

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To establish the National Institutes of Clean Energy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish the National Institutes of Clean Energy.

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 “National Institutes of
5 Clean Energy Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF CLEAN ENERGY.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ADVANCED ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.—The
9 term “advanced energy technology” means a tech-
10 nology that—

1 (A) reduces greenhouse gas emissions with
2 high conversion efficiency;

3 (B) minimizes energy, water, and material
4 resource use;

5 (C) was produced by or helps generate a
6 renewable energy source; and

7 (D) minimizes environmental harms to or
8 negative public health impacts on frontline, vul-
9 nerable, and disadvantaged communities.

10 (2) FRONTLINE, VULNERABLE, AND DISADVAN-
11 TAGED COMMUNITY.—The term “frontline, vulner-
12 able, and disadvantaged community” means a com-
13 munity—

14 (A) in an area described in section 301(a)
15 of the Public Works and Economic Develop-
16 ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)); and

17 (B) in which climate change, pollution, or
18 environmental destruction have exacerbated sys-
19 temic racial, regional, social, environmental,
20 gender, and economic injustices by dispropor-
21 tionately affecting Black, Brown, and Indige-
22 nous peoples, other communities of color, mi-
23 grant communities, deindustrialized commu-
24 nities, depopulated rural communities, the poor,

1 low-income workers, women, the elderly, the
2 unhoused, people with disabilities, or youth.

3 (3) INSTITUTES.—The term “Institutes” means
4 the National Institutes of Clean Energy established
5 under subsection (b).

6 (4) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—
7 The term “land-grant college or university” means—

8 (A) an institution that is eligible to receive
9 funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (commonly
10 known as the “First Morrill Act”) (12 Stat.
11 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) or the
12 Act of August 30, 1890 (commonly known as
13 the “Second Morrill Act”) (26 Stat. 417, chap-
14 ter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including
15 Tuskegee University; and

16 (B) a 1994 Institution (as defined in sec-
17 tion 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-
18 Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note;
19 Public Law 103–382)).

20 (5) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
21 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-
22 tution of higher education described in section
23 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
24 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

1 (6) RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE.—The term
2 “renewable energy source” means energy generated
3 from a renewable source, including the following re-
4 newable energy sources:

5 (A) Solar, including electricity.

6 (B) Wind.

7 (C) Ocean, including tidal, wave, current,
8 and thermal.

9 (D) Geothermal, including electricity and
10 heat pumps.

11 (E) Hydroelectric generation capacity
12 achieved from increased efficiency or additions
13 of new capacity at an existing hydroelectric
14 project that was placed in service on or after
15 January 1, 1999.

16 (F) Hydrogen derived from a renewable
17 energy source that meets the requirements of
18 incrementality, temporal matching, and deliver-
19 ability described in section 1.45V-4 of title 26,
20 Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor
21 regulation).

22 (G) Thermal energy generated by any of
23 the sources described in subparagraphs (A)
24 through (F).

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than January 1,
2 2030, there shall be established the National Institutes of
3 Clean Energy, which shall be an agency of the Department
4 of Energy.

5 (c) ACTIVITIES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Institutes shall—

7 (A) invest in clean energy science, climate
8 science, innovation, and research and develop-
9 ment to reduce emissions and build climate re-
10 silience; and

11 (B) support—

12 (i) clean energy research areas, in-
13 cluding—

14 (I) demonstration projects for
15 clean energy and climate research and
16 development priorities, including
17 microgrids, energy storage, electric ve-
18 hicles, and advanced energy tech-
19 nologies in hard-to-decarbonize sec-
20 tors, such as the aviation and ship-
21 ping sectors; and

22 (II) clean energy research areas
23 that are underrepresented in existing
24 Federal research and development

1 funding, such as long-duration grid
2 storage;

3 (ii) research and development projects
4 focusing on the impacts of energy produc-
5 tion in frontline communities, including
6 communities of color and low-income com-
7 munities, that have been disproportionately
8 impacted by environmental injustices; and

9 (iii) research and development
10 projects focused on impacts of clean energy
11 and energy production on job loss, job cre-
12 ation, and workforce development, particu-
13 larly in heavily unionized workforce sec-
14 tors.

15 (2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1),
16 the Institutes shall give priority to—

17 (A) the development of technologies that
18 will—

19 (i) minimize environmental harms to
20 or negative public health impacts on front-
21 line, vulnerable, and disadvantaged com-
22 munities;

23 (ii) improve the public health of front-
24 line, vulnerable, and disadvantaged com-
25 munities; or

1 (iii) create high-quality jobs with
2 strong labor standards in frontline, vulner-
3 able, and disadvantaged communities;

4 (B) research and development of advanced
5 energy technologies;

6 (C) climate science and innovation and
7 clean energy technology;

8 (D) research and development that will be
9 conducted at—

10 (i) public universities and colleges;

11 (ii) land-grant colleges and univer-
12 sities;

13 (iii) minority-serving institutions, in-
14 cluding historically Black colleges and uni-
15 versities; and

16 (iv) consortia comprising 1 or more of
17 the entities described in clauses (i) through
18 (iii); and

19 (E) research and development in geo-
20 graphic areas that have seen the worst job
21 losses between 2018 and 2026, including rural
22 areas and areas impacted by
23 deindustrialization.

24 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
25 authorized to be appropriated \$400,000,000,000 for the

- 1 period of fiscal years 2027 through 2036 to establish and
- 2 operate the Institutes.