

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4986

To authorize appropriations for climate financing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. HAALAND, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for climate financing, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Green Climate Fund
5 Authorization Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) climate change most severely impacts vul-
9 nerable and disadvantaged communities in the
10 United States and around the world;

1 (2) it is the responsibility of the United States
2 Government to work with its global partners to pro-
3 mote environmental justice and climate justice;

4 (3) the report of the United Nations Environ-
5 ment Programme entitled “Climate Change and the
6 Cost of Capital in Developing Countries”, dated May
7 2018, found that, in the 10 years prior to the publi-
8 cation of the report, climate vulnerability has cost
9 the 20 nations most affected by catastrophes rooted
10 in climate change an additional \$62,000,000,000 in
11 interest payments alone;

12 (4) individuals and families, particularly com-
13 munities of color, indigenous communities, and low-
14 income communities, that are on the frontlines of
15 climate change across the globe are often in close
16 proximity to environmental stressors or sources of
17 pollution;

18 (5) the communities described in paragraph
19 (4)—

20 (A) are often the first exposed to the
21 causes and impacts of climate change; and

22 (B) have the fewest resources with which
23 to mitigate those impacts or to relocate;

24 (6) all efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate
25 change must include specific protections for and ac-

1 knowledge of the harm of climate change to
2 communities of color, indigenous peoples, women,
3 and other frontline communities and marginalized
4 peoples around the world;

5 (7) in Paris, on December 12, 2015, the parties
6 to the United Nations Framework Convention on
7 Climate Change adopted the Paris Agreement, a
8 benchmark agreement—

9 (A) to combat climate change; and

10 (B) to accelerate and intensify the actions
11 and investments needed for a sustainable low
12 carbon future;

13 (8) the Paris Agreement, to which the United
14 States is a party, acknowledges, “Parties should,
15 when taking action to address climate change, re-
16 spect, promote and consider their respective obliga-
17 tions on human rights, the right to health, the rights
18 of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants,
19 children, persons with disabilities and people in vul-
20 nerable situations and the right to development, as
21 well as gender equality, empowerment of women and
22 intergenerational equity”;

23 (9) the Paris Agreement—

1 (A) notes the importance of “climate jus-
2 tice” when mitigating and adapting to climate
3 change; and

4 (B) recognizes “the need for an effective
5 and progressive response to the urgent threat of
6 climate change”;

7 (10) it is imperative for all countries to under-
8 take mitigation activities to rapidly meet the goal of
9 limiting global warming to not more than 1.5 de-
10 grees Celsius;

11 (11) developed countries have the greatest ca-
12 pacity to mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions,
13 while—

14 (A) developing countries have the least ca-
15 pacity to engage in mitigation activities; and

16 (B) the capacity of developing countries to
17 engage in mitigation activities is less than the
18 national mitigation potential of those developing
19 countries;

20 (12) the determination for the fair share of
21 mitigation and adaptation activities for each country
22 must take into account—

23 (A) the historic greenhouse gas emissions
24 of each country; and

1 (B) the current capacity of each country to
2 both mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and
3 adapt to climate impacts;

4 (13) developed countries that have historically
5 emitted a disproportionately high share of green-
6 house gas emissions, and reaped the economic bene-
7 fits of those polluting activities, have a cor-
8 responding disproportionately greater responsibility
9 to engage in global mitigation and adaptation activi-
10 ties, as compared to less industrialized countries
11 that have historically polluted far less;

12 (14) the only realistic way for less industri-
13 alized countries to meet their full mitigation poten-
14 tial is through international climate financing by
15 more developed countries;

16 (15) in the 2009 Copenhagen Accord, developed
17 countries committed to jointly mobilize, starting in
18 2020, \$100,000,000,000 per year in public climate
19 financing (as well as private investment and other
20 alternative forms of finance), for developing coun-
21 tries, a commitment reaffirmed in 2015 in Decision
22 1/CP.21 of the United Nations Framework Conven-
23 tion on Climate Change, Adoption of the Paris
24 Agreement;

1 (16) the \$100,000,000,000 commitment de-
2 scribed in paragraph (15) was a political com-
3 promise that falls short of the actual financing needs
4 for climate action in developing countries;

5 (17) Bloomberg New Energy Finance has esti-
6 mated that the transition to renewable energy
7 sources in developing countries will require hundreds
8 of billions of dollars annually;

9 (18) the United Nations Environment Pro-
10 gramme has estimated that adaptation needs relat-
11 ing to climate change in developing countries may be
12 as much as \$300,000,000,000 annually by 2030;

13 (19) the Green Climate Fund was created in
14 2010 by 194 countries to serve as a crucial financ-
15 ing mechanism to help developing countries limit or
16 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to cli-
17 mate change;

18 (20) in 2015, the United Nations Framework
19 Convention on Climate Change agreed that the
20 Green Climate Fund should serve the goals of the
21 Paris Agreement, which states that “developed coun-
22 try Parties shall provide financial resources to assist
23 developing country Parties with respect to both miti-
24 gation and adaptation in continuation of their exist-
25 ing obligations under the Convention”;

1 (21) the Green Climate Fund is an essential in-
2 stitution for climate financing, as the Green Climate
3 Fund ensures—

4 (A) balanced governance between developed
5 and developing countries;

6 (B) stakeholder engagement and discourse;

7 (C) a balanced approach between mitiga-
8 tion and adaptation;

9 (D) fair and equal labor and working con-
10 ditions;

11 (E) conservation of biodiversity and critical
12 habitats; and

13 (F) strong environmental, social, and gen-
14 der protections;

15 (22) the Green Climate Fund—

16 (A) promotes and protects human rights
17 and the rights of marginalized groups, including
18 indigenous peoples, women, children, and people
19 with disabilities; and

20 (B) continues to take steps to strengthen
21 protection for marginalized groups;

22 (23) the United States committed
23 \$3,000,000,000 of the first \$10,000,000,000 raised
24 for the initial resource mobilization period of the
25 Green Climate Fund, though only $\frac{1}{3}$ of this pledge

1 was fulfilled, leaving the United States the only
2 country to fall substantially short of a commitment
3 of a country to the Green Climate Fund; and

4 (24) the Green Climate Fund is a fully oper-
5 ational and proven institution supporting well over
6 100 projects and programs in developing countries
7 around the world.

8 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

9 It is the policy of the United States to provide climate
10 financing—

11 (1) as an essential part of the global effort to
12 combat climate change; and

13 (2) that—

14 (A) upholds the principles of environmental
15 justice and climate justice;

16 (B) supports programs and projects devel-
17 oped by recipient countries and communities;

18 (C) is designed and implemented with the
19 free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous
20 peoples and other impacted communities;

21 (D) promotes gender equality as essential
22 in all of the projects and programs supported
23 by climate financing;

24 (E) includes best practices for environ-
25 mental and social safeguards to ensure that

1 projects and programs supported by climate fi-
2 nancing respect fundamental human rights; and
3 (F) addresses both mitigation and adapta-
4 tion as essential aspects of responding to cli-
5 mate change.

6 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
8 priated for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter
9 such sums as may be necessary for contributions to the
10 Green Climate Fund—

11 (1) to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions re-
12 ductions required to keep the planet at or below 1.5
13 degrees Celsius of global warming, consistent with
14 the goals of the Paris Agreement; and

15 (2) to exceed the commitment by developed
16 countries to jointly mobilize, starting in 2020,
17 \$100,000,000,000 for climate financing each year,
18 as committed to in the 2009 Copenhagen Accord
19 and reaffirmed in 2015 in Decision 1/CP.21 of the
20 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
21 Change, Adoption of the Paris Agreement.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that climate financing needs are significantly greater
24 than those described in subsection (a)(2).

1 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **CLIMATE FINANCING.**—The term “climate
4 financing” means the transfer of new and additional
5 public funds from developed countries to developing
6 countries for projects and programs that—

7 (A) reduce or eliminate greenhouse gas
8 emissions;

9 (B) enhance and restore natural carbon se-
10 questration; and

11 (C) promote adaptation to climate change.

12 (2) **GREEN CLIMATE FUND.**—The term “Green
13 Climate Fund” means the independent, multilateral
14 fund—

15 (A) established by parties to the United
16 Nations Framework Convention on Climate
17 Change; and

18 (B) adopted by decision as part of the fi-
19 nancial mechanism of the United Nations
20 Framework Convention on Climate Change.

21 (3) **PARIS AGREEMENT.**—The term “Paris
22 Agreement” means the annex to Decision 1/CP.21
23 adopted by the 21st Conference of Parties of the
24 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
25 Change in Paris, France, on December 12, 2015.

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