation may reim-

24 burse the Under Secretary for any administrative service  
25 provided under subsection (a). The Under Secretary shall



1 deposit any reimbursement received under this subsection  
2 into the Treasury to the credit of the appropriations then  
3 current and chargeable for the cost of providing such serv-  
4 ices.

5 **SEC. 115. VOLUNTEER STATUS.**

6 The Secretary of Commerce may accept, without re-  
7 gard to the civil service classification laws, rules, or regu-  
8 lations, the services of the Foundation, the Board, and  
9 the officers and employees of the Board, without com-  
10 pensation from the Department of Commerce, as volun-  
11 teers in the performance of the functions authorized in  
12 this subtitle.

13 **SEC. 116. REPORT REQUIREMENTS; PETITION OF ATTOR-**  
14 **NEY GENERAL FOR EQUITABLE RELIEF.**

15 (a) REPORT.—The Foundation shall, as soon as prac-  
16 ticable after the end of each fiscal year, transmit to the  
17 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of  
18 the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and  
19 the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House  
20 of Representatives a report—

21 (1) describing the proceedings and activities of  
22 the Foundation during that fiscal year, including a  
23 full and complete statement of its receipts, expendi-  
24 tures, and investments; and

1           (2) including a detailed statement of the recipi-  
2           ent, amount, and purpose of each grant made by the  
3           Foundation in the fiscal year.

4           (b) RELIEF WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FOUNDA-  
5           TION ACTS OR FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Foundation—

6           (1) engages in, or threatens to engage in, any  
7           act, practice, or policy that is inconsistent with its  
8           purposes set forth in section 111(b); or

9           (2) refuses, fails, or neglects to discharge its  
10          obligations under this subtitle, or threatens to do so,  
11          the Attorney General may petition in the United States  
12          District Court for the District of Columbia for such equi-  
13          table relief as may be necessary or appropriate.

14       **SEC. 117. UNITED STATES RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.**

15          The United States shall not be liable for any debts,  
16          defaults, acts, or omissions of the Foundation nor shall  
17          the full faith and credit of the United States extend to  
18          any obligation of the Foundation.

19       **SEC. 118. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20          (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21           (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
22           appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce such  
23           sums as may be necessary to carry out this subtitle  
24           for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025.

1           (2) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Subject to  
2 paragraph (3), amounts made available under para-  
3 graph (1) shall be provided to the Foundation to  
4 match contributions (whether in currency, services,  
5 or property) made to the Foundation, or to a recipi-  
6 ent of a grant provided by the Foundation, by pri-  
7 vate persons and State and local government agen-  
8 cies.

9           (3) PROHIBITION ON USE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE  
10 EXPENSES.—

11           (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
12 subparagraph (B), no Federal funds made  
13 available under paragraph (1) may be used by  
14 the Foundation for administrative expenses of  
15 the Foundation, including for salaries, travel  
16 and transportation expenses, and other over-  
17 head expenses.

18           (B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may  
19 allow the use of Federal funds made available  
20 under paragraph (1) to pay for salaries during  
21 the 18-month period beginning on the date of  
22 the enactment of this Act.

23 (b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION.—

24           (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts  
25 authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a),

1 the Foundation may accept Federal funds from a  
2 Federal agency under any other Federal law for use  
3 by the Foundation to further the assessment, pre-  
4 vention, reduction, and removal of marine debris in  
5 accordance with the requirements of this subtitle.

6 (2) USE OF FUNDS ACCEPTED FROM FEDERAL  
7 AGENCIES.—Federal funds provided to the Founda-  
8 tion under paragraph (1) shall be used by the Foun-  
9 dation for matching, in whole or in part, contribu-  
10 tions (whether in currency, services, or property)  
11 made to the Foundation by private persons and  
12 State and local government agencies.

13 (c) PROHIBITION ON USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS FOR  
14 LITIGATION AND LOBBYING EXPENSES.—Amounts pro-  
15 vided as a grant by the Foundation shall not be used for—

16 (1) any expense related to litigation consistent  
17 with Federal-wide cost principles; or

18 (2) any activity the purpose of which is to influ-  
19 ence legislation pending before Congress consistent  
20 with Federal-wide cost principles.

21 **Subtitle C—Genius Prize for Save**  
22 **Our Seas Innovations**

23 **SEC. 121. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this subtitle:

1           (1) PRIZE COMPETITION.—The term “prize  
2           competition” means the competition for the award of  
3           the Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovations es-  
4           tablished under section 122.

5           (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
6           the Secretary of Commerce.

7 **SEC. 122. GENIUS PRIZE FOR SAVE OUR SEAS INNOVA-**  
8 **TIONS.**

9           (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
10          date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
11          tablish under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Tech-  
12          nology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) a prize  
13          competition—

14                 (1) to encourage technological innovation with  
15                 the potential to reduce plastic waste and thereby  
16                 prevent marine debris; and

17                 (2) to award 1 or more prizes biennially for  
18                 projects that advance human understanding and in-  
19                 novation in removing and preventing plastic waste,  
20                 including—

21                         (A) advancements in materials used in  
22                         packaging and other products that, if such  
23                         products enter the coastal or ocean environ-  
24                         ment, will fully degrade without harming the  
25                         environment, wildlife, or human health;

1 (B) innovations in production and pack-  
2 aging design that reduce the use of raw mate-  
3 rials, increase recycled content, encourage  
4 reusability and recyclability, and promote a cir-  
5 cular economy;

6 (C) improvements in marine debris detec-  
7 tion, monitoring, and cleanup technologies and  
8 processes;

9 (D) technological improvements or im-  
10 proved strategies to increase solid waste collec-  
11 tion, processing, sorting, recycling, reuse, or  
12 repurposing; and

13 (E) new designs or strategies to reduce  
14 overall packaging needs.

15 (b) DESIGNATION.—The prize competition estab-  
16 lished under subsection (a) shall be known as the “Genius  
17 Prize for Save Our Seas Innovations”.

18 (c) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting awards for the  
19 prize competition, priority shall be given to projects that—

20 (1) have a strategy, submitted with the applica-  
21 tion or proposal, to move the new technology, proc-  
22 ess, design, material, or other product supported by  
23 the prize to market-scale deployment;

24 (2) support the concept of a circular economy;  
25 and

1 (3) promote development of materials that—

2 (A) can fully degrade in the ocean without  
3 harming the environment, wildlife, or human  
4 health; and

5 (B) are to be used in fishing gear or other  
6 maritime products that have an increased likeli-  
7 hood of entering the coastal or ocean environ-  
8 ment as unintentional waste.

9 **SEC. 123. SAVE OUR SEAS INNOVATION STEERING COM-**  
10 **MITTEE.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
12 a steering committee, to be known as the “Save Our Seas  
13 Innovation Steering Committee” (in this subtitle referred  
14 as the “Committee”) to provide expert advice and rec-  
15 ommendations in the establishment of the prize competi-  
16 tion, selection of awardees, and analysis of the successes  
17 of the prize competition.

18 (b) DUTIES.—Subject to subsection (d), with respect  
19 to the prize competition, the Committee shall—

20 (1) select a topic;

21 (2) issue a problem statement; and

22 (3) advise the Secretary on any opportunity for  
23 market-scale development of technological innovation  
24 to prevent marine plastic debris and promote the de-  
25 velopment of materials that fully degrade in ocean

1 and coastal environments without harming the envi-  
2 ronment, wildlife, or human health.

3 (c) COMPETITION JUDGES.—A member of the Com-  
4 mittee may serve as a judge for the prize competition  
5 under section 125.

6 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE COST REDUCTION.—The Com-  
7 mittee shall, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize  
8 the administrative costs of the Committee, including by  
9 encouraging remote participation to reduce travel costs.

10 (e) CONSULTATION.—In selecting a topic and issuing  
11 a problem statement for the prize competition under sub-  
12 paragraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1), respectively,  
13 the Committee shall consult widely with Federal and non-  
14 Federal stakeholders, including—

15 (1) 1 or more Federal agencies with jurisdiction  
16 over the prevention of marine debris or the pro-  
17 motion of innovative materials;

18 (2) 1 or more State agencies with jurisdiction  
19 over the prevention of marine debris or the pro-  
20 motion of innovative materials;

21 (3) 1 or more State, regional, or local conserva-  
22 tion or waste management organizations, the mis-  
23 sion of which relates to the prevention of marine de-  
24bris or the promotion of innovative materials;



1           (4) 1 or more conservation groups, technology  
2 companies, research institutions, institutions of high-  
3 er education, industry associations, or individual  
4 stakeholders with an interest in the prevention of  
5 marine debris or the promotion of innovative mate-  
6 rials;

7           (5) 1 or more experts in the area of standards  
8 development regarding the degradation, breakdown,  
9 or recycling of polymers; and

10          (6) experts in the following areas:

11           (A) Polymer chemistry.

12           (B) Wildlife conservation and management.

13           (C) Marine biology or animal science.

14           (D) Waste management.

15           (E) Technology development.

16           (F) Engineering.

17           (G) Lifecycle assessment.

18           (H) Economics.

19           (I) Recycling.

20           (J) Business development and manage-  
21 ment.

22           (K) Marine environmental chemistry.

23           (L) Any other discipline that the Secretary  
24 determines to be necessary to achieve the pur-  
25 poses of this subtitle.

1 (f) NONAPPLICABILITY OF THE FEDERAL ADVISORY  
2 COMMITTEE ACT.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Advisory Com-  
4 mittee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply with re-  
5 spect to the Committee.

6 (2) APPLICABILITY OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE  
7 REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1),  
8 section 208(b)(3) of title 18, United States Code,  
9 shall apply with respect to Government employees  
10 serving on the Committee.

11 **SEC. 124. AGREEMENT WITH THE MARINE DEBRIS FOUNDA-**  
12 **TION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer to enter  
14 into an agreement, which may include a grant or coopera-  
15 tive agreement, under which the Marine Debris Founda-  
16 tion established under subtitle B shall administer the prize  
17 competition.

18 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—An agreement entered into  
19 under subsection (a) shall comply with the following re-  
20 quirements:

21 (1) DUTIES.—The Marine Debris Foundation  
22 shall—

23 (A) advertise the prize competition;

24 (B) solicit prize competition participants;

1 (C) administer funds relating to the prize  
2 competition;

3 (D) receive Federal and non-Federal  
4 funds—

5 (i) to administer the prize competi-  
6 tion; and

7 (ii) to award a cash prize;

8 (E) carry out activities to generate con-  
9 tributions of non-Federal funds to offset, in  
10 whole or in part—

11 (i) the administrative costs of the  
12 prize competition; and

13 (ii) the costs of a cash prize;

14 (F) in consultation with, and subject to  
15 final approval by, the Secretary, develop criteria  
16 for the selection of prize competition winners;

17 (G) provide advice and consultation to the  
18 Secretary on the selection of judges under sec-  
19 tion 125 based on criteria developed in con-  
20 sultation with, and subject to the final approval  
21 of, the Secretary;

22 (H) announce 1 or more annual winners of  
23 the prize competition;

1 (I) subject to paragraph (2), award 1 or  
2 more cash prizes biennially of not less than  
3 \$100,000; and

4 (J) protect against unauthorized use or  
5 disclosure by the Marine Debris Foundation of  
6 any trade secret or confidential business infor-  
7 mation of a prize competition participant.

8 (2) ADDITIONAL CASH PRIZES.—The Marine  
9 Debris Foundation may award more than 1 cash  
10 prize in a year—

11 (A) if the initial cash prize referred to in  
12 paragraph (1)(I) and any additional cash prizes  
13 are awarded using only non-Federal funds; and

14 (B) consisting of an amount determined by  
15 the Under Secretary after the Secretary is noti-  
16 fied by the Marine Debris Foundation that non-  
17 Federal funds are available for an additional  
18 cash prize.

19 (3) SOLICITATION OF FUNDS.—The Marine De-  
20bris Foundation—

21 (A) may request and accept Federal funds  
22 and non-Federal funds for a cash prize or ad-  
23 ministration of the prize competition;

1           (B) may accept a contribution for a cash  
2           prize in exchange for the right to name the  
3           prize; and

4           (C) shall not give special consideration to  
5           any Federal agency or non-Federal entity in ex-  
6           change for a donation for a cash prize awarded  
7           under this section.

8 **SEC. 125. JUDGES.**

9           (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall appoint not  
10 fewer than 3 judges who shall, except as provided in sub-  
11 section (b), select the 1 or more annual winners of the  
12 prize competition.

13           (b) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—The  
14 judges appointed under subsection (a) shall not select any  
15 annual winner of the prize competition if the Secretary  
16 makes a determination that, in any fiscal year, none of  
17 the technological advancements entered into the prize  
18 competition merits an award.

19 **SEC. 126. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

20           Not later than 60 days after the date on which a cash  
21 prize is awarded under this subtitle, the Secretary shall  
22 submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
23 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-  
24 ural Resources of the House of Representatives a report  
25 on the prize competition that includes—

1           (1) a statement by the Committee that de-  
2           scribes the activities carried out by the Committee  
3           relating to the duties described in section 123;

4           (2) if the Secretary has entered into an agree-  
5           ment under section 124, a statement by the Marine  
6           Debris Foundation that describes the activities car-  
7           ried out by the Marine Debris Foundation relating  
8           to the duties described in section 123; and

9           (3) a statement by 1 or more of the judges ap-  
10          pointed under section 125 that explains the basis on  
11          which the winner of the cash prize was selected.

12 **SEC. 127. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13          (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There are authorized to be ap-  
14          propriated such sums as may be necessary for expenses,  
15          including administrative expenses, relating to the prize  
16          competition.

17          (b) **REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.**—Members of  
18          the Committee and judges appointed under section 125  
19          shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for the  
20          actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses.

21 **SEC. 128. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

22          The prize program will terminate after 5 prize com-  
23          petition cycles have been completed.

1 **Subtitle D—Other Measures Relat-**  
2 **ing to Combating Marine Debris**

3 **SEC. 131. PRIORITIZATION OF MARINE DEBRIS IN EXISTING**  
4 **INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PRO-**  
5 **GRAMS.**

6 The Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Energy,  
7 the EPA Administrator, and the heads of other relevant  
8 Federal agencies, shall prioritize efforts to combat marine  
9 debris in innovation and entrepreneurship programs estab-  
10 lished before the date of the enactment of this Act, includ-  
11 ing by using such programs to increase innovation in and  
12 the effectiveness of waste management, monitoring, detec-  
13 tion, data-sharing related to the prevalence and location  
14 of marine debris, demand for recycled content, alternative  
15 uses for plastic waste, product design, reduction of dispos-  
16 able plastic consumer products and packaging, ocean bio-  
17 degradable materials development, waste prevention, and  
18 cleanup.

19 **SEC. 132. EXPANSION OF DERELICT VESSEL RECYCLING.**

20 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
21 of this Act, the Under Secretary and the EPA Adminis-  
22 trator shall jointly conduct a study to determine the feasi-  
23 bility of developing a nationwide derelict vessel recycling  
24 program—

1           (1) using as a model the fiberglass boat recycling program from the pilot project in Rhode Island  
2           led by Rhode Island Sea Grant and its partners; and

3           (2) including, if possible, recycling of vessels  
4           made from materials other than fiberglass.  
5

6 **SEC. 133. INCENTIVE FOR FISHERMEN TO COLLECT AND**  
7 **DISPOSE OF PLASTIC FOUND AT SEA.**

8           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary shall establish a pilot program to assess the feasibility and  
9           advisability of providing incentives, such as grants, to fishermen based in the United States who incidentally capture  
10          marine debris while at sea—  
11

12           (1) to track or keep the debris on board; and

13           (2) to dispose of the debris properly on land.  
14

15           (b) **SUPPORT FOR COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF DERELICT GEAR.**—The Under Secretary shall encourage  
16           United States efforts, such as the Fishing for Energy net disposal program, that support—  
17

18           (1) collection and removal of derelict fishing gear and other fishing waste;  
19

20           (2) disposal or recycling of such gear and waste; and  
21

22           (3) prevention of the loss of such gear.  
23



1 **SEC. 134. AMENDMENTS TO MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
3 9(a) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958(a)) is  
4 amended by—

5 (1) striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting  
6 “\$15,000,000”; and

7 (2) striking “5 percent” and inserting “7 per-  
8 cent”.

9 (b) ENHANCEMENT OF PURPOSE.—Section 2 of the  
10 Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1951) is amended by strik-  
11 ing “marine environment,” and inserting “marine environ-  
12 ment (including waters in the jurisdiction of the United  
13 States, the high seas, and waters in the jurisdiction of  
14 other countries),”.

15 **SEC. 135. MARINE DEBRIS ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**  
16 **LAND.**

17 (a) SPECIAL-USE AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary  
18 of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Sec-  
19 retary”) shall not require a volunteer organization to ob-  
20 tain a special-use authorization for the removal of any ma-  
21 rine debris being stored on National Forest System land.

22 (b) TEMPORARY STORAGE.—Marine debris may be  
23 stored on National Forest System land in a location deter-  
24 mined by the Secretary for not more than 60 days.

25 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—Except as otherwise provided  
26 in this section, any activities related to the removal of ma-

1 rine debris from National Forest System land shall be con-  
2 ducted in a manner consistent with applicable law and reg-  
3 ulations and subject to such reasonable terms and condi-  
4 tions as the Secretary may require.

## 5 **Subtitle E—Studies and Reports**

### 6 **SEC. 141. REPORT ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATIVE** 7 **USES OF PLASTIC WASTE.**

8 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-  
9 ment of this Act, the Marine Debris Coordinating Com-  
10 mittee established under section 5 of the Marine Debris  
11 Act (33 U.S.C. 1954) (in this subtitle referred to as the  
12 “Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee”)  
13 shall submit to Congress a report on innovative uses for  
14 plastic waste other than in infrastructure.

### 15 **SEC. 142. REPORT ON MICROFIBER POLLUTION.**

16 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-  
17 ment of this Act, the Interagency Marine Debris Coordi-  
18 nating Committee shall submit to Congress a report on  
19 microfiber pollution that includes—

20 (1) a definition for “microfiber”;

21 (2) an assessment of the sources, prevalence,  
22 and causes of microfiber pollution;

23 (3) a recommendation for a standardized meth-  
24 odology to measure and estimate the prevalence of  
25 microfiber pollution;

1           (4) recommendations for reducing microfiber  
2           pollution; and

3           (5) a plan for how Federal agencies, in partner-  
4           ship with other stakeholders, can lead on opportuni-  
5           ties to reduce microfiber pollution during the 5-year  
6           period beginning on such date of enactment.

7 **SEC. 143. STUDY ON UNITED STATES PLASTIC POLLUTION**

8           **DATA.**

9           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary, in consulta-  
10          tion with the EPA Administrator, shall seek to enter into  
11          an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences,  
12          Engineering, and Medicine under which the National  
13          Academies will undertake a multifaceted study that in-  
14          cludes the following:

15                 (1) An evaluation of United States contribu-  
16                 tions to global ocean plastic waste, including types,  
17                 sources, and geographic variations.

18                 (2) An assessment of the prevalence of marine  
19                 debris and mismanaged plastic waste in saltwater  
20                 and freshwater United States waterways.

21          (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the  
22          date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary  
23          shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted  
24          under subsection (a) that includes—

25                 (1) the findings of the National Academies;

1           (2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that  
2           warrant further scientific inquiry; and

3           (3) recommendations on the potential value of  
4           a national marine debris tracking and monitoring  
5           system and how such a system might be designed  
6           and implemented.

7   **SEC. 144. REPORT ON MINIMIZING THE CREATION OF NEW**  
8                                   **PLASTIC WASTE.**

9           Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-  
10          ment of this Act, the Interagency Marine Debris Coordi-  
11          nating Committee shall submit to Congress a report on  
12          minimizing the creation of new plastic waste.

13   **SEC. 145. STUDY ON MASS BALANCE METHODOLOGIES TO**  
14                                   **CERTIFY CIRCULAR POLYMERS.**

15          (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Institute of Stand-  
16          ards and Technology shall conduct a study of available  
17          mass balance methodologies that are or could be readily  
18          standardized to certify circular polymers.

19          (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
20          of enactment of this Act, the Institute shall submit to Con-  
21          gress a report on the study conducted under subsection  
22          (a) that includes—

23                 (1) an identification and assessment of existing  
24                 mass balance methodologies, standards, and certifi-  
25                 cation systems that are or may be applicable to sup-

1 ply chain sustainability of polymers, considering the  
2 full life cycle of the polymer, and including an exam-  
3 ination of—

4 (A) the International Sustainability and  
5 Carbon Certification; and

6 (B) the Roundtable on Sustainable Bio-  
7 materials; and

8 (2) an assessment of any legal or regulatory  
9 barriers to developing a standard and certification  
10 system for circular polymers.

11 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) CIRCULAR POLYMERS.—The term “circular  
13 polymers” means polymers that can be reused mul-  
14 tiple times or converted into a new, higher-quality  
15 product.

16 (2) MASS BALANCE METHODOLOGY.—The term  
17 “mass balance methodology” means the method of  
18 chain of custody accounting designed to track the  
19 exact total amount of certain content in products or  
20 materials through the production system and to en-  
21 sure an appropriate allocation of this content in the  
22 finished goods based on auditable bookkeeping.

1 **TITLE II—ENHANCED GLOBAL**  
2 **ENGAGEMENT TO COMBAT**  
3 **MARINE DEBRIS**

4 **SEC. 201. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL CO-**  
5 **OPERATION TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS.**

6 It is the policy of the United States to partner, con-  
7 sult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the na-  
8 tional and subnational levels), civil society, international  
9 organizations, international financial institutions, sub-  
10 national coastal communities, commercial and recreational  
11 fishing industry leaders, and the private sector, in a con-  
12 certed effort—

13 (1) to increase knowledge and raise awareness  
14 about—

15 (A) the linkages between the sources of  
16 plastic waste, mismanaged waste, and marine  
17 debris; and

18 (B) the upstream and downstream causes  
19 and effects of plastic waste, mismanaged waste,  
20 and marine debris on marine environments, ma-  
21 rine wildlife, human health, and economic devel-  
22 opment;

23 (2) to support—

24 (A) strengthening systems for recovering,  
25 managing, reusing (to the extent practicable),

1 and recycling plastic waste, marine debris, and  
2 microfiber pollution in the world's oceans, em-  
3 phasizing upstream waste management solu-  
4 tions—

5 (i) to mitigate plastic waste at its  
6 source; and

7 (ii) to prevent leakage of plastic waste  
8 into the environment;

9 (B) advancing the utilization and avail-  
10 ability of safe and affordable reusable alter-  
11 natives to disposable plastic products in com-  
12 merce, to the extent practicable, and with con-  
13 sideration for the potential impacts of such al-  
14 ternatives, and other efforts to prevent marine  
15 debris;

16 (C) deployment of and access to advanced  
17 technologies to capture value from municipal  
18 solid waste streams through mechanical and  
19 other recycling systems;

20 (D) access to information on best practices  
21 in waste management, options for waste system  
22 financing, and options for participating in pub-  
23 lic-private partnerships; and

24 (E) implementation of management meas-  
25 ures to reduce derelict fishing gear, the loss of

1 fishing gear, and other sources of pollution gen-  
2 erated from marine activities and to increase  
3 proper disposal and recycling of fishing gear;  
4 and

5 (3) to work cooperatively with international  
6 partners—

7 (A) on establishing—

8 (i) measurable targets for reducing  
9 marine debris, lost fishing gear, and plastic  
10 waste from all sources; and

11 (ii) action plans to achieve those tar-  
12 gets with a mechanism to provide regular  
13 reporting;

14 (B) to promote consumer education,  
15 awareness, and outreach to prevent marine de-  
16bris;

17 (C) to reduce marine debris by improving  
18 advance planning for marine debris events and  
19 responses to such events; and

20 (D) to share best practices in waste man-  
21 agement systems to prevent the entry of plastic  
22 waste into the environment.



1 **SEC. 202. PRIORITIZATION OF EFFORTS AND ASSISTANCE**  
2 **TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS AND IMPROVE**  
3 **PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall, in  
5 coordination with the Administrator of the United States  
6 Agency for International Development, as appropriate,  
7 and the officials specified in subsection (b)—

8 (1) lead and coordinate efforts to implement the  
9 policy described in section 201; and

10 (2) develop strategies and implement programs  
11 that prioritize engagement and cooperation with for-  
12 eign governments, subnational and local stake-  
13 holders, and the private sector to expedite efforts  
14 and assistance in foreign countries—

15 (A) to partner with, encourage, advise and  
16 facilitate national and subnational governments  
17 on the development and execution, where prac-  
18 ticable, of national projects, programs and ini-  
19 tiatives to—

20 (i) improve the capacity, security, and  
21 standards of operations of waste manage-  
22 ment systems;

23 (ii) monitor and track how well waste  
24 management systems are functioning na-  
25 tionwide, based on uniform and trans-  
26 parent standards developed in cooperation

1 with municipal, industrial, and civil society  
2 stakeholders;

3 (iii) identify waste management sys-  
4 tems' operational challenges and develop  
5 policy and programmatic solutions;

6 (iv) end intentional or unintentional  
7 incentives for municipalities, industries,  
8 and individuals to improperly dispose of  
9 plastic waste; and

10 (v) conduct outreach campaigns to  
11 raise public awareness of the importance of  
12 proper waste disposal;

13 (B) to facilitate the involvement of munici-  
14 palities and industries in improving solid waste  
15 reduction, collection, disposal, and reuse and re-  
16 cycling projects, programs, and initiatives;

17 (C) to partner with and provide technical  
18 assistance to investors, and national and local  
19 institutions, including private sector actors, to  
20 develop new business opportunities and solu-  
21 tions to specifically reduce plastic waste and ex-  
22 pand solid waste management best practices  
23 and waste collection services in foreign coun-  
24 tries by—

1 (i) maximizing the number of people  
2 and businesses, in both rural and urban  
3 communities, receiving reliable solid waste  
4 management services and using safe and  
5 responsible practices for properly dis-  
6 posing, including recycling or reusing  
7 waste materials;

8 (ii) improving and expanding the ca-  
9 pacity of foreign industries to responsibly  
10 manage waste;

11 (iii) improving and expanding the ca-  
12 pacity and transparency of tracking mech-  
13 anisms for marine debris to reduce the im-  
14 pacts on the marine environment;

15 (iv) eliminating incentives that under-  
16 mine responsible waste management prac-  
17 tices and lead to improper waste disposal  
18 practices and leakage;

19 (v) building the capacity of coun-  
20 tries—

21 (I) to monitor, regulate, and  
22 manage waste, plastic waste, and pol-  
23 lution appropriately and trans-  
24 parently;

1 (II) to encourage private invest-  
2 ment in waste management, including  
3 collection services and responsible and  
4 beneficial reuse of plastic waste prod-  
5 ucts; and

6 (III) to encourage private invest-  
7 ment, grow opportunities, and develop  
8 markets for recyclable, reusable, and  
9 repurposed plastic waste materials,  
10 and products with high levels of recy-  
11 cled plastic content, at both national  
12 and local levels; and

13 (vi) promoting safe and affordable re-  
14 usable alternatives to disposable plastic  
15 products, to the extent practicable; and

16 (D) to research, identify, and facilitate op-  
17 portunities to promote collection and proper  
18 disposal of damaged or derelict fishing gear.

19 (b) OFFICIALS SPECIFIED.—The officials specified in  
20 this subsection are the following:

21 (1) The United States Trade Representative.

22 (2) The Under Secretary.

23 (3) The EPA Administrator.

24 (4) The Director of the Trade and Development  
25 Agency.

1           (5) The President and the Board of Directors  
2           of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation or  
3           the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Direc-  
4           tors of the United States International Development  
5           Finance Corporation, as appropriate.

6           (6) The Chief Executive Officer and the Board  
7           of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corpora-  
8           tion.

9           (7) The heads of such other agencies as the  
10          Secretary of State considers appropriate.

11          (c) PRIORITIZATION.—In carrying out subsection (a),  
12          the officials specified in subsection (b) shall prioritize as-  
13          sistance to countries with—

14                (1) rapidly developing economies; and

15                (2) rivers and coastal areas that are the most  
16          severe sources of marine debris.

17          (d)       EFFECTIVENESS        MEASUREMENT.—In  
18          prioritizing and expediting efforts and assistance under  
19          this section, the officials specified in subsection (b) shall  
20          use clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to meas-  
21          ure the effectiveness of guarantees and assistance in  
22          achieving the policy described in section 201.

23          (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
24          tion may be construed to authorize the modification of or

1 the imposition of limits on the portfolios of any agency  
2 or institution led by an official specified in subsection (b).

3 **SEC. 203. UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL**  
4 **FORA.**

5 In implementing the policy described in section 201,  
6 the President shall direct the United States representa-  
7 tives to appropriate international bodies and conferences  
8 (such as the United Nations Environment Programme,  
9 the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia Pa-  
10 cific Economic Cooperation, the Group of 7, the Group  
11 of 20, and the Our Ocean Conference) to use the voice,  
12 vote, and influence of the United States, consistent with  
13 the broad foreign policy goals of the United States, to ad-  
14 vocate that each such body—

15 (1) commit to significantly increasing efforts to  
16 promote investment in well-designed waste manage-  
17 ment and plastic waste elimination and mitigation  
18 projects and services that increase access to safe  
19 waste management and mitigation services, in part-  
20 nership with the private sector and consistent with  
21 the constraints of other countries;

22 (2) address the waste management needs of in-  
23 dividuals and communities where access to municipal  
24 waste management services is historically impractical  
25 or cost-prohibitive;

1           (3) enhance coordination with the private sec-  
2       tor—

3                   (A) to increase access to solid waste man-  
4       agement services;

5                   (B) to utilize safe and affordable reusable  
6       alternatives to disposable plastic products, to  
7       the extent practicable;

8                   (C) to encourage and incentivize the use of  
9       recycled content; and

10                  (D) to grow economic opportunities and  
11       develop markets for recyclable, reusable, and  
12       repurposed plastic waste materials and other ef-  
13       forts that support the circular economy;

14           (4) provide technical assistance to foreign regu-  
15       latory authorities and governments to remove unnec-  
16       essary barriers to investment in otherwise commer-  
17       cially-viable projects related to—

18                   (A) waste management including recycling;

19                   (B) the use of safe and affordable reusable  
20       alternatives to disposable plastic products, to  
21       the extent practicable; or

22                   (C) beneficial reuse of solid waste, plastic  
23       waste, plastic products, and refuse;

1           (5) use clear, accountable, and metric-based  
2 targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects;  
3 and

4           (6) engage international partners in an existing  
5 multilateral forum (or, if necessary, establish  
6 through an international agreement a new multilat-  
7 eral forum) to improve global cooperation on—

8                   (A) creating tangible metrics for evaluating  
9 efforts to reduce plastic waste and marine de-  
10 bris;

11                   (B) developing and implementing best  
12 practices for collecting, disposing, recycling, and  
13 reusing plastic waste, including building capaci-  
14 ty for improving waste management at the na-  
15 tional and subnational levels of foreign coun-  
16 tries, particularly countries with little to no  
17 solid waste management systems, facilities, or  
18 policies in place;

19                   (C) encouraging the development of stand-  
20 ards and practices, and increasing recycled con-  
21 tent percentage requirements for disposable  
22 plastic products;

23                   (D) integrating tracking and monitoring  
24 systems into waste management systems;



1 (E) fostering research to improve scientific  
2 understanding of—

3 (i) how microfibers and microplastics  
4 may affect marine ecosystems, human  
5 health and safety, and maritime activities;

6 (ii) changes in the amount and re-  
7 gional concentrations of plastic waste in  
8 the ocean, based on scientific modeling and  
9 forecasting;

10 (iii) the role rivers, streams, and other  
11 inland waterways play in serving as con-  
12 duits for mismanaged waste traveling from  
13 land to the ocean;

14 (iv) effective means to eliminate  
15 present and future leakages of plastic  
16 waste into the environment; and

17 (v) other related areas of research the  
18 United States representatives deem nec-  
19 essary;

20 (F) encouraging the World Bank and other  
21 international finance organizations to prioritize  
22 efforts to combat marine debris;

23 (G) collaborating on technological advances  
24 in waste management and recycled plastics;

1 (H) growing economic opportunities and  
2 developing markets for recyclable, reusable, and  
3 repurposed plastic waste materials and other ef-  
4 forts that support the circular economy; and

5 (I) advising foreign countries, at both the  
6 national and subnational levels, on the develop-  
7 ment and execution of regulatory policies, serv-  
8 ices, including recycling and reuse of plastic,  
9 and laws pertaining to reducing the creation  
10 and the collection and safe management of—

11 (i) solid waste;

12 (ii) plastic waste; and

13 (iii) marine debris.

14 **SEC. 204. ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AND**  
15 **PARTNERSHIP OF UNITED STATES AGENCIES**  
16 **INVOLVED IN MARINE DEBRIS ACTIVITIES.**

17 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress recognizes the success of  
18 the marine debris program of the National Oceanic and  
19 Atmospheric Administration and the Trash-Free Waters  
20 program of the Environmental Protection Agency.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF EFFORTS TO BUILD FOR-  
22 EIGN PARTNERSHIPS.—The Under Secretary and the  
23 EPA Administrator shall work with the Secretary of State  
24 and the Administrator of the United States Agency for  
25 International Development to build partnerships, as ap-

1 appropriate, with the governments of foreign countries and  
2 to support international efforts to combat marine debris.

3 **SEC. 205. NEGOTIATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREE-**  
4 **MENTS.**

5 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
6 of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Con-  
7 gress a report—

8 (1) assessing the potential for negotiating new  
9 international agreements or creating a new inter-  
10 national forum to reduce land-based sources of ma-  
11 rine debris and derelict fishing gear, consistent with  
12 section 203;

13 (2) describing the provisions that could be in-  
14 cluded in such agreements; and

15 (3) assessing potential parties to such agree-  
16 ments.

17 **SEC. 206. CONSIDERATION OF MARINE DEBRIS IN NEGOTI-**  
18 **ATING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.**

19 In negotiating any relevant international agreement  
20 with any country or countries after the date of the enact-  
21 ment of this Act, the President shall, as appropriate—

22 (1) consider the impact of land-based sources of  
23 plastic waste and other solid waste from that coun-  
24 try on the marine and aquatic environment; and

1           (2) ensure that the agreement strengthens ef-  
2           forts to eliminate land-based sources of plastic waste  
3           and other solid waste from that country that impact  
4           the marine and aquatic environment.

5 **TITLE III—IMPROVING DOMES-**  
6 **TIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO**  
7 **PREVENT MARINE DEBRIS**

8 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

9           In this title:

10           (1) INTENDED USE PLAN.—The term “intended  
11           use plan” means a plan developed by a State under  
12           section 303(c)(1).

13           (2) STATE.—The term “State” means—

14                   (A) a State;

15                   (B) an Indian Tribe;

16                   (C) the District of Columbia; and

17                   (D) a territory or possession of the United  
18           States.

19           (3) STATE LOAN FUND.—The term “State loan  
20           fund” means a waste management revolving loan  
21           fund established by a State under section  
22           303(a)(2)(B).

23           (4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
24           has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in

1 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
2 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

3 **SEC. 302. STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING WASTE MANAGE-**  
4 **MENT, RECYCLING, AND WATER MANAGE-**  
5 **MENT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act, the EPA Administrator  
8 shall, in consultation with stakeholders, develop a strategy  
9 to improve waste management and recycling infrastruc-  
10 ture, particularly for waste management and recycling in-  
11 frastructure systems not meeting national standards  
12 under subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42  
13 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.) and other waste standards, for the  
14 purpose of reducing potential leakage of plastic waste and  
15 other solid waste into waterways and oceans.

16 (b) RELEASE.—On development of the strategy  
17 under subsection (a), the EPA Administrator shall—

18 (1) distribute the strategy to States and units  
19 of local government; and

20 (2) make the strategy publicly available for use  
21 by—

22 (A) for-profit private waste management  
23 and recycling entities; and

24 (B) other nongovernmental entities.

1           (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
2 gress that the strategy under subsection (a) should include  
3 guidance, for the purpose of reducing potential leakage of  
4 plastic waste and other solid waste into waterways and  
5 oceans, relating to—

6           (1) the harmonization of waste collection proto-  
7 cols;

8           (2) the harmonization of recycling protocols for  
9 municipal recycling programs, including—

10           (A) best practices for the collection of resi-  
11 dential recyclables;

12           (B) improved quality and sorting of recy-  
13 clable materials through opportunities such  
14 as—

15           (i) education and awareness pro-  
16 grams;

17           (ii) improved infrastructure, including  
18 new equipment and innovative technologies  
19 for processing of recyclable materials;

20           (iii) enhanced markets for recycled  
21 material; and

22           (iv) standardized measurements; and

23           (C) increasing capacity for more types of  
24 plastic (including plastic films) and other mate-

1           rials to be collected, processed, and recycled or  
2           repurposed into usable materials or products;

3           (3) the development of new strategies and pro-  
4           grams that prioritize engagement and cooperation  
5           with States and the private sector to expedite efforts  
6           and assistance in States to partner with, encourage,  
7           advise, and facilitate the development and execution,  
8           where practicable, of projects, programs, and initia-  
9           tives—

10                   (A) to improve the capacity, security, and  
11                   standards of operations of waste management  
12                   systems;

13                   (B) to monitor and track how well waste  
14                   management systems are functioning, based on  
15                   uniform and transparent standards developed in  
16                   cooperation with municipal, industrial, Federal,  
17                   and civil society stakeholders;

18                   (C)(i) to identify the operational challenges  
19                   of waste management systems; and

20                   (ii) to develop policy and programmatic so-  
21                   lutions to those challenges; and

22                   (D) to end intentional and unintentional  
23                   incentives for municipalities, industries, and in-  
24                   dividuals to improperly dispose of municipal  
25                   solid waste; and

1           (4) strengthening markets for products with  
2           high levels of recycled plastic content.

3           (d) COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES.—It is the sense of  
4 Congress that the strategy developed under subsection (a)  
5 should include guidance on activities that are complemen-  
6 tary to the activities described in subsection (c), such as—

7           (1) reducing waste at the source of the waste,  
8           including anti-litter initiatives;

9           (2) developing effective trash provisions for—

10           (A) national pollutant discharge elimi-  
11 nation system permits issued to municipal sepa-  
12 rate storm sewer systems under section 402 of  
13 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33  
14 U.S.C. 1342); and

15           (B) stormwater management plans;

16           (3) capturing trash at stormwater inlets,  
17 stormwater outfalls, or in bodies of water;

18           (4) providing education and outreach relating to  
19 trash movement and reduction; and

20           (5) monitoring or modeling waste flows and the  
21 reduction of waste resulting from the implementa-  
22 tion of best management practices.

23 **SEC. 303. WASTE MANAGEMENT STATE REVOLVING FUNDS.**

24           (a) BLOCK GRANTS TO STATES TO ESTABLISH LOAN  
25 FUNDS.—



1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator  
2 shall offer to enter into agreements with eligible  
3 States to make capitalization block grants, including  
4 letters of credit, to the States under this sub-  
5 section—

6                   (A) to support improvements to local waste  
7 management systems, including traditional and  
8 innovative recycling and reuse technologies;

9                   (B) to assist local waste management au-  
10 thorities in making improvements to local waste  
11 management systems—

12                           (i) to meet waste management stand-  
13 ards under subtitle D of the Solid Waste  
14 Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.),  
15 particularly with respect to systems falling  
16 significantly below national standards  
17 under that subtitle, as determined by the  
18 EPA Administrator; and

19                           (ii) to implement the strategy devel-  
20 oped under section 302(a);

21                   (C) to deploy waste interceptor tech-  
22 nologies, such as “trash wheels” and litter  
23 traps, to manage the collection and cleanup of  
24 aggregated waste from waterways; and

1 (D) for such other purposes as the EPA  
2 Administrator determines to be appropriate.

3 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a  
4 capitalization block grant under this subsection, a  
5 State shall—

6 (A) enter into a capitalization agreement  
7 with the EPA Administrator under paragraph  
8 (1); and

9 (B) establish a waste management revolv-  
10 ing State loan fund.

11 (3) DEPOSIT.—Funds from a capitalization  
12 block grant to a State under this subsection shall be  
13 deposited in the State loan fund established by the  
14 State.

15 (4) PERIOD.—Funds from a capitalization block  
16 grant to a State under this subsection shall be avail-  
17 able to the State for obligation—

18 (A) during the fiscal year for which the  
19 funds are authorized; and

20 (B) during the following fiscal year.

21 (5) ALLOTMENT.—Funds made available to  
22 carry out this section shall be allotted to States at  
23 the discretion of the EPA Administrator.

24 (6) REALLOTMENT.—Any funds not obligated  
25 by a State by the last day of the period for which

1 the block grants are available shall be reallocated in  
2 accordance with paragraph (5).

3 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts deposited in a  
5 State loan fund, including loan repayments and in-  
6 terest earned on the amounts, shall be used only—

7 (A) for providing loans or loan guarantees;

8 (B) for outcomes-based or performance  
9 payments; or

10 (C) as a source of reserve and security for  
11 leveraged loans.

12 (2) LIMITATIONS.—Loans or loan guarantees  
13 made by a State under paragraph (1)(A)—

14 (A) may be used only for expenditures of  
15 a type or category that the EPA Administrator  
16 has determined, through guidance, will—

17 (i) facilitate compliance with an in-  
18 tended use plan; or

19 (ii) otherwise significantly further the  
20 purposes described in subparagraphs (A)  
21 through (C) of subsection (a)(1); and

22 (B) may not be used for the acquisition of  
23 real property or an interest in real property,  
24 unless the acquisition is—

- 1 (i) integral to an intended use plan;  
2 and  
3 (ii) from a willing seller.

4 (c) INTENDED USE PLANS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—After providing for public  
6 review and comment, each State that has entered  
7 into a capitalization agreement under subsection  
8 (a)(1) annually shall prepare a plan that identifies  
9 the intended uses of the amounts available from the  
10 State loan fund of the State.

11 (2) CONTENTS.—An intended use plan shall in-  
12 clude—

13 (A) a list of the projects to be carried out  
14 by entities receiving the loans in the first fiscal  
15 year that begins after the date of the intended  
16 use plan, including a description of the project;

17 (B) a description of how the funds will  
18 support disadvantaged communities;

19 (C) the criteria and methods established  
20 for the use of the funds; and

21 (D) a description of the financial status of  
22 the State loan fund and the short- and long-  
23 term goals of the State loan fund.

24 (3) LIST OF PROJECTS.—Each State, after no-  
25 tice and opportunity for public comment, shall pub-

1       lish, and periodically update, a list of projects in the  
2       State that are eligible for assistance under this sec-  
3       tion, including—

4               (A) the priority assigned to each project;

5               and

6               (B) to the maximum extent practicable,  
7       the expected funding schedule for each project.

8       (d) FUND MANAGEMENT.—

9               (1) IN GENERAL.—Each State loan fund shall  
10       be established, maintained, and credited with repay-  
11       ments and interest, and the fund corpus shall be  
12       available in perpetuity in accordance with this sec-  
13       tion.

14              (2) INVESTMENT AUTHORIZED.—To the extent  
15       amounts in the State loan fund of a State are not  
16       required for current obligation or expenditure, the  
17       amounts shall be invested in interest bearing obliga-  
18       tions.

19       (e) STATE CONTRIBUTIONS.—Each capitalization  
20       agreement entered into under subsection (a)(1) shall re-  
21       quire that the State deposit in the State loan fund from  
22       State funds an amount equal to not less than 20 percent  
23       of the total amount of the block grant to be made to the  
24       State on or before the date on which the block grant pay-  
25       ment is made to the State.

1 (f) ADMINISTRATION OF STATE LOAN FUND.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each State annually may  
3 use not greater than 4 percent of the funds allotted  
4 to the State under this section to cover the reason-  
5 able costs of administration of the programs under  
6 this section, including the recovery of reasonable  
7 costs expended to establish a State loan fund that  
8 are incurred after the date of enactment of this Act.

9 (2) GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS.—The EPA  
10 Administrator shall issue guidance and promulgate  
11 regulations as are necessary to carry out this sec-  
12 tion, including guidance and regulations—

13 (A) to ensure that each State commits and  
14 expends funds allotted to the State under this  
15 section as efficiently as practicable in accord-  
16 ance with this section and applicable State law;

17 (B) to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse;  
18 and

19 (C) to ensure that the States receiving  
20 block grants under this section use accounting,  
21 audit, and fiscal procedures that conform to  
22 generally accepted accounting standards.

23 (3) STATE REPORT.—Not less frequently than  
24 every 2 years, each State administering a State loan  
25 fund under this section shall submit to the EPA Ad-

1 administrator a report describing the activities carried  
2 out under this section, including the findings of the  
3 most recent audit of the State loan fund and the en-  
4 tire State allotment.

5 (4) AUDITS.—The EPA Administrator shall pe-  
6 riodically audit all State loan funds established by,  
7 and all other amounts allotted to, the States in ac-  
8 cordance with procedures established by the Comp-  
9 troller General of the United States.

10 (g) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL LAW.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator  
12 shall ensure that all laborers and mechanics em-  
13 ployed on projects funded directly, or assisted in  
14 whole or in part, by a State loan fund established  
15 by this section shall be paid wages at rates not less  
16 than those prevailing on projects of a character simi-  
17 lar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of  
18 Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter  
19 31 of part A of subtitle II of title 40, United States  
20 Code.

21 (2) AUTHORITY.—With respect to the labor  
22 standards specified in paragraph (1), the Secretary  
23 of Labor shall have the authority and functions set  
24 forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950

1 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of  
2 title 40, United States Code.

3 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
4 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
5 such amounts as are necessary for each of fiscal years  
6 2020 through 2025.

7 **SEC. 304. GRANT PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT  
9 PROGRAM.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator  
11 may provide grants to units of local government, In-  
12 dian Tribes, and local waste management systems—

13 (A) to assist those entities in making im-  
14 provements to waste management systems—

15 (i) to meet waste management stand-  
16 ards established under subtitle D of the  
17 Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6941  
18 et seq.); and

19 (ii) to implement the strategy devel-  
20 oped section 302(a); and

21 (B) to support improvements to local waste  
22 management systems, including traditional and  
23 innovative recycling and reuse technologies.

24 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
25 grant under paragraph (1), an applicant shall sub-



1 mit to the EPA Administrator an application at  
2 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
3 formation as the EPA Administrator may require.

4 (b) DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator  
6 may provide competitive grants to units of local gov-  
7 ernment (including units of local government that  
8 own treatment works (as defined in section 212 of  
9 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.  
10 1292))), Indian Tribes, and public water systems (as  
11 defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water  
12 Act (42 U.S.C. 300f)), as applicable, to support im-  
13 provements in removing plastic waste from drinking  
14 water, including planning, design, construction, tech-  
15 nical assistance, and planning support for oper-  
16 ational adjustments.

17 (2) PREFERENCE.—In making grants under  
18 paragraph (1), the EPA Administrator shall give  
19 preference to applicants that—

20 (A) seek to improve the removal of micro-  
21 plastics, including microfibers, from drinking  
22 water; and

23 (B) have demonstrated prior commitment  
24 and success in reducing other pollution sources

1           in drinking water, such as lead and other con-  
2           taminants.

3           (3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
4           grant under paragraph (1), an applicant shall sub-  
5           mit to the EPA Administrator an application at  
6           such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
7           formation as the EPA Administrator may require.

8           (c) WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator  
10          may provide grants to units of local government (in-  
11          cluding units of local government that own treat-  
12          ment works (as defined in section 212 of the Federal  
13          Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292))) and  
14          public water systems (as defined in section 1401 of  
15          the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f)), as  
16          applicable, to support improvements in removing  
17          plastic waste from wastewater.

18          (2) PREFERENCE.—In making grants under  
19          paragraph (1), the EPA Administrator shall give  
20          preference to applicants that—

21                  (A) seek to improve the removal of micro-  
22                  plastics, including microfibers, from wastewater;  
23                  and

24                  (B) have demonstrated prior commitment  
25                  and success in reducing other pollution sources

1           in wastewater, such as nutrient pollution and  
2           other contaminants.

3           (3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
4           grant under paragraph (1), an applicant shall sub-  
5           mit to the EPA Administrator an application at  
6           such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
7           formation as the EPA Administrator may require.

8           (d) TRASH-FREE WATERS GRANTS.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator  
10          may provide grants to political subdivisions of States  
11          and units of local government, Indian Tribes, and  
12          nonprofit organizations—

13                 (A) to support projects to reduce the quan-  
14                 tity of trash in bodies of water by reducing the  
15                 quantity of trash at the source of the trash, in-  
16                 cluding anti-litter initiatives;

17                 (B) to enforce local trash ordinances;

18                 (C) to implement the trash provisions of a  
19                 national pollutant discharge elimination system  
20                 permit issued to a municipal separate storm  
21                 sewer system under section 402 of the Federal  
22                 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342);

23                 (D) to capture trash at stormwater inlets,  
24                 stormwater outfalls, or in bodies of water;

1           (E) to provide education and outreach  
2 about trash movement and reduction; and

3           (F) to monitor or model flows of trash, in-  
4 cluding monitoring or modeling a reduction in  
5 trash as a result of the implementation of best  
6 management practices for the reduction of  
7 trash in sources of drinking water.

8           (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
9 grant under paragraph (1), an applicant shall sub-  
10 mit to the EPA Administrator an application at  
11 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
12 formation as the EPA Administrator may require.

13           (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
15 there are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
16 as are necessary to carry out this section.

17           (2) NO IMPACT ON OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.—

18           (A) IN GENERAL.—No funds shall be made  
19 available under paragraph (1) to carry out sub-  
20 sections (b) and (c) in a fiscal year if the total  
21 amount made available to carry out the pro-  
22 grams described in subparagraph (B) for that  
23 fiscal year is less than the total amount made  
24 available to carry out the programs described in  
25 subparagraph (B) for fiscal year 2019.

1 (B) PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The pro-  
2 grams referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

3 (i) State drinking water treatment re-  
4 volving loan funds established under sec-  
5 tion 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act  
6 (42 U.S.C. 300j–12);

7 (ii) programs for assistance for small  
8 and disadvantaged communities under sub-  
9 sections (a) through (j) of section 1459A  
10 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.  
11 300j–19a); and

12 (iii) State water pollution control re-  
13 volving funds established under title VI of  
14 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act  
15 (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).

16 **SEC. 305. STUDY ON REPURPOSING PLASTIC WASTE IN IN-**  
17 **FRASTRUCTURE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation  
19 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) and the  
20 EPA Administrator shall seek to jointly enter into an ar-  
21 rangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engi-  
22 neering, and Medicine under which the National Acad-  
23 emies will—

1           (1) conduct a study of the feasibility and advis-  
2           ability of innovative uses of plastic waste in road-  
3           ways, bridges, and other infrastructure; and

4           (2) as part of the study under paragraph (1)—

5           (A) identify international examples of—

6           (i) the use of materials described in  
7           that paragraph; and

8           (ii) projects in which the use of plastic  
9           waste has been applied;

10          (B) assess the economic benefits, if any,  
11          including employment opportunities, to munici-  
12          palities and States in investing in innovative  
13          reuse of plastic waste in infrastructure; and

14          (C) if the National Academies consider  
15          uses described in that paragraph to be advis-  
16          able, make recommendations with respect to  
17          what Federal testing standards and other bar-  
18          riers may need to be addressed to enable those  
19          uses, including with respect to ensuring human  
20          health and safety.

21          (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years  
22          after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
23          submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under  
24          subsection (a).

25          (c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—If the National Academies  
2           consider the innovative uses of plastic waste de-  
3           scribed in subsection (a)(1) to be advisable, and the  
4           Secretary agrees, the Secretary shall establish a  
5           grant program to encourage those uses.

6           (2) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—If the Sec-  
7           retary establishes a grant program under paragraph  
8           (1), the Secretary shall carry out the grant program  
9           by selecting, through a competitive process, not more  
10          than 5 projects to demonstrate the uses described in  
11          subsection (a)(1), each of which shall be located in  
12          a different region of the United States.

13          (3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
14          the date on which the last demonstration project, if  
15          any, is completed under paragraph (2), the Sec-  
16          retary shall submit to Congress a report summa-  
17          rizing the results of the demonstration projects, in-  
18          cluding—

19                 (A) the total quantity of plastic waste redi-  
20                 rected from the waste stream into infrastruc-  
21                 ture;

22                 (B) the durability of the infrastructure  
23                 constructed with plastic waste; and

1           (C) any cost savings achieved through the  
2           use of plastic waste in the demonstration  
3           projects.

4           (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
5           are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
6           essary to carry out this section.

7   **SEC. 306. STUDY ON OPTIONS TO ADVANCE TECHNOLOGIES**  
8                   **FOR CONVERTING PLASTIC WASTE TO**  
9                   **CHEMICALS, FEEDSTOCKS, AND OTHER**  
10                  **PRODUCTS.**

11          (a) IN GENERAL.—The EPA Administrator shall  
12          seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Acad-  
13          emies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which  
14          the National Academies will conduct a study on options  
15          to advance technologies (including pyrolysis,  
16          hydropyrolysis, methanolysis, gasification, and enzymatic  
17          breakdown) for converting plastic waste to useful prod-  
18          ucts, such as chemicals, feedstocks, fuels, and energy.

19          (b) INCLUSIONS.—As part of the study under sub-  
20          section (a), the National Academies shall conduct an eval-  
21          uation of—

22                (1) the air emissions associated with tech-  
23                nologies described in that subsection; and

24                (2) an evaluation of the ability of those tech-  
25                nologies to become cost-competitive with other op-



1        tions for obtaining source materials or producing en-  
2        ergy.

3        (c) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 2 years  
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the EPA Ad-  
5 ministrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study  
6 conducted under subsection (a).

7 **SEC. 307. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF MICROPLASTICS IN FOOD**  
8                    **SUPPLIES AND SOURCES OF DRINKING**  
9                    **WATER.**

10        (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The EPA Administrator, in con-  
11 sultation with the Under Secretary, shall seek to enter into  
12 an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences,  
13 Engineering, and Medicine under which the National  
14 Academies will conduct a human health and environmental  
15 risk assessment on microplastics, including microfibers, in  
16 food supplies and sources of drinking water.

17        (b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 2 years  
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the EPA Ad-  
19 ministrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study  
20 conducted under subsection (a) that includes—

21                    (1) a science-based definition of “microplastics”  
22                    that can be adopted in federally supported moni-  
23                    toring and future assessments supported or con-  
24                    ducted by a Federal agency;

1           (2) recommendations for standardized moni-  
2           toring, testing, and other necessary protocols relat-  
3           ing to microplastics;

4           (3)(A) an assessment of whether microplastics  
5           are currently present in the food supplies and  
6           sources of drinking water of United States con-  
7           sumers; and

8           (B) if the assessment under subparagraph (A)  
9           is positive—

10           (i) the extent to which microplastics are  
11           present in the food supplies and sources of  
12           drinking water; and

13           (ii) an assessment of the type, source,  
14           prevalence, and risk of microplastics in the food  
15           supplies and sources of drinking water;

16           (4) an assessment of the risk posed, if any, by  
17           the presence of microplastics in the food supplies  
18           and sources of drinking water of United States con-  
19           sumers that includes—

20           (A) an identification of the most signifi-  
21           cant sources of those microplastics; and

22           (B) a review of the best available science  
23           to determine any potential hazards of micro-  
24           plastics in the food supplies and sources of  
25           drinking water of United States consumers; and

1 (5) a measurement of—

2 (A) the quantity of environmental chemi-  
3 cals that absorb to microplastics; and

4 (B) the quantity described in subpara-  
5 graph (A) that would be available for human  
6 exposure through food supplies or sources of  
7 drinking water.

8 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
9 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
10 essary to carry out this section.

11 **SEC. 308. REPORT ON ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO IN-**  
12 **CREASE THE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLE**  
13 **MATERIALS.**

14 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
15 of this Act, the EPA Administrator shall submit to Con-  
16 gress a report describing—

17 (1) the economic, technological, resource avail-  
18 ability, or other barriers to increasing the collection  
19 of recyclable materials; and

20 (2) recommendations to overcome the barriers  
21 described under paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 309. REPORT ON ECONOMIC INCENTIVES TO SPUR DE-**  
2 **VELOPMENT OF NEW END-USE MARKETS FOR**  
3 **RECYCLED PLASTICS.**

4 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
5 of this Act, the EPA Administrator shall submit to Con-  
6 gress a report describing the most efficient and effective  
7 economic incentives to spur the development of additional  
8 new end-use markets for recyclable plastics, including the  
9 use of increased recycled content by manufacturers in the  
10 production of plastic goods and packaging.

○