

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6171

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to publish a national strategic action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2020

Mr. LIPINSKI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to publish a national strategic action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, 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 “Moving Towards A
5 Safe Climate Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In 2018, the United Nations Intergovern-
2 mental Panel on Climate Change released a report
3 that found that global warming could reach 1.5 de-
4 grees Celsius above average temperature levels by
5 the year 2030.

6 (2) The report outlined the potential impacts
7 and associated risks of a temperature increase of 1.5
8 degrees Celsius, including increasing—

9 (A) intensity and frequency of droughts;

10 (B) frequency and amount of heavy pre-
11 cipitation; and

12 (C) other extreme weather events.

13 (3) The report found that in order to avoid the
14 impacts of a temperature increase of 1.5 degrees
15 Celsius, greenhouse gas emissions must be re-
16 duced—

17 (A) between 40 to 60 percent below the
18 level of greenhouse gas emissions recorded in
19 the year 2010 by the year 2030; and

20 (B) to net zero emissions by the year
21 2050.

22 (4) According to a report by the Environmental
23 Protection Agency entitled “Inventory of U.S.
24 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks”, transpor-
25 tation activities accounted for the largest portion

1 (approximately 29.9 percent) of total greenhouse gas
2 emissions in the United States in 2017.

3 (5) The Secretary of Transportation has a lead-
4 ing role in reducing United States greenhouse gas
5 emissions since transportation activities continue to
6 account for a large portion of total greenhouse gas
7 emissions in the United States.

8 (6) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions will
9 demonstrate adherence to the commitments of the
10 United States under the Paris Agreement, and any
11 other similar international climate change agree-
12 ments.

13 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE**
14 **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

15 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, using the
17 best available science and in collaboration with the Admin-
18 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall
19 publish an action plan known as the “National Strategic
20 Action Plan” (in this Act referred to as the “action plan”)
21 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation
22 sector to the emissions target by the year 2040.

23 (b) CONTENT.—The action plan may include—

24 (1) The implementation of strategies that in-
25 crease the usage of passenger rail, public transpor-

1 tation systems, walking, cycling, and other low-car-
2 bon modes of transportation including—

3 (A) improvements to infrastructure; and

4 (B) changes to engineering and design
5 guidelines, including the Manual on Uniform
6 Control Devices for Streets and Highways or
7 current design criteria codified under part 625,
8 title 23 of the United States Code of Federal
9 Regulations.

10 (2) Strategies and policies that reduce Vehicle
11 Miles Traveled (VMT), including—

12 (A) the promotion of transit oriented or
13 transit accessible development;

14 (B) access to jobs and services as a metric
15 to measure transportation success instead of
16 level of service; and

17 (C) more efficient land use or walkable
18 communities;

19 (3) recommendations for tax incentives for the
20 adoption of technology that produces low levels of
21 greenhouse gas emissions;

22 (4) the development of transportation tech-
23 nology that dramatically reduces existing greenhouse
24 gas emissions or produces low levels of greenhouse
25 gas emissions, including—

1 (A) alternative fuels;

2 (B) zero-emissions vehicles and associated
3 charging infrastructure;

4 (C) intelligent transportation systems or
5 advanced data; and

6 (D) emissions capture technologies; and

7 (5) recommendations for changes to DOT grant
8 criteria, Federal surface transportation policy, and
9 Federal regulations that would prioritize investments
10 supporting these goals.

11 (e) CONSULTATION.—In developing the action plan,
12 the Secretary shall consult with—

13 (1) other Federal agencies, as appropriate;

14 (2) individuals from—

15 (A) the business community, including
16 trade associations and small business owners;

17 (B) labor organizations;

18 (C) the environmental community;

19 (D) the public health community;

20 (E) the defense community; and

21 (F) the scientific community, including the
22 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,
23 and Medicine, organizations that further the
24 scientific profession, and institutions of higher
25 education;

1 (G) transportation experts, including walk-
2 ing, biking, and public transit advocates;

3 (3) representatives from State, Tribal, and local
4 governments, including State transportation depart-
5 ments and metropolitan planning organizations; and

6 (4) other organizations that the Secretary de-
7 termines appropriate.

8 (d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—In developing the action
9 plan, the Secretary shall make the draft action plan avail-
10 able for public comment for at least 60 days, and issue
11 a response to public comments received within 90 days of
12 the end of the comment period.

13 (e) REVISION.—Not later than 6 years after the date
14 of the enactment of this Act, and every 4 years thereafter
15 until the year 2040, the Secretary shall revise the action
16 plan.

17 (f) STATE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN.—

18 (1) WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS.—For fiscal year
19 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary
20 shall withhold 5 percent of the amount required to
21 be apportioned to a State under section 104(b) of
22 title 23, United States Code, until the Secretary de-
23 termines that a strategic action plan submitted to
24 the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (2) complies

1 with the criteria developed pursuant to such para-
2 graph.

3 (2) STATE CRITERIA.—Not later than 2 years
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
5 retary shall develop criteria for each State to submit
6 a strategic action plan to the Secretary not later
7 than fiscal year 2023, and every 4 years thereafter
8 until the year 2040, to achieve the emissions target
9 by the year 2040, with consideration given to the
10 greenhouse gas emissions of each such State.

11 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 4 years
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 4 years
13 thereafter until the year 2040, the Secretary shall submit
14 to Congress a report on—

15 (1) the following information for each State—

16 (A) total greenhouse gas emissions from
17 transportation;

18 (B) greenhouse gas emissions per capita;

19 (C) vehicle miles traveled per capita; and

20 (D) average vehicle fleet efficiency;

21 (2) actions taken to achieve the emissions tar-
22 get; and

23 (3) progress with respect to achieving the emis-
24 sions target.

25 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) EMISSIONS TARGET.—The term “emissions
2 target” means a level of greenhouse gas emissions
3 from the transportation sector that does not exceed
4 20 percent of the level of greenhouse gas emissions
5 in the United States for the year 2005, as deter-
6 mined by the Administrator of the Environmental
7 Protection Agency.

8 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
9 term “institution of higher education” has the
10 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
11 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

12 (3) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZA-
13 TION.—The term “metropolitan planning organiza-
14 tion” has the meaning given the term under section
15 134 of title 23, United States Code.

16 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Transportation.

18 (5) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
19 ing given the term under section 101 of title 23,
20 United States Code.

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