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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To accelerate the competitiveness of the United States in marine energy technologies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BARRAGÁN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To accelerate the competitiveness of the United States in marine energy technologies, 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 “Marine Energy Tech-
5 nologies Acceleration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MARINE ENERGY ACCELERATION.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Ma-
2 rine Energy Acceleration Fund established under
3 subsection (b).

4 (2) MARINE ENERGY.—The term “marine en-
5 ergy” has the meaning given that term in section
6 632 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of
7 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17211).

8 (3) NATIONAL MARINE ENERGY CENTERS.—
9 The term “National Marine Energy Centers” means
10 the National Marine Energy Centers referred to in,
11 or established under, section 636 of the Energy
12 Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C.
13 17215).

14 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Energy.

16 (b) MARINE ENERGY ACCELERATION FUND.—

17 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
18 tablish a fund, to be known as the “Marine Energy
19 Acceleration Fund”.

20 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
21 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund
22 \$1,000,000,000, to remain available until expended.

23 (c) MARINE ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
25 competitive solicitations for not fewer than twenty

1 marine energy demonstration projects that export
2 power to microgrids, community grids, or utility-
3 scale grids.

4 (2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this sub-
5 section, the Secretary may coordinate with the Na-
6 tional Marine Energy Centers and other entities
7 with proven technical expertise to support marine
8 energy demonstration projects.

9 (3) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this subsection,
10 the Secretary shall prioritize—

11 (A) projects that integrate marine energy
12 technologies with existing onshore and offshore
13 transmission infrastructure, nearshore and off-
14 shore marine structures, or projects with all
15 necessary local, State, and Federal licenses or
16 permits in place;

17 (B) open water prototype testing;

18 (C) projects that support energy resilience
19 and economic opportunities for rural commu-
20 nities, remote areas, Tribal communities, and
21 low-income communities; and

22 (D) projects that power ocean-based sci-
23 entific research and education, and support
24 workforce development, national security, and

1 commercial activities limited by the availability
2 of existing energy resources.

3 (4) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund,
4 \$600,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to
5 carry out this subsection.

6 (d) ADVANCEMENT OF MARINE ENERGY TECH-
7 NOLOGIES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
9 competitive solicitations for—

10 (A) research and development projects to
11 advance marine energy technologies; and

12 (B) upgrades to research and development
13 facilities that advance marine energy tech-
14 nologies.

15 (2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this sub-
16 section, the Secretary may coordinate with industry,
17 the National Marine Energy Centers, non-profits,
18 entities with all necessary local, State, and Federal
19 licenses or permits in place, National Laboratories,
20 Federal agencies involved in the development of ma-
21 rine energy technology, other existing marine energy
22 research and development programs, and other enti-
23 ties with proven technical expertise to support ma-
24 rine energy research, development, and demonstra-
25 tion.

1 (3) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this subsection,
2 the Secretary shall prioritize research and develop-
3 ment projects that—

4 (A) rapidly design, fabricate, and test ma-
5 rine energy systems, subsystems, components,
6 controls, domestic manufacturing, and materials
7 to improve efficiency, reduce costs, reduce envi-
8 ronmental impacts, increase power production,
9 and improve reliability at a variety of tech-
10 nology readiness levels that promote domestic
11 manufacturing, a domestic supply chain, and
12 energy independence;

13 (B) educate the public, policymakers, in-
14 vestors, educators, and other stakeholders about
15 the potential for deployment of marine energy
16 technologies, and identify the needs and con-
17 cerns of local communities where marine energy
18 projects may be placed; and

19 (C) support the development of tech-
20 nologies to monitor and mitigate impacts to ma-
21 rine and coastal ecosystems and communities.

22 (4) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund—

23 (A) \$230,000,000 shall be available to the
24 Secretary for technology research and develop-
25 ment activities under this subsection; and

1 (B) \$20,000,000 shall be available to the
2 Secretary for providing marine energy and edu-
3 cation activities under this subsection through
4 the National Marine Energy Centers.

5 (e) ASSESSMENT OF TECHNICAL RESOURCE POTEN-
6 TIAL.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
8 tion with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
9 ministration, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-
10 ment, and other agencies, as appropriate, shall as-
11 sess the economic potential of marine energy at not
12 fewer than 50 sites that previous agency assess-
13 ments and modeling have determined to have signifi-
14 cant marine energy potential.

15 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this sub-
16 section, the Secretary shall—

17 (A) develop, with input from interested
18 parties, in-depth marine energy resource and
19 conditions characterizations for each site;

20 (B) deploy environmental monitoring tech-
21 nologies, tools, and data collection to under-
22 stand and mitigate potential environmental
23 risks, characterize potential conflicts with other
24 users of the local marine resources, optimize

1 marine energy devices and arrays, and reduce
2 costs;

3 (C) ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
4 ticable, that the sites are geographically distrib-
5 uted to assess marine energy resources and
6 technologies in different regions of the United
7 States;

8 (D) where applicable, carry out technical
9 resource assessments in coordination with Re-
10 gional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oce-
11 anic and Atmospheric Administration Office for
12 Coastal Management; and

13 (E) use such technical resource assess-
14 ments to inform the location of the marine en-
15 ergy demonstration projects under subsection
16 (c).

17 (3) DATA SHARING.—Data collected under this
18 subsection shall be shared with public data reposi-
19 tories for use among regional ocean data portals and
20 partnerships.

21 (4) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund,
22 \$50,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to
23 carry out this subsection.

24 (f) IMPROVEMENT OF PERMITTING.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
2 tion with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commis-
3 sion, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the
4 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
5 the Corps of Engineers, and other agencies as need-
6 ed, shall convene a task force with the appropriate
7 Federal and State agencies to prepare a report
8 that—

9 (A) describes any barriers under the juris-
10 diction of such agencies to the development of
11 marine energy projects; and

12 (B) provides recommendations on reducing
13 such barriers, including identification and de-
14 termination of opportunities to improve the reg-
15 ulatory process associated with the authorities
16 required to deploy and license marine energy
17 projects, consistent with the National Environ-
18 mental Policy Act.

19 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The task force convened
20 under paragraph (1) shall—

21 (A) develop recommendations for efficient
22 permitting processes that reduce the time, cost,
23 and uncertainty for marine energy projects,
24 consistent with the National Environmental
25 Policy Act;

1 (B) determine whether additional staff are
2 required to be hired and trained at the appro-
3 priate Federal agencies to process permits and
4 conduct environmental reviews in a timely and
5 efficient manner;

6 (C) conduct outreach to stakeholders;

7 (D) facilitate Federal coordination with
8 State permitting processes for marine energy
9 projects, including by providing staff training
10 for State and territory permitting agencies; and

11 (E) not later than 1 year after the date of
12 enactment of this Act, submit to Congress the
13 report prepared under paragraph (1).

14 (3) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund, to
15 carry out this subsection—

16 (A) \$5,000,000 shall be available to the
17 Department of Energy;

18 (B) \$5,000,000 shall be available to the
19 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and

20 (C) \$5,000,000 shall be available to the
21 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

22 (g) WORKFORCE.—

23 (1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
25 shall conduct a national assessment of the prospec-

1 tive marine energy workforce and hiring needs and
2 the educational pathways and programs that would
3 address those needs.

4 (2) DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary
5 shall launch workforce development programs based
6 on the assessment conducted under paragraph (1),
7 in partnership with the National Marine Energy
8 Centers, the marine energy industry, institutions of
9 higher education, labor unions, non-profits, and ca-
10 reer and technical education programs.

11 (3) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this subsection,
12 the Secretary shall prioritize workforce development
13 programs in communities near the location of the
14 marine energy demonstration projects under sub-
15 section (c).

16 (4) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund,
17 \$85,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to
18 carry out this subsection.