

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

---

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LIEU of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

# A BILL

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate.

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 “Climate Solutions Act  
5 of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The United States has the objective of sta-  
9 bilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmos-  
10 phere at a level that would prevent “dangerous an-

1 thropogenic interference” with the climate system by  
2 becoming a party to the 1992 United Nations  
3 Framework Convention on Climate Change, pledging  
4 to China to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 28  
5 percent of their 2005 levels by 2025, and regulating  
6 greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources,  
7 mobile sources, and electrical power suppliers.

8 (2) To achieve this objective, the increase in  
9 global mean surface temperature should not exceed  
10 2°C (3.6°F) above preindustrial temperature, much  
11 of which is already projected to occur by the Inter-  
12 governmental Panel on Climate Change.

13 (3) The risks associated with a temperature in-  
14 crease above 2°C (3.6°F) are grave, including the  
15 disintegration of the Greenland ice sheet, which, if  
16 it were to melt completely, would raise global aver-  
17 age sea level by approximately 23 feet, devastating  
18 many of the world’s coastal areas and population  
19 centers.

20 (4) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate  
21 Change projects that temperatures will rise between  
22 1.8°C to 4.0°C (3.2°F to 7.2°F) by the end of the  
23 century, under a range of expected emissions trends,  
24 but if there are common goals to limit greenhouse

1 gas emissions, the temperature increase can be lim-  
2 ited to 2°C (3.6°F) or less.

3 (5) Serious global warming impacts have al-  
4 ready been observed in the United States and world-  
5 wide, including—

6 (A) increases in heat waves and other ex-  
7 treme weather events;

8 (B) rise in sea level, retreat of glaciers and  
9 polar ice;

10 (C) decline in mountain snowpack, in-  
11 creased drought (including droughts in the  
12 West and South United States) resulting in  
13 damage to our economy and property;

14 (D) extreme weather conditions resulting  
15 in wildfires, stronger hurricanes and polar vor-  
16 tex occurrences resulting in further damage to  
17 property and our economy;

18 (E) damage to our environment such as  
19 ocean acidification, extensive coral bleaching,  
20 migrations, and shifts in the yearly cycles of  
21 plants and animals; and

22 (F) effects on human population including  
23 population displacement and adverse health ef-  
24 fects such as the spread of infectious diseases  
25 and climate-related conditions such as asthma.

1           (6) Scientists project that under a midrange es-  
2           timate of global warming, by 2050, roughly 25 per-  
3           cent of animal and plant species will be committed  
4           to extinction.

5           (7) Decisive action is needed to minimize the  
6           many dangers posed by global warming.

7           (8) The timing of such action is critical, given  
8           that greenhouse gases can persist in the atmosphere  
9           for more than a century.

10          (9) The International Energy Agency has  
11          warned in its most recent World Energy Outlook re-  
12          port that, unless there is a serious commitment to  
13          investing in zero carbon renewable energy resources,  
14          much of the amount of projected limits necessary to  
15          avoid greenhouse-gas-emission-caused dangerous an-  
16          thropogenic interference with the climate system will  
17          be locked in and exceeded.

18          (10) PricewaterhouseCoopers Low Carbon  
19          Economy Index Report estimates that carbon-based  
20          fuel use needs to be reduced 6.5 percent per year  
21          through the year 2100, nearly six times the current  
22          rate, to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference  
23          with the climate system.

24          (11) With only 5 percent of the world popu-  
25          lation, the United States emits approximately 20

1       percent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions  
2       and must be a leader in addressing global warming.

3           (12) The State of California, the 8th largest  
4       economy in the world, has shown that renewable en-  
5       ergy standards and greenhouse gas emissions regula-  
6       tion can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while fos-  
7       tering significant economic growth.

8           (13) Existing energy efficiency and clean, re-  
9       newable energy technologies can reduce global warm-  
10      ing pollution, while saving consumers money, reduc-  
11      ing our dependence on oil, enhancing national secu-  
12      rity, cleaning the air, and protecting pristine places  
13      from drilling and mining.

14       (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the  
15      Congress that the United States should participate in ne-  
16      gotiations under the 1992 United Nations Framework  
17      Convention on Climate Change and honor its commit-  
18      ments therefrom with the objective of securing United  
19      States participation in agreements that—

20           (1) establish mitigation commitments by all  
21      countries that are major emitters of greenhouse  
22      gases, consistent with the principle of common but  
23      differentiated responsibilities;

1           (2) achieve reductions in global greenhouse gas  
2           emissions at a pace and level sufficient to avoid dan-  
3           gerous interference with the Earth’s climate; and

4           (3) advance and protect the economic and na-  
5           tional security interests of the United States.

## 6       **TITLE I—RENEWABLE ENERGY**

### 7       **SEC. 101. NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD.**

8           Title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act  
9           of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a–4 et seq.) is amended by adding  
10          at the end the following:

### 11       **“SEC. 610. NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD.**

12          “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate  
13          regulations requiring that—

14               “(1) beginning in calendar year 2020, the per-  
15               centage of electric energy generated from renewable  
16               sources that is sold at the retail level in the United  
17               States shall increase each year;

18               “(2) in calendar year 2030 and each subse-  
19               quent calendar year, such percentage shall be not  
20               less than 40 percent of the total electric energy sold  
21               at the retail level in the United States; and

22               “(3) in calendar year 2050 and each subse-  
23               quent calendar year, such percentage shall not be  
24               less than 80 percent of the total electric energy sold  
25               at the retail level in the United States.

1 “(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out  
2 this section in consultation with the Administrator of the  
3 Environmental Protection Agency.

4 “(c) SUBSEQUENT INCREASES.—Upon petition or  
5 upon the Secretary’s own initiative, the Secretary may in-  
6 crease the percentage required by subsection (a)(2).

7 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
8 tion shall be construed to preempt or limit State actions  
9 to enhance renewable energy generation or energy effi-  
10 ciency.”.

## 11 **TITLE II—ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

### 12 **SEC. 201. NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARD.**

13 Title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act  
14 of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a–4 et seq.), as amended by sec-  
15 tion 101 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end  
16 the following:

### 17 **“SEC. 611. NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARD.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate  
19 regulations in accordance with this section setting end-  
20 user savings targets for retail electric energy and natural  
21 gas suppliers.

22 “(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out  
23 this section in consultation with the Administrator of the  
24 Environmental Protection Agency.

1           “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to targets under  
2 subsection (a):

3           “(1) The targets shall require each supplier to  
4 secure annual savings of a set percentage of the sup-  
5 plier’s most recent year’s sales to retail customers.

6           “(2) The savings shall be achieved through end-  
7 use efficiency improvements at customer facilities.

8           “(3) The targets—

9           “(A) for retail electric energy suppliers  
10 shall increase gradually from 0.25 percent of  
11 sales in 2018 to 1.5 percent of sales in 2023  
12 and each year thereafter through 2028; and

13           “(B) for retail natural gas suppliers shall  
14 increase gradually from 0.25 percent of sales in  
15 2018 to 0.5 percent of sales in 2023 and each  
16 year thereafter through 2028.

17           “(4) The targets are cumulative. Each year’s  
18 savings shall be achieved in addition to the previous  
19 years’ savings.

20           “(d) REQUIRED PERCENTAGES AFTER 2028.—The  
21 Secretary may, upon petition or upon the Secretary’s own  
22 initiative, increase the required percentage of end-user  
23 savings for years after 2028.

1           “(e) MARKET-BASED TRADING SYSTEM.—The Sec-  
2 retary shall allow suppliers to achieve the targets under  
3 subsection (a) through a market-based trading system.

4           “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
5 tion shall be construed to preempt or limit State actions  
6 to enhance renewable energy generation or energy effi-  
7 ciency.”.

## 8           **TITLE III—SCIENCE-BASED** 9           **REDUCTIONS**

### 10 **SEC. 301. EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS.**

11           Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
12 of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-  
13 tection Agency (in this title referred to as the “Adminis-  
14 trator”) shall promulgate annual emission reduction tar-  
15 gets for each of calendar years 2030 through 2050, so as  
16 to ensure that the quantity of United States greenhouse  
17 gas emissions—

18                   (1) in 2035, is at least 40 percent below the  
19                   quantity of such emissions in 1990; and

20                   (2) in 2050, is at least 80 percent below the  
21                   quantity of such emissions in 1990.

### 22 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL ACADEMIES REVIEW.**

23           Not later than 5 years after the date of the enact-  
24 ment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Admin-  
25 istrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National

1 Academies (or, if the National Academies decline to enter  
2 into such arrangement, another appropriate entity) under  
3 which the National Academies, acting through the Na-  
4 tional Academy of Sciences and the National Research  
5 Council, will submit a report to the Administrator and the  
6 Congress on the prospects for avoiding dangerous anthro-  
7 pogenic interference with the climate system and the  
8 progress made to date. Each such report shall—

9 (1) evaluate whether the emission reduction tar-  
10 gets promulgated pursuant to section 301 and the  
11 policies to reduce United States greenhouse gas  
12 emissions under this Act, the amendments made by  
13 this Act, and other provisions of law, including the  
14 Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), are likely  
15 to be sufficient to avoid dangerous climate change,  
16 taking into account the actions of other nations; and

17 (2) if the National Academies concludes that  
18 such targets and policies are not likely to be suffi-  
19 cient to avoid dangerous climate change—

20 (A) identify the needed amount of further  
21 reductions in atmospheric greenhouse gas con-  
22 centrations; and

23 (B) recommend additional United States  
24 and international actions to further reduce at-  
25 mospheric greenhouse gas concentrations.

1 **SEC. 303. REGULATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

3 (1) not later than 7 years after the date of en-  
4 actment of this Act, promulgate final regulations to  
5 implement the emission reduction targets under sec-  
6 tion 301; and

7 (2) not less than every 5 years thereafter—

8 (A) review such regulations, taking into ac-  
9 count the reports under section 302; and

10 (B) revise such regulation as necessary to  
11 implement such emission reduction targets.

12 (b) RULEMAKING ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF NA-  
13 TIONAL ACADEMIES.—If any report under section 302 in-  
14 cludes a recommendation under section 302(2)(B) for reg-  
15 ulatory action by a Federal department or agency, and  
16 such regulatory action is within the authority of such de-  
17 partment or agency (under law other than this sub-  
18 section), the head of such department or agency shall, not  
19 later than 2 years after the submission of such report, fi-  
20 nalize a rulemaking—

21 (1) to carry out such regulatory action; or

22 (2) to explain the reasons for declining to act.

23 (c) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.—The regulations  
24 promulgated under subsection (a) may include additional  
25 regulations to reduce emissions of United States green-  
26 house gases from any source or sector. Any such regula-

1 tions that address sources whose greenhouse gas emissions  
2 are regulated pursuant to section 111(d) of the Clean Air  
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 7411(d)) shall account for the compliance  
4 schedule promulgated pursuant to such section 111(d).  
5 Regulations under this section may include market-based  
6 measures, emissions performance standards, efficiency  
7 performance standards, best management practices, tech-  
8 nology-based requirements, and other forms of require-  
9 ments.

10 (d) **RELATION TO OTHER AUTHORITY.**—The author-  
11 ity vested by this title is in addition to the authority to  
12 regulate greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to other pro-  
13 visions of law.

14 **SEC. 304. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

15 Nothing in this title shall be interpreted to preempt  
16 or limit State actions to address climate change.

17 **SEC. 305. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this title:

19 (1) **GREENHOUSE GAS.**—The term “greenhouse  
20 gas” means—

21 (A) carbon dioxide;

22 (B) methane;

23 (C) nitrous oxide;

24 (D) hydrofluorocarbons;

25 (E) perfluorocarbons;

1 (F) sulfur hexafluoride; or

2 (G) any other anthropogenically emitted  
3 gas that is determined by the Administrator,  
4 after notice and comment, to contribute to glob-  
5 al warming to a non-negligible degree.

6 (2) UNITED STATES GREENHOUSE GAS EMIS-  
7 SIONS.—The term “United States greenhouse gas  
8 emissions” means the total quantity of greenhouse  
9 gas emissions calculated by the Administrator on an  
10 annual basis and reported to the United Nations  
11 Framework Convention on Climate Change Secre-  
12 tariat.