

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To promote the use of resilient energy systems to rebuild infrastructure following disasters.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HEINRICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To promote the use of resilient energy systems to rebuild infrastructure following disasters.

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 “Rebuilding Resilient
5 Energy Systems Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **EFFICIENT.**—The term “efficient” means,
9 with respect to a technology, product, material,
10 equipment, or practice, the use of the technology,

1 product, material, equipment, or practice in a man-
2 ner that results in reduced energy consumption or
3 energy costs for the same level of service or a higher
4 level of service.

5 (2) **RESILIENT.**—The term “resilient” means,
6 with respect to a system or a component of a sys-
7 tem, the ability of the system or component to adapt
8 to a changing condition and withstand and rapidly
9 recover from a disruption.

10 **SEC. 3. USE OF RESILIENT ENERGY SYSTEMS TO REBUILD**
11 **FOLLOWING DISASTERS.**

12 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provi-
13 sion of law, any amounts awarded under sections 403,
14 404, 406, 408, and 428 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
15 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b,
16 5170c, 5172, 5174, 5189f) may be used to build, repair,
17 restore, reconstruct, or replace an energy system or build-
18 ing as a result of a major disaster or emergency des-
19 igned by the President under the Robert T. Stafford
20 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
21 5121 et seq.) during calendar year 2017 in a manner
22 that—

23 (1) is more resilient;

24 (2) is more efficient;

1 (3) provides continuous flow of power to facili-
2 ties critical to public health, safety, and welfare;

3 (4) maximizes the use of clean energy resources
4 and energy storage technologies; and

5 (5) promotes lower energy bills to the extent
6 feasible.

7 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
8 section (a) creates eligibility for assistance for any energy
9 provider that is not otherwise eligible for assistance under
10 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
11 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

12 (c) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
14 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall des-
15 ignate a representative of the Agency to coordinate
16 with 1 or more private entities that are interested in
17 donating energy system technologies and services to
18 rebuild in accordance with subsection (a) following a
19 major disaster or emergency.

20 (2) COORDINATION AMONG AGENCIES.—In car-
21 rying out paragraph (1), the Administrator of the
22 Federal Emergency Management Agency is encour-
23 aged to coordinate with the Secretary of Energy and
24 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

25 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, each National
3 Laboratory (as defined in section 2 of the Energy
4 Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)), in coordina-
5 tion with the programs of the Department of Energy
6 that provide assistance to States and industry, shall
7 make technical assistance available to Federal,
8 State, and local agencies and private entities that
9 are interested in—

10 (A) developing plans or providing guidance
11 on the design of a resilient and efficient energy
12 system or building; and

13 (B) building, repairing, restoring, recon-
14 structing, or replacing an energy system or
15 building in accordance with subsection (a) fol-
16 lowing a major disaster or emergency.

17 (2) CONSULTATION AMONG AGENCIES.—The
18 Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
19 ment Agency is encouraged to consult with the Sec-
20 retary of Defense regarding the experience of the
21 Department of Defense in building resilient power
22 systems.