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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To accelerate the commercialization of marine energy technologies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To accelerate the commercialization of 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 TECHNOLOGIES ACCELERA-
17 TION FUND.—

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

21 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
22 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund
23 \$1,000,000,000, to remain available until expended.

24 (c) MARINE ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
2 competitive solicitations for not fewer than twenty
3 marine energy technology demonstration projects
4 that export power to microgrids, community grids,
5 or utility-scale grids.

6 (2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this sub-
7 section, the Secretary may coordinate with the Na-
8 tional Marine Energy Centers, non-profits that pro-
9 mote the growth and development of the blue econ-
10 omy, universities with relevant facilities and access
11 to marine energy resources, and other entities with
12 proven technical expertise to support marine energy
13 demonstration projects.

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

16 (A) projects that integrate marine energy
17 technologies with existing onshore and offshore
18 transmission infrastructure, nearshore marine
19 structures, or projects with all necessary local,
20 State, and Federal licenses or permits in place;

21 (B) open water prototype testing for more
22 mature and advanced microgrid, community
23 grid, or utility-scale grid marine energy tech-
24 nologies nearing market adoption;

1 (C) projects that support energy resilience
2 and economic sustainability for rural and re-
3 mote disadvantaged communities, Tribal com-
4 munities, and communities of color; and

5 (D) projects that power ocean-based sci-
6 entific research and education, and support
7 workforce development, national security, and
8 commercial activities limited by the availability
9 of existing energy resources.

10 (4) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund,
11 \$600,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to
12 carry out this subsection.

13 (d) ADVANCEMENT OF MARINE ENERGY TECH-
14 NOLOGIES.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
16 competitive solicitations for—

17 (A) research and development projects to
18 advance marine energy technologies; and

19 (B) upgrades to research and development
20 facilities that advance marine energy tech-
21 nologies.

22 (2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this sub-
23 section, the Secretary may coordinate with the Na-
24 tional Marine Energy Centers, non-profits that pro-
25 mote the growth and development of the blue econ-

1 omy, universities with relevant facilities and access
2 to marine energy resources, entities with all nec-
3 essary local, State, and Federal licenses or permits
4 in place, National Laboratories, Federal agencies in-
5 volved in the development of marine energy tech-
6 nology, other existing marine energy research and
7 development programs, and other entities with prov-
8 en technical expertise to support marine energy re-
9 search, development, and commercialization.

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

13 (A) rapidly design, fabricate, and test ma-
14 rine energy systems, subsystems, components,
15 controls, domestic manufacturing, and materials
16 in order to advance efficiency, reduce costs, re-
17 duce environmental impacts, increase power
18 production, and improve reliability at a variety
19 of technology readiness levels;

20 (B) can be used to educate the public, pol-
21 icymakers, investors, educators, and other
22 stakeholders about the potential for deployment
23 of marine energy technologies, and identify the
24 needs and concerns of local communities where
25 projects may be placed; and

1 (C) support the development of tech-
2 nologies to monitor and mitigate impacts to ma-
3 rine and coastal ecosystems and communities.

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

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

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

12 (e) ASSESSMENT OF TECHNICAL RESOURCE POTEN-
13 TIAL.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
15 tion with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
16 ministration, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-
17 ment, and other agencies, as appropriate, shall as-
18 sess the technical resource potential of marine en-
19 ergy at not fewer than 50 sites that previous agency
20 assessments and modeling have determined to have
21 significant marine energy potential.

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

1 (A) develop in-depth marine energy re-
2 source and conditions characterizations for each
3 site;

4 (B) deploy environmental monitoring tech-
5 nologies, tools, and data collection to under-
6 stand and mitigate potential environmental
7 risks, characterize potential conflicts with other
8 users of the local marine resources, optimize
9 marine energy devices and arrays, and reduce
10 costs;

11 (C) ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
12 ticable, that the sites are geographically distrib-
13 uted to assess marine energy resources and
14 technologies in different regions of the United
15 States;

16 (D) where applicable, carry out technical
17 resource assessments in coordination with Re-
18 gional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oce-
19 anic and Atmospheric Administration Office for
20 Coastal Management; and

21 (E) use such technical resource assess-
22 ments to inform the location of the marine en-
23 ergy technology demonstration projects under
24 subsection (c).

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

5 (4) FUNDS.—Of the amounts in the Fund,
6 \$50,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to
7 carry out this subsection.

8 (f) IMPROVEMENT OF PERMITTING.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
10 tion with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commis-
11 sion, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the
12 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
13 the Corps of Engineers, and other agencies as need-
14 ed, shall convene a task force with the appropriate
15 Federal and State agencies to prepare a report
16 that—

17 (A) describes any barriers under the juris-
18 diction of such agencies to the development of
19 marine energy technology projects; and

20 (B) provides recommendations on reducing
21 such barriers, including identification and de-
22 termination of opportunities to improve the reg-
23 ulatory process associated with the authorities
24 required to deploy and license marine energy

1 technology projects, consistent with the Na-
2 tional Environmental Policy Act.

3 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The task force convened
4 under paragraph (1) shall—

5 (A) develop recommendations for efficient
6 permitting processes that reduce the time, cost,
7 and uncertainty for marine energy projects,
8 consistent with the National Environmental
9 Policy Act;

10 (B) determine whether additional staff are
11 required to be hired and trained at the appro-
12 priate Federal agencies to process permits and
13 conduct environmental reviews in a timely and
14 efficient manner;

15 (C) conduct outreach to stakeholders;

16 (D) facilitate Federal coordination with
17 State permitting processes for marine energy
18 projects, including by providing staff training
19 for State and territory permitting agencies; and

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

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

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

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

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

7 (g) WORKFORCE.—

8 (1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 shall conduct a national assessment of—

11 (A) the prospective marine energy work-
12 force and hiring needs; and

13 (B) the educational pathways and pro-
14 grams that would address those needs.

15 (2) DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary
16 shall launch workforce development programs based
17 on the assessment conducted under paragraph (1),
18 in partnership with the National Marine Energy
19 Centers, the marine energy industry, institutions of
20 higher education, labor unions, non-profits, and ca-
21 reer and technical education programs.

22 (3) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this subsection,
23 the Secretary shall prioritize workforce development
24 programs in communities near the location of the

1 marine energy technology demonstration projects
2 under subsection (c).

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