

**S. \_\_\_\_, the *Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act*:**

This legislation would establish a pilot program, known as the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Program, at the Environmental Protection Agency. This pilot program would award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to improve recycling accessibility in a community or communities within the same geographic area. The goal of the program is to fund eligible projects that will significantly improve accessibility to recycling systems in underserved communities through the use of a hub-and-spoke model for recycling infrastructure development.

In selecting eligible entities to receive a grant under the pilot grant program, the Administrator shall consider:

- whether the community or communities in which the eligible entity is seeking to carry out a proposed project has curbside recycling;
- whether the proposed project of the eligible entity will improve accessibility to recycling services in a single underserved community or multiple underserved communities; and
- if the eligible entity is a public-private partnership, the financial health of the private entity seeking to enter into that public-private partnership.

Priority for these grants will be given to eligible entities seeking to carry out a proposed project in a community in which there is not more than one materials recovery facility within a 75-mile radius of that community.

An eligible entity awarded a grant under the pilot grant program may use the grant funds for projects to improve recycling accessibility in communities, including in underserved communities, by:

- increasing the number of transfer stations;
- expanding curbside recycling collection programs where appropriate; and
- leveraging public-private partnerships to reduce the costs associated with collecting and transporting recyclable materials in underserved communities.

Grants awarded until this pilot program may not be used to fund recycling education programs.

