

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1782

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to facilitate tree planting that reduces residential energy consumption, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2021

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to facilitate tree planting that reduces residential energy consumption, 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 “Trees for Residential
5 Energy and Economic Savings Act of 2021” or the
6 “TREES Act of 2021”.

7 **SEC. 2. TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COVERED PROJECT.—The term “covered
2 project” means a tree planting project that reduces
3 residential energy consumption.

4 (2) ELIGIBLE COST.—The term “eligible cost”
5 means, with respect to a covered project—

6 (A) the cost of carrying out the project, in-
7 cluding—

8 (i) planning and design activities;

9 (ii) establishing nurseries to supply
10 trees;

11 (iii) purchasing trees; and

12 (iv) preparing sites and planting trees;

13 (B) the cost of maintaining and monitoring
14 trees planted under the project for a period of
15 not more than 3 years;

16 (C) the cost of training activities; and

17 (D) any other cost determined appropriate
18 by the Secretary.

19 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
20 ty” means—

21 (A) a State government entity;

22 (B) a local government entity;

23 (C) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section
24 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
25 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

1 (D) a nonprofit organization; and

2 (E) a retail power provider.

3 (4) ENERGY BURDEN.—The term “energy bur-
4 den” means the percentage of household income
5 spent on residential energy bills.

6 (5) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY.—The term
7 “local government entity” means any municipal gov-
8 ernment or county government entity with jurisdic-
9 tion over local land use decisions.

10 (6) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
11 “nonprofit organization” means an organization de-
12 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
13 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under sec-
14 tion 501(a) of that Code.

15 (7) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
16 the program established under subsection (b).

17 (8) RETAIL POWER PROVIDER.—The term “re-
18 tail power provider” means any entity authorized
19 under State or Federal law to generate, distribute,
20 or provide retail electricity, natural gas, or fuel oil
21 service.

22 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Energy.

24 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-

1 establish a program under which the Secretary shall award
2 grants to eligible entities to facilitate covered projects in
3 accordance with this section.

4 (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the Program,
5 the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Agri-
6 culture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

7 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To receive a grant under the
8 Program, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary
9 an application at such time, in such manner, and con-
10 taining such information as the Secretary may require, in-
11 cluding, with respect to the proposed covered project, a
12 description of—

13 (1) how the covered project will reduce residen-
14 tial energy consumption and the expected reduction
15 in residential energy consumption;

16 (2) the total eligible costs of the covered project
17 and other sources of funding for the covered project;

18 (3) the anticipated community engagement in
19 the covered project; and

20 (4) the tree species to be planted under the cov-
21 ered project and the suitability of those species to
22 the local environment.

23 (e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the Pro-
24 gram, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
25 that propose covered projects that—

1 (1) provide the largest potential reduction in
2 residential energy consumption for households with a
3 high energy burden;

4 (2) provide maximum amounts of—

5 (A) shade during periods when residences
6 are exposed to the most sun intensity; and

7 (B) wind protection during periods when
8 residences are exposed to the most wind inten-
9 sity;

10 (3) are located in a neighborhood with a low
11 percentage of tree canopy cover;

12 (4) are located in a neighborhood with a high
13 percentage of senior citizens or children;

14 (5) are located in an area where the average
15 annual income is below the regional median;

16 (6) will collaboratively engage community mem-
17 bers that will be affected by the tree planting; and

18 (7) will employ local residents as a substantial
19 percentage of the workforce of the covered project,
20 with a focus on local residents who are unemployed
21 or underemployed.

22 (f) TREE PLANTING GOALS.—Subject to the avail-
23 ability of appropriations, the Secretary shall, to the max-
24 imum extent practicable, award grants under the Program

1 in a manner that facilitates the planting of at least
2 300,000 trees each year.

3 (g) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost
4 of a covered project carried out using a grant awarded
5 under the Program shall be 90 percent.

6 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
8 out the Program \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
9 2022 through 2026.

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