AMENDMENT NO.______ Calendar No.______

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 3891

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to update and expand Federal economic development investment in the economic recovery, resiliency, and competitiveness of communities, regions, and States across the United States, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on ______ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO)

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the “Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

6 (b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 101. Findings and declarations.
Sec. 102. Definitions.
Sec. 103. Increased coordination.
Sec. 104. Grants for public works and economic development.
Sec. 105. Grants for planning and grants for administrative expenses.
Sec. 106. Cost sharing.
Sec. 107. Regulations on relative needs and allocations.
Sec. 108. Research and technical assistance; university centers.
Sec. 109. Investment priorities.
Sec. 110. Grants for economic adjustment.
Sec. 111. Renewable energy program.
Sec. 112. Workforce training grants.
Sec. 113. Congressional notification requirements.
Sec. 114. Specific flexibilities related to deployment of high-speed broadband.
Sec. 115. Critical supply chain site development grant program.
Sec. 116. Updated distress criteria and grant rates.
Sec. 117. Comprehensive economic development strategies.
Sec. 118. Office of Tribal Economic Development.
Sec. 119. Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience.
Sec. 120. Establishment of technical assistance liaisons.
Sec. 121. Annual report to Congress.
Sec. 122. Modernization of environmental reviews.
Sec. 123. GAO report on economic development programs.
Sec. 124. GAO report on Economic Development Administration regulations and policies.
Sec. 125. GAO study on rural communities.
Sec. 126. General authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 127. Technical correction.

TITLE II—REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 201. Regional commission authorizations.
Sec. 202. Regional commission modifications.
Sec. 203. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies.
Sec. 204. Economic and infrastructure development grants.
Sec. 205. Financial assistance.
Sec. 206. Northern Border Regional Commission area.
Sec. 207. Southwest Border Regional Commission area.
Sec. 208. Great Lakes Authority area.
Sec. 209. Additional regional commission programs.
Sec. 210. Tribal and colonia participation in southwest border region.
Sec. 211. Establishment of Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.
Sec. 213. Denali Commission reauthorization.
Sec. 214. Denali Housing Fund.
Sec. 215. Delta Regional Authority reauthorization.
Sec. 216. Northern Great Plains Regional Authority reauthorization.
TITLE I—PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 101. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

Section 2 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

“(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

“(1) there continue to be areas of the United States—

“(A) experiencing chronic high unemployment, underemployment, outmigration, and low per capita incomes; and

“(B) facing sudden and severe economic dislocations because of structural economic changes, changing trade patterns, certain Federal actions (including environmental requirements that result in the removal of economic activities from a locality), impacts from natural disasters, and transitioning industries, including energy generation, steel production, and mining;

“(2) economic growth in the States, cities, and rural areas of the United States is produced by expanding economic opportunities, expanding free en-
prise through trade, promoting resilience in public
infrastructure, creating conditions for job creation,
job retention, and business development, and by cap-
turing the opportunities to lead the industries of the
future, including advanced technologies, clean energy
production, and advanced manufacturing tech-
ologies;

“(3) the goal of Federal economic development
programs is to raise the standard of living for all
citizens and increase the wealth and overall rate of
growth of the economy by encouraging communities
to develop a more competitive and diversified eco-

“(A) creating an environment that pro-
motes economic activity by improving and ex-
panding modern public infrastructure;

“(B) promoting job creation, retention,
and workforce readiness through increased in-

“(C) empowering local and regional com-
munities experiencing chronic high unemploy-
ment, underemployment, low labor force partici-
pation, and low per capita income to develop
private sector business and attract increased private sector capital investment;

“(4) while economic development is an inherently local process, the Federal Government should work in partnership with public and private State, regional, Tribal, and local organizations to maximize the impact of existing resources and enable regions, communities, and citizens to participate more fully in the American dream and national prosperity;

“(5) in order to avoid duplication of effort and achieve meaningful, long-lasting results, Federal, State, Tribal, and local economic development activities should have a clear focus, improved coordination, a comprehensive approach, and simplified and consistent requirements;

“(6) Federal economic development efforts will be more effective if the efforts are coordinated with, and build on, the trade, workforce investment, scientific research, environmental protection, transportation, and technology programs of the United States, including through the consolidation and alignment of plans and strategies to promote effective economic development;

“(7) rural communities face unique challenges in addressing infrastructure needs, sometimes lack-
ing the necessary tax base for required upgrades,
and often encounter limited financing options and
capacity, which can impede new development and
long-term economic growth; and

“(8) assisting communities and regions in be-
coming more resilient to the effects of extreme
weather threats and events will promote economic
development and job creation.

“(b) DECLARATIONS.—In order to promote a strong,
growing, resilient, competitive, and secure economy
throughout the United States, the opportunity to pursue,
and be employed in, high-quality jobs with family-sus-
taining wages, and to live in communities that enable busi-
ess creation and wealth, Congress declares that—

“(1) assistance under this Act should be made
available to both rural- and urban-distressed com-
munities;

“(2) local communities should work in partner-
ship with neighboring communities, States, Indian
tribes, and the Federal Government to increase the
capacity of the local communities to develop and im-
plement comprehensive economic development strate-
gies to alleviate economic distress and enhance com-
petitiveness in the global economy;
“(3) whether suffering from long-term distress or a sudden dislocation, distressed communities should be encouraged to support entrepreneurship to take advantage of the development opportunities afforded by technological innovation and expanding newly opened global markets; and

“(4) assistance under this Act should be made available to modernize and promote recycling, promote the productive reuse of abandoned industrial facilities and the redevelopment of brownfields, and invest in public assets that support travel and tourism and outdoor recreation.”.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (12) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (12), (13), (14), (16), and (17), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(1) BLUE ECONOMY.—The term ‘blue economy’ means the sustainable use of marine, lake, or other aquatic resources in support of economic development objectives.
“(2) CAPACITY BUILDING.—The term ‘capacity building’ includes all activities associated with early stage community-based project formation and conceptualization, prior to project predevelopment activity, including grants to local community organizations for planning participation, community outreach and engagement activities, research, and mentorship support to move projects from formation and conceptualization to project predevelopment.”;

(3) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated), in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “to the extent appropriate” and inserting “to the extent determined appropriate by the Secretary”;

(4) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (v), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in clause (vi), by striking the period at end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) an economic development organization; or

“(viii) a public-private partnership for public infrastructure.”;
(5) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as so re-designated) the following:

“(10) OUTDOOR RECREATION.—The term ‘outdoor recreation’ means all recreational activities, and the economic drivers of those activities, that occur in nature-based environments outdoors.

“(11) PROJECT PREDEVELOPMENT.—The term ‘project predevelopment’ means a measure required to be completed before the initiation of a project, including—

“(A) planning and community asset mapping;

“(B) training;

“(C) technical assistance and organizational development;

“(D) feasibility and market studies;

“(E) demonstration projects; and

“(F) other predevelopment activities determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.”;

(6) by striking paragraph (12) (as so re-designated) and inserting the following:

“(12) REGIONAL COMMISSION.—The term ‘Regional Commission’ means any of the following:
“(A) The Appalachian Regional Commission established by section 14301(a) of title 40, United States Code.

“(B) The Delta Regional Authority established by section 382B(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(a)(1)).


“(D) The Great Lakes Authority established by section 15301(a)(4) of title 40, United States Code.

“(E) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(5) of title 40, United States Code.

“(F) The Northern Border Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

“(G) The Northern Great Plains Regional Authority established by section 383B(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–1(a)(1)).
“(H) The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(1) of title 40, United States Code.


“(J) The Southwest Border Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(2) of title 40, United States Code.”;

(7) by inserting after paragraph (14) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(15) TRAVEL AND TOURISM.—The term ‘travel and tourism’ means any economic activity that primarily serves to encourage recreational or business travel in or to the United States.”; and

(8) in paragraph (17) (as so redesignated), by striking “established as a University Center for Economic Development under section 207(a)(2)(D)” and inserting “established under section 207(c)(1)”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 207(a)(3) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147(a)(3)) is amended by striking “section 3(4)(A)(vi)” and inserting “section 3(6)(A)(vi)”.

“(15) TRAVEL AND TOURISM.—The term ‘travel and tourism’ means any economic activity that primarily serves to encourage recreational or business travel in or to the United States.”; and

(8) in paragraph (17) (as so redesignated), by striking “established as a University Center for Economic Development under section 207(a)(2)(D)” and inserting “established under section 207(c)(1)”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 207(a)(3) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147(a)(3)) is amended by striking “section 3(4)(A)(vi)” and inserting “section 3(6)(A)(vi)”.
SEC. 103. INCREASED COORDINATION.

Section 103 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3133) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) MEETINGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out subsection (a), or for any other purpose relating to economic development activities, the Secretary may convene meetings with Federal agencies, State and local governments, economic development districts, Indian tribes, and other appropriate planning and development organizations.

“(2) REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to meetings described in paragraph (1), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024, and not less frequently than every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall convene a meeting with the Regional Commissions in furtherance of subsection (a).

“(B) ATTENDEES.—The attendees for a meeting convened under this paragraph shall consist of—
“(i) the Secretary, acting through the
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Eco-

"(ii) the Federal Cochairpersons of
the Regional Commissions, or their des-
ignees; and

"(iii) the State Cochairpersons of the
Regional Commissions, or their designees.

“(C) PURPOSE.—The purposes of a meet-
ing convened under this paragraph shall in-
clude—

“(i) to enhance coordination between
the Economic Development Administration
and the Regional Commissions in carrying
out economic development programs;

“(ii) to reduce duplication of efforts
by the Economic Development Administra-
tion and the Regional Commissions in car-
rying out economic development programs;

“(iii) to develop best practices and
strategies for fostering regional economic
development; and

“(iv) any other purposes as deter-
mined appropriate by the Secretary.
“(D) REPORT.—Where applicable and pursuant to subparagraph (C), not later than 1 year after a meeting under this paragraph, the Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available a report detailing, at a minimum—

“(i) the planned actions by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions to enhance coordination or reduce duplication of efforts and a timeline for implementing those actions; and

“(ii) any best practices and strategies developed.”.

SEC. 104. GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

(a) In General.—Section 201 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or for the improvement of waste management and recycling systems” after “development facility”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “increasing the resilience” after “expansion,”;
(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “successful establishment or expansion” and inserting “successful establishment, expansion, or retention,”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “and underemployed” after “unemployed”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants under subsection (a) and subject to the criteria in subsection (b), the Secretary may also consider the extent to which a project would—

“(1) lead to economic diversification in the area, or a part of the area, in which the project is or will be located;

“(2) address and mitigate impacts from extreme weather events, including development of resilient infrastructure, products, and processes;

“(3) benefit highly rural communities without adequate tax revenues to invest in long-term or costly infrastructure;

“(4) increase access to high-speed broadband;
“(5) support outdoor recreation to spur economic development, with a focus on rural communities;

“(6) promote job creation or retention relative to the population of the impacted region with outsized significance;

“(7) promote travel and tourism; or

“(8) promote blue economy activities.”.

SEC. 105. GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Section 203 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3143) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e);

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Administrative expenses that may be paid with a grant under this section include—

“(1) expenses related to carrying out the planning process described in subsection (b);

“(2) expenses related to project predevelopment; and

“(3) expenses related to hiring professional staff to assist communities in—
“(A) project predevelopment and implementing projects and priorities included in—

“(i) a comprehensive economic development strategy; or

“(ii) an economic development planning grant;

“(B) identifying and using other Federal, State, and Tribal economic development programs;

“(C) leveraging private and philanthropic investment;

“(D) preparing disaster coordination and preparation plans; and

“(E) carrying out economic development and predevelopment activities in accordance with professional economic development best practices.”; and

(3) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “; and” and inserting “(including broadband)”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:
“(F) address and mitigate impacts of extreme weather; and”.

SEC. 106. COST SHARING.

(a) In General.—Section 204 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3144) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “50” and inserting “60”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “In determining” and inserting the following:

“(1) In General.—In determining”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) Regional Commission Funds.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds contributed by a Regional Commission for a project under this title may be considered to be part of the non-Federal share of the costs of the project.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or can otherwise document that no local matching funds are reasonably obtainable” after “or political subdivision”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—
(i) by striking “section 207” and inserting “section 203 or 207”; and

(ii) by striking “project if” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “project.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—In the case of a grant provided under section 209 for a project for economic recovery in response to a major disaster or emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Secretary may increase the Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(5) SMALL COMMUNITIES.—In the case of a grant to a political subdivision of a State (as described in section 3(6)(A)(iv)) that has a population of fewer than 10,000 residents and meets 1 or more of the eligibility criteria described in section 301(a), the Secretary may increase the Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 703 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3233) is amended—
(1) by striking subsection (b); and
(2) by striking the section designation and
heading and all that follows through “In addition”
in subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 703. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DIS-
ASTER ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.

“In addition”.

SEC. 107. REGULATIONS ON RELATIVE NEEDS AND ALLOCA-
TIONS.

Section 206 of the Public Works and Economic De-
velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3146) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph
(B) and inserting the following:

“(B) the per capita income levels, the labor
force participation rate, and the extent of
underemployment in eligible areas; and”; and
(2) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and reten-
tion” after “creation”.

SEC. 108. RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; UNI-
VERSITY CENTERS.

Section 207 of the Public Works and Economic De-
velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147) is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by inserting “,
project predevelopment,” after “planning”; and
(2) by adding at the end the following:
“(c) UNIVERSITY CENTERS.—

“(1) Establishment.—In accordance with subsection (a)(2)(D), the Secretary may make grants to institutions of higher education to serve as university centers.

“(2) Geographic coverage.—The Secretary shall ensure that the network of university centers established under this subsection provides services in each State.

“(3) Duties.—To the maximum extent practicable, a university center established under this subsection shall—

“(A) collaborate with other university centers;

“(B) collaborate with economic development districts and other relevant Federal economic development technical assistance and service providers to provide expertise and technical assistance to develop, implement, and support comprehensive economic development strategies and other economic development planning at the local, regional, and State levels, with a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and regional economic development;
“(C) provide technical assistance, business development, and technology transfer services to businesses in the area served by the university center;

“(D) establish partnerships with 1 or more commercialization intermediaries that are public or nonprofit technology transfer organizations eligible to receive a grant under section 602 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–9);

“(E) promote local and regional capacity building; and

“(F) provide to communities and regions assistance relating to data collection and analysis and other research relating to economic conditions and vulnerabilities that can inform economic development and adjustment strategies.

“(4) CONSIDERATION.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider the significant role of regional public universities in supporting economic development in distressed communities through the planning and the implementation of economic development projects and initiatives.”.
SEC. 109. INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after section 207 (42 U.S.C. 3147) the following:

“SEC. 208. INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), for a project to be eligible for assistance under this title, the project shall be consistent with 1 or more of the following investment priorities:

“(1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that support development of public facilities, including basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or telecommunications infrastructure.

“(2) WORKFORCE.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that—

“(A) support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that result in well-paying jobs; or

“(B) otherwise promote labor force participation.

“(3) INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that—
“(A) support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure;

“(B) promote business development and lending; or

“(C) foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.

“(4) ECONOMIC RECOVERY RESILIENCE.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or impacts from natural disasters.

“(5) MANUFACTURING.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.
“(b) CONDITIONS.—If the Secretary plans to use an investment priority that is not described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written notification that explains the basis for using that investment priority.

“(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section waives any other requirement of this Act.”.

SEC. 110. GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.

Section 209 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3149) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting “, travel and tourism, natural resource-based, blue economy, or agricultural” after “manufacturing”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) economic dislocation in the steel industry due to the closure of a steel plant, primary steel economy contraction events (including temporary
layoffs and shifts to part-time work), or job losses in the steel industry or associated with the departure or contraction of the steel industry, for help in economic restructuring of the communities.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after section (c) the following:

“(d) ASSISTANCE TO COAL COMMUNITIES.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) COAL ECONOMY.—The term ‘coal economy’ means the complete supply chain of coal-reliant industries, including—

“(i) coal mining;
“(ii) coal-fired power plants;
“(iii) transportation or logistics; and
“(iv) manufacturing.

“(B) CONTRACTION EVENT.—The term ‘contraction event’ means the closure of a facility or a reduction in activity relating to a coal-reliant industry, including an industry described in any of clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A).

“(2) AUTHORIZATION.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants
for projects in areas adversely impacted by a con-
traction event in the coal economy.

“(3) Eligibility.—

“(A) In general.—In carrying out this
subsection, the Secretary shall determine the
eligibility of an area based on whether the eligi-
ble recipient can reasonably demonstrate that
the area—

“(i) has been adversely impacted by a
contraction event in the coal economy with-
in the previous 25 years; or

“(ii) will be adversely impacted by a
contraction event in the coal economy.

“(B) Prohibition.—No regulation or
other policy of the Secretary may limit the eligi-

(bility of an eligible recipient for a grant under
this subsection based on the date of a contrac-
tion event except as provided in subparagraph
(A)(i).

“(C) Demonstrating adverse im-
pact.—For the purposes of this paragraph, an
eligible recipient may demonstrate an adverse
impact by demonstrating—

“(i) a loss in employment;

“(ii) a reduction in tax revenue; or
“(iii) any other factor, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

“(e) ASSISTANCE TO NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITIES.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’ means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

“(B) COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD.—The term ‘community advisory board’ means a community committee or other advisory organization that aims to foster communication and information exchange between a licensee planning for and involved in decommissioning activities and members of the community that decommissioning activities may affect.

“(C) DECOMMISSION.—The term ‘decommission’ has the meaning given the term in section 50.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

“(D) LICENSEE.—The term ‘licensee’ has the meaning given the term in section 50.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).
“(E) NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITY.—The term ‘nuclear host community’ means an eligible recipient that has been impacted, or reasonably demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that it will be impacted, by a nuclear power plant licensed by the Commission that—

“(i) is not co-located with an operating nuclear power plant;

“(ii) is at a site with spent nuclear fuel; and

“(iii) as of the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024—

“(I) has ceased operations; or

“(II) has provided a written notification to the Commission that it will cease operations.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants—

“(A) to assist with economic development in nuclear host communities; and

“(B) to fund community advisory boards in nuclear host communities.
“(3) Requirement.—In carrying out this subsection, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall implement the recommendations described in the report submitted to Congress under section 108 of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (Public Law 115–439; 132 Stat. 5577) entitled ‘Best Practices for Establishment and Operation of Local Community Advisory Boards Associated with Decommissioning Activities at Nuclear Power Plants’.

“(4) Distribution of Funds.—The Secretary shall establish a methodology to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, geographic diversity among grant recipients under this subsection.”.

SEC. 111. RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM.

Section 218 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3154d) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “BRIGHTFIELDS DEMONSTRATION” and inserting “RENEWABLE ENERGY”;

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) Definition of Renewable Energy Site.—In this section, the term ‘renewable energy site’ means a brownfield site that is redeveloped through the incorpora-
tion of 1 or more renewable energy technologies, including solar, wind, geothermal, ocean, and emerging, but proven, renewable energy technologies.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—
(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM” and inserting “ESTABLISHMENT”;
(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “brightfield” and inserting “renewable energy”; and
(C) in paragraph (1), by striking “solar energy technologies” and inserting “renewable energy technologies described in subsection (a),”; and
(4) by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 112. WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 219. WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.

“(a) In General.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants to support the development and expansion of innovative workforce training programs through sectoral partnerships leading to quality jobs and the acquisition of equipment or construc-
tion of facilities to support workforce development activi-

ties.

“(b) ELIGIBLE USES.—Funds from a grant under
this section may be used for—

“(1) acquisition or development of land and im-
provements to house workforce training activities;

“(2) acquisition, design and engineering, con-
struction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or im-
provement of such a facility, including related equip-
ment and machinery;

“(3) acquisition of machinery or equipment to
support workforce training activities;

“(4) planning, technical assistance, and train-
ing;

“(5) sector partnerships development, program
design, and program implementation; and

“(6) in the case of an eligible recipient that is
a State, subject to subsection (c), a State program
to award career scholarships to train individuals for
employment in critical industries with high demand
and vacancies necessary for further economic devel-
opment of the applicable State that—

“(A) requires significant post-secondary
training; but
“(B) does not require a post-secondary degree.

“(c) Career Scholarships State Grant Program.—

“(1) In general.—The Secretary may award grants to States for the purpose described in subsection (b)(6).

“(2) Application.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, the Chief Executive of a State shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

“(A) A method for identifying critical industry sectors driving in-State economic growth that face staffing challenges for in-demand jobs and careers.

“(B) A governance structure for the implementation of the program established by the State, including defined roles for the consortia of agencies of such State, at a minimum, to include the State departments of economic development, labor, and education, or the State departments or agencies with jurisdiction over those matters.
“(C) A strategy for recruiting participants from at least 1 community that meets 1 or more of the criteria described in section 301(a).

“(D) A plan for how the State will develop a tracking system for eligible programs, participant enrollment, participant outcomes, and an application portal for individual participants.

“(3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall award not more than 1 grant under this subsection to any State.

“(4) ELIGIBLE USES.—A grant under this subsection may be used for—

“(A) necessary costs to carry out the matters described in this subsection, including tuition and stipends for individuals that receive a career scholarship grant, subject to the requirements described in paragraph (6); and

“(B) program implementation, planning, technical assistance, or training.

“(5) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding section 204, the Federal share of the cost of any award carried out with a grant made under this subsection shall not exceed 70 percent.

“(6) PARTICIPANT AMOUNTS.—A State shall ensure that grant funds provided under this sub-
section to each individual that receives a career scholarship grant under the program established by the applicable State is the lesser of the following amounts:

“(A) In a case in which the individual is also eligible for a Federal Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) for enrollment at the applicable training program for any award year of the training program, $11,000 minus the amount of the awarded Federal Pell Grant.

“(B) For an individual not described in paragraph (1), the lesser of—

“(i) $11,000; and

“(ii) the total cost of the training program in which the individual is enrolled, including tuition, fees, career navigation services, textbook costs, expenses related to assessments and exams for certification or licensure, equipment costs, and wage stipends (in the case of a training program that is an earn-and-learn program).

“(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the development of new workforce development mod-
els with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Edu-

cation.”.

SEC. 113. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Develop-
ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended
by section 112) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
lowing:

“SEC. 220. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIRE-
MENTS.

“(a) In General.—In the case of a project described
in subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide to the Com-
mittee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate
and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
of the House of Representatives notice, in accordance with
subsection (c), of the award of a grant for the project not
less than 3 business days before notifying an eligible re-
cipient of their selection for that award.

“(b) Projects Described.—A project referred to
in subsection (a) is a project that the Secretary has se-
lected to receive a grant administered by the Economic
Development Administration in an amount not less than
$100,000.

“(c) Requirements.—A notification under sub-
section (a) shall include—

“(1) the name of the project;
“(2) the name of the applicant;
“(3) the region in which the project is to be carried out;
“(4) the State in which the project is to be carried out;
“(5) the amount of the grant awarded;
“(6) a description of the project; and
“(7) any additional information, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.
“(d) Public Availability.—The Secretary shall make a notification under subsection (a) publicly available not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary provides the notice.”.

SEC. 114. SPECIFIC FLEXIBILITIES RELATED TO DEPLOYMENT OF HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended by section 113) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 221. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIATIVE.

“(a) Definitions.—In this section:
“(1) Broadband project.—The term ‘broadband project’ means, for the purposes of providing, extending, expanding, or improving high-
speed broadband service to further the goals of this Act—

“(A) planning, technical assistance, or training;

“(B) the acquisition or development of land; or

“(C) the acquisition, design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of facilities, including related machinery, equipment, contractual rights, and intangible property.

“(2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ‘eligible recipient’ includes—

“(A) a public-private partnership; and

“(B) a consortium formed for the purpose of providing, extending, expanding, or improving high-speed broadband service between 1 or more eligible recipients and 1 or more for-profit organizations.

“(3) HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.—The term ‘high-speed broadband’ means the provision of 2-way data transmission with sufficient downstream and upstream speeds to end users to permit effective participation in the economy and to support economic growth, as determined by the Secretary.
“(b) BROADBAND PROJECTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants under this title for broadband projects, which shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In reviewing applications submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into consideration geographic diversity of grants provided, including consideration of underserved markets, in addition to data requested in paragraph (3).

“(3) DATA REQUESTED.—In reviewing an application submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall request from the Federal Communications Commission, the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Appalachian Regional Commission data on—

“(A) the level and extent of broadband service that exists in the area proposed to be served; and

“(B) the level and extent of broadband service that will be deployed in the area proposed to be served pursuant to another Federal program.
“(4) Interest in Real or Personal Property.—For any broadband project carried out by an eligible recipient that is a public-private partnership or consortium, the Secretary shall require that title to any real or personal property acquired or improved with grant funds, or if the recipient will not acquire title, another possessory interest acceptable to the Secretary, be vested in a public partner or eligible nonprofit organization or association for the useful life of the project, after which title may be transferred to any member of the public-private partnership or consortium in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.

“(5) Procurement.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person or entity shall be disqualified from competing to provide goods or services related to a broadband project on the basis that the person or entity participated in the development of the broadband project or in the drafting of specifications, requirements, statements of work, or similar documents related to the goods or services to be provided.

“(6) Broadband Project Property.—

“(A) In general.—The Secretary may permit a recipient of a grant for a broadband
project to grant an option to acquire real or personal property (including contractual rights and intangible property) related to that project to a third party on such terms as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, subject to the condition that the option may only be exercised after the Secretary releases the Federal interest in the property.

“(B) TREATMENT.—The grant or exercise of an option described in subparagraph (A) shall not constitute a redistribution of grant funds under section 217.

“(c) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—In determining the amount of the non-Federal share of the cost of a broadband project, the Secretary may provide credit toward the non-Federal share for the present value of allowable contributions over the useful life of the broadband project, subject to the condition that the Secretary may require such assurances of the value of the rights and of the commitment of the rights as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.”.

SEC. 115. CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended
by section 114) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
ing:

“SEC. 222. CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT
GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible
recipient, the Secretary may make grants under the ‘Crit-
ical Supply Chain Site Development grant program’ (re-
ferred to in this section as the ‘grant program’) to carry
out site development or expansion projects for the purpose
of making the site ready for manufacturing projects.

“(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In providing a grant to an
eligible recipient under the grant program, the Secretary
may consider whether—

“(1) the proposed improvements to the site will
improve economic conditions for rural areas, Tribal
communities, or areas that meet 1 or more of the
criteria described in section 301(a);

“(2) the project is consistent with regional eco-

demic development plans, which may include a com-
prehensive economic development strategy;

“(3) the eligible recipient has initiatives to
prioritize job training and workforce development; and
“(4) the project supports industries determined by the Secretary to be of strategic importance to the national or economic security of the United States.

“(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants to eligible recipients under the grant program, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible recipients that propose to carry out a project that—

“(1) has State, local, private, or nonprofit funds being contributed to assist with site development efforts; and

“(2) if the site development or expansion project is carried out, will result in a demonstrated interest in the site by commercial entities or other entities.

“(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant provided under the grant program may be used for the following activities relating to the development or expansion of a site:

“(1) Investments in site utility readiness, including—

“(A) construction of on-site utility infrastructure;

“(B) construction of last-mile infrastructure, including road infrastructure, water infrastructure, power infrastructure, broadband in-
frastructure, and other physical last-mile infra-
structure;

“(C) site grading; and

“(D) other activities to extend public utili-
ties or services to a site, as determined appro-
priate by the Secretary.

“(2) Investments in site readiness, including—

“(A) land assembly;

“(B) environmental reviews;

“(C) zoning;

“(D) design;

“(E) engineering; and

“(F) permitting.

“(3) Investments in workforce development and
sustainability programs, including job training and
retraining programs.

“(4) Investments to ensure that disadvantaged
communities have access to on-site jobs.

“(e) PROHIBITION.—In awarding grants under the
grant program, the Secretary shall not require an eligible
recipient to demonstrate that a private company or invest-
ment has selected the site for development or expansion.”.
SEC. 116. UPDATED DISTRESS CRITERIA AND GRANT RATES.

Section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, OR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS.—The area is an area that the Secretary determines has experienced or is about to experience a special need arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment, underemployment, or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions.

“(4) LOW MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME.—The area has a median household income of 80 percent or less of the national average.

“(5) WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION.—The area has—

“(A) a labor force participation rate of 90 percent or less of the national average; or

“(B) a prime-age employment gap of 5 percent or more.

“(6) EXPECTED ECONOMIC DISLOCATION AND DISTRESS FROM ENERGY INDUSTRY TRANSITIONS.—The area is an area that is expected to experience actual or threatened severe unemployment or eco-
conomic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions from energy industries that are experiencing accelerated contraction.”.

SEC. 117. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.

Section 302 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A), by inserting “including to mitigate and adapt to extreme weather,” after “enhances and protects the environment,”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to grants awarded under section 207 or grants awarded under section 209(c)(2) that are regional in scope.”.

SEC. 118. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Title V of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 508. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Economic Development Administration an Office of Tribal Economic Development (referred to in this section as the ‘Office’).
“(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office shall be—

“(1) to coordinate all Tribal economic development activities carried out by the Secretary;

“(2) to help Tribal communities access economic development assistance programs, including the assistance provided under this Act;

“(3) to coordinate Tribal economic development strategies and efforts with other Federal agencies; and

“(4) to be a participant in any negotiated rulemakings or consultations relating to, or having an impact on, projects, programs, or funding that benefit Tribal communities.

“(c) TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Office shall initiate a Tribal consultation process to develop, and not less frequently than every 3 years thereafter, update, a strategic plan for Tribal economic development for the Economic Development Administration.

“(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Eco-
and not less frequently than every 3 years thereafter, the Office shall submit to Congress the strategic plan for Tribal economic development developed under paragraph (1).

“(d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall establish a publicly facing website to help provide a comprehensive, single source of information for Indian tribes, Tribal leaders, Tribal businesses, and citizens in Tribal communities to better understand and access programs that support economic development in Tribal communities, including the economic development programs administered by Federal agencies or departments other than the Department.

“(e) DEDICATED STAFF.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Office has sufficient staff to carry out all outreach activities under this section.”.

SEC. 119. OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE.

Title V of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) (as amended by section 118) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“SEC. 509. OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience—

“(1) to direct and implement the post-disaster economic recovery responsibilities of the Economic Development Administration pursuant to subsections (c)(2) and (e) of section 209 and section 703;

“(2) to direct and implement economic recovery and enhanced resilience support function activities as directed under the National Disaster Recovery Framework; and

“(3) support long-term economic recovery in communities in which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), or otherwise impacted by an event of national significance, as determined by the Secretary, through—

“(A) convening and deploying an economic development assessment team;

“(B) hosting or attending convenings related to identification of additional Federal, State, local, and philanthropic entities and resources;
“(C) exploring potential flexibilities related
to existing awards;
“(D) provision of technical assistance
through staff or contractual resources; and
“(E) other activities determined by the
Secretary to be appropriate.

“(b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION AUTHORITY.

“(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary is author-
ized to appoint such temporary personnel as may be
necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Of-
face of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, without re-
gard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33
of title 5, United States Code, governing appoint-
ments in the competitive service and compensation
of personnel.

“(2) CONVERSION OF EMPLOYEES.—Notwith-
standing chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code,
or any other provision of law relating to the exam-
ination, certification, and appointment of individuals
in the competitive service, the Secretary is author-
ized to convert a temporary employee appointed
under this subsection to a permanent appointment
in the competitive service in the Economic Develop-
ment Administration under merit promotion procedures if—

“(A) the employee has served continuously for at least 2 years under 1 or more appointments under this subsection; and

“(B) the employee’s performance has been at an acceptable level of performance throughout the period or periods referred to in subparagraph (A).

“(3) COMPENSATION.—An individual converted under this subsection shall become a career-conditional employee, unless the employee has already completed the service requirements for career tenure.

“(c) DISASTER TEAM.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a disaster team (referred to in this section as the ‘disaster team’) for the deployment of individuals to carry out responsibilities of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience after a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)
and the Department has been activated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(2) Membership.—

“(A) Designation of Staff.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall designate to serve on the disaster team—

“(i) employees of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience;

“(ii) employees of the Department who are not employees of the Economic Development Administration; and

“(iii) in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies, employees of those agencies, as appropriate.

“(B) Capabilities.—In designating individuals under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that the disaster team includes a sufficient quantity of—

“(i) individuals who are capable of deploying rapidly and efficiently to respond to major disasters and emergencies; and

“(ii) highly trained full-time employees who will lead and manage the disaster team.
“(3) Training.—The Secretary shall ensure that appropriate and ongoing training is provided to members of the disaster team to ensure that the members are adequately trained regarding the programs and policies of the Economic Development Administration relating to post-disaster economic recovery efforts.

“(4) Expenses.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may—

“(A) use, with or without reimbursement, any service, equipment, personnel, or facility of any Federal agency with the explicit support of that agency, to the extent such use does not impair or conflict with the authority of the President or the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) to direct Federal agencies in any major disaster or emergency declared under that Act; and

“(B) provide members of the disaster team with travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of services for, or relating to, the disaster team.”.

**SEC. 120. ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIASIONS.**

Title V of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) (as amended by section 119) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 510. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIASIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Director of a regional office of the Economic Development Administration may designate a staff member to act as a ‘Technical Assistance Liaison’ for any State served by the regional office.

“(b) ROLE.—A Technical Assistance Liaison shall—

“(1) work in coordination with an Economic Development Representative to provide technical assistance, in addition to technical assistance under section 207, to eligible recipients that are underresourced communities, as determined by the Technical Assistance Liaison, that submit applications for assistance under title II; and

“(2) at the request of an eligible recipient that submitted an application for assistance under title
II, provide technical feedback on unsuccessful grant applications.

“(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an eligible recipient for the purpose of providing technical assistance to eligible recipients that are underresourced communities that have submitted or may submit an application for assistance under this Act.”.

SEC. 121. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Section 603(b) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3213(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “areas” after “rural”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4)(A) include a list of all of the grants provided by the Economic Development Administration for projects located in, or that primarily benefit, rural areas;
“(B) an explanation of the process used to determine how each project referred to in subparagraph (A) would benefit a rural area; and

“(C) a certification that each project referred to in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) is located in a rural area; or

“(ii) will primarily benefit a rural area.”.

SEC. 122. MODERNIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.

(a) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the Secretary to facilitate efficient, timely, and predictable environmental reviews of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.), including through expanded use of categorical exclusions, environmental assessments, or programmatic environmental impact statements.

(b) Requirements.—In completing the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) describe the actions the Secretary will take to implement the amendments to the National Envi-
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(2) describe the existing categorical exclusions most frequently used by the Secretary to streamline the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.); and

(3) consider—

(A) the adoption of additional categorical exclusions, including those used by other Federal agencies, that would facilitate the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.);

(B) the adoption of new programmatic environmental impact statements that would facilitate the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.); and

(C) agreements with other Federal agencies that would facilitate a more efficient process for the environmental review of projects
funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

(e) Rulemaking.—Not later than 2 years after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall promulgate a final rule implementing, to the maximum extent practicable, measures considered by the Secretary under subsection (b) that are necessary to streamline the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

SEC. 123. GAO REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Comptroller General.—The term “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) Regional Commission.—The term “Regional Commission” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122).

(b) Report.—Not later than September 30, 2026, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
House of Representatives a report that evaluates economic
development programs administered by the Economic De-
velopment Administration and the Regional Commissions.

(c) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the report under
subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) evaluate the impact of programs described
in that subsection on economic outcomes, including
job creation and retention, the rate of unemployment
and underemployment, labor force participation, and
private investment leveraged;

(2) describe efforts by the Economic Develop-
ment Administration and the Regional Commissions
to document the impact of programs described in
that subsection on economic outcomes described in
paragraph (1);

(3) describe efforts by the Economic Develop-
ment Administration and the Regional Commissions
to carry out coordination activities described in sec-
tion 103 of the Public Works and Economic Devel-
opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3133);

(4) consider other factors, as determined to be
appropriate by the Comptroller General of the
United States, to assess the effectiveness of pro-
grams described in subsection (b); and
(5) make legislative recommendations for improvements to programs described in subsection (b) as applicable.

SEC. 124. GAO REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS AND POLICIES.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Comptroller General.—The term “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) Small community.—The term “small community” means a community of less than 10,000 year-round residents.

(b) Report.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates economic development regulations and policies administered by the Economic Development Administration that have hindered the ability of communities to apply for and administer Economic Development Administration grants.

(e) Contents.—In carrying out the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall—
(1) review regulations and grant application processes promulgated by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development;

(2) evaluate the technical capacity of eligible recipients (as defined in section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122)) to apply for Economic Development Administration grants;

(3) identify barriers to small communities applying for Economic Development Administration grants, in consultation with—

(A) State economic development representatives;

(B) secretaries of State departments of economic development;

(C) representatives for small communities that have received Economic Development Administration grants; and

(D) representatives for small communities that have never applied for Economic Development Administration grants; and

(4) provide recommendations for simplifying and easing the ability for grant applicants to navigate the Economic Development Administration grant application process, including through a review
of regulations, including environmental regulations, not in the jurisdiction of the Economic Development Administration to identify possible grant application process improvements.

SEC. 125. GAO STUDY ON RURAL COMMUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this section as the ‘‘Comptroller General’’) shall conduct a study to evaluate the impacts of funding provided by the Economic Development Administration to distressed communities (as described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a))) located in rural areas.

(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) identify not less than 5 geographically diverse distressed communities in rural areas; and

(2) for each distressed community identified under paragraph (1), examine the impacts of funding provided by the Economic Development Administration on—

(A) the local jobs and unemployment of the community; and
(B) the availability of affordable housing in the community.

(c) REPORT.—On completion of the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study and any recommendations that result from the study.

SEC. 126. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 701 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3231) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (k); and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 201, to remain available until expended—

“(1) $170,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

“(2) $195,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

“(3) $220,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

“(4) $245,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and
“(5) $270,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

“(b) Grants for Planning and Grants for Administrative Expenses.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 203, to remain available until expended—

“(1) $90,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
“(2) $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
“(3) $110,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
“(4) $120,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and
“(5) $130,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

“(c) Grants for Training, Research, and Technical Assistance.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 207, to remain available until expended—

“(1) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
“(2) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
“(3) $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
“(4) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and
“(5) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

“(d) Grants for Economic Adjustment.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209 (other than subsections (d) and (e)), to remain available until expended—

“(1) $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
“(2) $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
“(3) $85,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
“(4) $95,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and
“(5) $105,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

“(e) ASSISTANCE TO COAL COMMUNITIES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209(d) $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

“(f) ASSISTANCE TO NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209(e), to remain available until expended—
“(1) to carry out paragraph (2)(A), $35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029; and
“(2) to carry out paragraph (2)(B), $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2027.

“(g) RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 218 $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

“(h) WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 219 $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended, of which $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 shall be used to carry out subsection (e) of that section.
“(i) Critical Supply Chain Site Development Grant Program.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 222 $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

“(j) Technical Assistance Liaisons.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 510 $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—Title VII of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3231 et seq.) is amended by striking section 704.

SEC. 127. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 1 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 89–136) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings and declarations.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

“Title I—Economic Development Partnerships Cooperation and Coordination

Sec. 101. Establishment of economic development partnerships.
Sec. 102. Cooperation of Federal agencies.
Sec. 103. Coordination.

“Title II—Grants for Public Works and Economic Development

Sec. 201. Grants for public works and economic development.
Sec. 203. Grants for planning and grants for administrative expenses.
Sec. 204. Cost sharing.
Sec. 205. Supplementary grants.
Sec. 206. Regulations on relative needs and allocations.
Sec. 207. Research and technical assistance; university centers.
Sec. 208. Investment priorities.
Sec. 209. Grants for economic adjustment.
Sec. 210. Changed project circumstances.
Sec. 211. Use of funds in projects constructed under projected cost.
Sec. 212. Reports by recipients.
Sec. 213. Prohibition on use of funds for attorney’s and consultant’s fees.
Sec. 214. Special impact areas.
Sec. 215. Performance awards.
Sec. 216. Planning performance awards.
Sec. 217. Direct expenditure or redistribution by recipient.
Sec. 218. Renewable energy program.
Sec. 219. Workforce training grants.
Sec. 220. Congressional notification requirements.
Sec. 221. High-Speed Broadband Deployment Initiative.
Sec. 222. Critical supply chain site development grant program.

TITLE III—ELIGIBILITY; COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Sec. 301. Eligibility of areas.
Sec. 302. Comprehensive economic development strategies.

TITLE IV—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

Sec. 401. Designation of economic development districts.
Sec. 402. Termination or modification of economic development districts.
Sec. 404. Provision of comprehensive economic development strategies to Regional Commissions.
Sec. 405. Assistance to parts of economic development districts not in eligible areas.

TITLE V—ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 501. Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.
Sec. 502. Economic development information clearinghouse.
Sec. 503. Consultation with other persons and agencies.
Sec. 504. Administration, operation, and maintenance.
Sec. 506. Performance evaluations of grant recipients.
Sec. 507. Notification of reorganization.
Sec. 508. Office of Tribal Economic Development.
Sec. 510. Technical Assistance Liaisons.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Powers of Secretary.
Sec. 602. Maintenance of standards.
Sec. 603. Annual report to Congress.
Sec. 604. Delegation of functions and transfer of funds among Federal agencies.
Sec. 605. Penalties.
“Sec. 606. Employment of expediters and administrative employees.

“Sec. 607. Maintenance and public inspection of list of approved applications for financial assistance.

“Sec. 608. Records and audits.

“Sec. 609. Relationship to assistance under other law.

“Sec. 610. Acceptance of certifications by applicants.

“Sec. 611. Brownfields redevelopment reports.

“Sec. 612. Savings clause.

“TITLE VII—FUNDING

“Sec. 701. General authorization of appropriations.

“Sec. 702. Authorization of appropriations for defense conversation activities.

“Sec. 703. Authorization of appropriations for disaster economic recovery activities.”

1 TITLE II—REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

2 SEC. 201. REGIONAL COMMISSION AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 15751 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) In General.—There is authorized to be appropriated to each Commission to carry out this subtitle $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

3 SEC. 202. REGIONAL COMMISSION MODIFICATIONS.

(a) Membership of Commissions.—Section 15301 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(C)—

(A) by striking “An alternate member” and inserting the following:

“(i) In General.—An alternate member”; and
(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) STATE ALTERNATES.—If the alternate State member is unable to vote in accordance with clause (i), the alternate State member may delegate voting authority to a designee, subject to the condition that the executive director shall be notified, in writing, of the designation not less than 1 week before the applicable vote is to take place.”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “a Federal employee” and inserting “an employee”.

(b) DECISIONS OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15302 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or alternate State members, including designees” after “State members”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) QUORUMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a Commission shall determine what constitutes a quorum for meetings of the Commission.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Any quorum for meetings of a Commission shall include—
“(A) the Federal Cochairperson or the alternate Federal Cochairperson; and

“(B) a majority of State members or alternate State members, including designees (exclusive of members representing States delinquent under section 15304(c)(3)(C)).”.

(e) Administrative Powers and Expenses of Commissions.—Section 15304(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, which may be done without a requirement for the Commission to reimburse the agency or local government” after “status”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) collect fees for services provided and retain and expend such fees;”;

(4) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated), by inserting “leases (including the lease of office space for any term),” after “cooperative agreements,”; and

(5) in paragraph (10) (as so redesignated), by striking “maintain a government relations office in the District of Columbia and”.
(d) Meetings of Commissions.—Section 15305(b) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking “with the Federal Cochairperson” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “with—

“(1) the Federal Cochairperson; and

“(2) at least a majority of the State members or alternate State members (including designees) present in-person or via electronic means.”.

(e) Annual Reports.—Section 15308(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking “90” and inserting “180”.

SEC. 203. Transfer of Funds Among Federal Agencies.

(a) In General.—Chapter 153 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 15308 as section 15309; and

(2) by inserting after section 15307 the following:

“§ 15308. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies

“(a) In General.—Subject to subsection (e), for purposes of this subtitle, each Commission may transfer funds to and accept transfers of funds from other Federal agencies.
“(b) Transfer of Funds to Other Federal Agencies.—Funds made available to a Commission may be transferred to other Federal agencies if the funds are used consistently with the purposes for which the funds were specifically authorized and appropriated.

“(c) Transfer of Funds from Other Federal Agencies.—Funds may be transferred to any Commission under this section if—

“(1) the statutory authority for the funds provided by the Federal agency does not expressly prohibit use of funds for authorities being carried out by a Commission; and

“(2) the Federal agency that provides the funds determines that the activities for which the funds are to be used are otherwise eligible for funding under such a statutory authority.”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter 153 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 15308 and inserting the following:

“15309. Annual reports.”.

SEC. 204. ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

Section 15501 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (9) as paragraphs (6) through (11), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, to design, build, implement, or update infrastructure to support resilience to extreme weather events;

“(5) to promote the production of housing to meet economic development and workforce needs;”;

and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “(7)” and inserting “(9)”.

SEC. 205. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§15507. Payment of non-Federal share for certain Federal grant programs

“Amounts made available to carry out this subtitle shall be available for the payment of the non-Federal share for any project carried out under another Federal grant program—
“(1) for which a Commission is not the sole or primary funding source; and
“(2) that is consistent with the authorities of the applicable Commission.”.
(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“15507. Payment of non-Federal share for certain Federal grant programs.”.

SEC. 206. NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION AREA.
Section 15733 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Lincoln,” after “Knox,”;
(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Merrimack,” after “Grafton,”; and
(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Wyoming,” after “Wayne,”.

SEC. 207. SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION AREA.
Section 15732 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in paragraph (3)—
(A) by inserting “Bernalillo,” before “Catron,”;
[B] by inserting “Cibola, Curry, De Baca,” after “Chaves,”;
[C] by inserting “Guadalupe,” after “Grant,”;
[D] by inserting “Roosevelt,” after “Otero,”; and
[E] by striking “and Socorro” and inserting “Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—
[A] by inserting “Guadalupe,” after “Glasscock,”; and
[B] by striking “Tom Green Upton,” and inserting “Tom Green, Upton,”.

**SEC. 208. GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY AREA.**

Section 15734 of title 40, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “the counties which contain, in part or in whole, the” after “consist of”.

**SEC. 209. ADDITIONAL REGIONAL COMMISSION PROGRAMS.**

(a) In General.—Subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“CHAPTER 159—ADDITIONAL REGIONAL COMMISSION PROGRAMS

See.
See 15901. State capacity building grant program.
See 15902. Demonstration health projects.
§ 15901. State capacity building grant program

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COMMISSION STATE.—The term ‘Commission State’ means a State that contains 1 or more eligible counties.

“(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTY.—The term ‘eligible county’ means a county described in subchapter II of chapter 157.

“(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means a State capacity building grant program established by a Commission under subsection (b).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each Commission shall establish a State capacity building grant program to provide grants to Commission States in the area served by the Commission for the purposes described in subsection (c).

“(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a program are to support the efforts of the Commission—

“(1) to better support business retention and expansion in eligible counties;

“(2) to create programs to encourage job creation and workforce development in eligible counties, including projects and activities, in coordination with other relevant Federal agencies, to strengthen the water sector workforce and facilitate the sharing of best practices;
“(3) to partner with universities in distressed counties (as designated under section 15702(a)(1))—

“(A) to strengthen the capacity to train new professionals in fields for which there is a shortage of workers;

“(B) to increase local capacity for project management, project execution, and financial management; and

“(C) to leverage funding sources;

“(4) to prepare economic and infrastructure plans for eligible counties;

“(5) to expand access to high-speed broadband in eligible counties;

“(6) to provide technical assistance that results in Commission investments in transportation, water, wastewater, and other critical infrastructure;

“(7) to promote workforce development to support resilient infrastructure projects;

“(8) to develop initiatives to increase the effectiveness of local development districts in eligible counties;

“(9) to implement new or innovative economic development practices that will better position eligible counties to compete in the global economy; and
“(10) to identify and address important re-
gional impediments to prosperity and to leverage
unique regional advantages to create economic op-
portunities for the region served by the Commission.
“(d) USE OF FUNDS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds from a grant under
a program may be used to support a project, pro-
gram, or related expense of the Commission State in
an eligible county.
“(2) LIMITATION.—Funds from a grant under
a program shall not be used for—
“(A) the purchase of furniture, fixtures, or
equipment;
“(B) the compensation of—
“(i) any State member of the Com-
mision (as described in section
15301(b)(1)(B)); or
“(ii) any State alternate member of
the Commission (as described in section
15301(b)(2)(B)); or
“(C) the cost of supplanting existing State
programs.
“(e) ANNUAL WORK PLAN.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, before
providing a grant under a program, each Commis-
sion State shall provide to the Commission an annual work plan that includes the proposed use of the grant.

“(2) APPROVAL.—No grant under a program shall be provided to a Commission State unless the Commission has approved the annual work plan of the State.

“(f) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant provided to a Commission State under a program for a fiscal year shall be based on the proportion that—

“(A) the amount paid by the Commission State (including any amounts paid on behalf of the Commission State by a nonprofit organization) for administrative expenses for the applicable fiscal year (as determined under section 15304(e)); bears to

“(B) the amount paid by all Commission States served by the Commission (including any amounts paid on behalf of a Commission State by a nonprofit organization) for administrative expenses for that fiscal year (as determined under that section).
“(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under a program for a fiscal year, a Commission State (or a nonprofit organization on behalf of the Commission State) shall pay the amount of administrative expenses of the Commission State for the applicable fiscal year (as determined under section 15304(c)).

“(3) **APPROVAL.**—For each fiscal year, a grant provided under a program shall be approved and made available as part of the approval of the annual budget of the Commission.

“(g) **GRANT AVAILABILITY.**—Funds from a grant under a program shall be available only during the fiscal year for which the grant is provided.

“(h) **REPORT.**—Each fiscal year, each Commission State shall submit to the relevant Commission and make publicly available a report that describes the use of the grant funds and the impact of the program in the Commission State.

“(i) **CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM AUTHORITY FOR NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION.**—With respect to the Northern Border Regional Commission, the program shall be a continuation of the program under section 6304(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.
§ 15902. Demonstration health projects

(a) Purpose.—To demonstrate the value of adequate health facilities and services to the economic development of the region, a Commission may make grants for the planning, construction, equipment, and operation of demonstration health, nutrition, and child care projects (referred to in this section as a ‘demonstration health project’), including hospitals, regional health diagnostic and treatment centers, and other facilities and services necessary for the purposes of this section.

(b) Eligible Entities.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under this section is—

(1) an entity described in section 15501(a);

(2) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)));

(3) a hospital (as defined in section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x)); or

(4) a critical access hospital (as defined in that section).

(c) Planning Grants.—

(1) In general.—A Commission may make grants for planning expenses necessary for the devel-
opment and operation of demonstration health
projects for the region served by the Commission.

“(2) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—
The maximum Commission contribution for a dem-
onstration health project that receives a grant under
paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with sec-
tion 15501(d).

“(3) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—A grant under
paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from
amounts made available to carry out this section or
in combination with amounts provided under other
Federal grant programs.

“(4) FEDERAL SHARE FOR GRANTS UNDER
OTHER FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS.—Notwith-
standing any provision of law limiting the Federal
share in other Federal grant programs, amounts
made available to carry out this subsection may be
used to increase the Federal share of another Fed-
eral grant up to the maximum contribution de-
scribed in paragraph (2).

“(d) CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT GRANTS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section
for construction or equipment of a demonstration
health project may be used for—
“(A) costs of construction;
“(B) the acquisition of privately owned facilities—

“(i) not operated for profit; or

“(ii) previously operated for profit if

the Commission finds that health services

would not otherwise be provided in the

area served by the facility if the acquisition

is not made; and

“(C) the acquisition of initial equipment.

“(2) STANDARDS FOR MAKING GRANTS.—A

grant under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be approved in accordance with

section 15503; and

“(B) shall not be incompatible with the ap-

plicable provisions of title VI of the Public

Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 291 et seq.), the

Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill

of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et

seq.), and other laws authorizing grants for the

construction of health-related facilities, without

regard to any provisions in those laws relating

to appropriation authorization ceilings or to al-

lotments among the States.

“(3) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—

The maximum Commission contribution for a dem-
onstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).

“(4) Sources of assistance.—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs.

“(5) Contribution to increased federal share for other federal grants.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in another Federal grant program for the construction or equipment of a demonstration health project, amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase Federal grants for component facilities of a demonstration health project to a maximum of 90 percent of the cost of the facilities.

“(e) Operation grants.—

“(1) In general.—A grant under this section for the operation of a demonstration health project may be used for—

“(A) the costs of operation of the facility; and
“(B) initial operating costs, including the costs of attracting, training, and retaining qualified personnel.

“(2) STANDARDS FOR MAKING GRANTS.—A grant for the operation of a demonstration health project shall not be made unless the facility funded by the grant is—

“(A) publicly owned;

“(B) owned by a public or private non-profit organization;

“(C) a private hospital described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; or

“(D) a private hospital that provides a certain amount of uncompensated care, as determined by the Commission, and applies for the grant in partnership with a State, local government, or Indian Tribe.

“(3) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—The maximum Commission contribution for a demonstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).
“(4) Sources of assistance.—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs for the operation of health-related facilities or the provision of health and child development services, including parts A and B of title IV and title XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., 621 et seq., 1397 et seq.).

“(5) Federal share.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in the other Federal programs described in paragraph (4), amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase the Federal share of a grant under those programs up to the maximum contribution described in paragraph (3).

“(f) Priority Health Programs.—If a Commission elects to make grants under this section, the Commission shall establish specific regional health priorities for such grants that address—

“(1) addiction treatment and access to resources helping individuals in recovery;

“(2) workforce shortages in the healthcare industry; or
“(3) access to services for screening and diagnosing chronic health issues.”.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 6304(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (40 U.S.C. 15501 note; Public Law 115–334) is repealed.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 157 the following:

“159. Additional Regional Commission Programs .................................... 15901”.

SEC. 210. TRIBAL AND COLONIA PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH-WEST BORDER REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 205(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§15508. Waiver of matching requirement for Indian tribes and colonias in Southwest Border Regional Commission programs

“(a) DEFINITION OF COLONIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ‘colonia’ means a community—

“(A) that is located—

“(i) in the State of Arizona, California, New Mexico, or Texas;
“(ii) not more than 150 miles from the border between the United States and Mexico; and

“(iii) outside a standard metropolitan statistical area that has a population exceeding 1,000,000;

“(B) that—

“(i) lacks a potable water supply;

“(ii) lacks an adequate sewage system; or

“(iii) lacks decent, safe, and sanitary housing; and

“(C) that has been treated or designated as a colonia by a Federal or State program.

“(b) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of assistance provided to a colonia or an Indian tribe under this subtitle by the Southwest Border Regional Commission, the Federal share of the cost of the project carried out with that assistance may be up to 100 percent, as determined by the selection official, the State Cochairperson (or an alternate), and the Federal Cochairperson (or an alternate).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code (as
amended by section 205(b)), is amended by inserting after
the item relating to section 15507 the following:

“15508. Waiver of matching requirement for Indian tribes and colonias in
Southwest Border Regional Commission programs.”.

SEC. 211. ESTABLISHMENT OF MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL
COMMISSION.

(a) Establishment.—Section 15301(a) of title 40,
United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
following:

“(5) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.”.

(b) Designation of Region.—

(1) In general.—Subchapter II of chapter
157 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by
adding at the end the following:

§15735. Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.

“The region of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Commiss-
ion shall include the following counties:

“(1) Delaware.—Each county in the State of
Delaware.

“(2) Maryland.—Each county in the State of
Maryland that is not already served by the Appa-
alachian Regional Commission.

“(3) Pennsylvania.—Each county in the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that is not already
served by the Appalachian Regional Commission.”.
(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“15735. Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.”.

(c) APPLICATION.—Section 15702(c) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (2) shall not apply to a county described in paragraph (2) or (3) of section 15735.”.

SEC. 212. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 15301(a) of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 211(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) The Southern New England Regional Commission.”.

(b) DESIGNATION OF REGION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 211(b)(1)), is amended by adding at the end the following:
§ 15736. Southern New England Regional Commission

“The region of the Southern New England Regional Commission shall include the following counties:

“(1) RHODE ISLAND.—Each county in the State of Rhode Island.


“(3) MASSACHUSETTS.—Each county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 211(b)(2)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“15736. Southern New England Regional Commission.”.

(e) APPLICATION.—Section 15702(e)(3) of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 211(c)), is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”;

(2) by striking “to a county” and inserting the following: “to—

“(A) a county”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:
“(B) the Southern New England Regional Commission.”.

SEC. 213. DENALI COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 312(a) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended by striking “$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021” and inserting “$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

(b) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—Section 305 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by inserting “enter into leases (including the lease of office space for any term),” after “award grants,”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) USE OF FUNDS TOWARD NON-FEDERAL SHARE OF CERTAIN PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, the Commission may use amounts made available to the Commission for the payment of such a non-Federal share for programs undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Commission.”.
(c) **Special Functions of the Commission.**—Section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e) as subsections (a) through (d), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by inserting “, including interagency transfers,” after “payments”.

(d) **Conforming Amendment.**—Section 309(c)(1) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended by inserting “of Transportation” after “Secretary”.

**SEC. 214. DENALI HOUSING FUND.**

(a) **Definitions.**—In this section:

(1) **Eligible Entity.**—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a nonprofit organization;

(B) a limited dividend organization;

(C) a cooperative organization;

(D) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and
(E) a public entity, such as a municipality, county, district, authority, or other political subdivision of a State.


(3) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Denali Housing Fund established under subsection (b)(1).

(4) LOW-INCOME.—The term “low-income”, with respect to a household means that the household income is less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty level for the State of Alaska.

(5) MODERATE-INCOME.—The term “moderate-income”, with respect to a household, means that the household income is less than 250 percent of the Federal poverty level for the State of Alaska.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) DENALI HOUSING FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be established in the Treasury of the United States the Denali Housing Fund, to be administered by the Federal Cochair.

(2) SOURCE AND USE OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts allocated to the Federal Cochair for the purpose of carrying out this section shall be deposited in the Fund.

(B) USES.—The Federal Cochair shall use the Fund as a revolving fund to carry out the purposes of this section.

(C) INVESTMENT.—The Federal Cochair may invest amounts in the Fund that are not necessary for operational expenses in bonds or other obligations, the principal and interest of which are guaranteed by the Federal Government.

(D) GENERAL EXPENSES.—The Federal Cochair may charge the general expenses of carrying out this section to the Fund.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

(e) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to encourage and facilitate the construction or rehabilitation of housing to meet the needs of low-income households and moderate-income households; and

(2) to provide housing for public employees.
(d) LOANS AND GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair may provide grants and loans from the Fund to eligible entities under such terms and conditions the Federal Cochair may prescribe.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a grant or loan under paragraph (1) shall be for planning and obtaining federally insured mortgage financing or other financial assistance for housing construction or rehabilitation projects for low-income and moderate-income households in rural Alaska villages.

(e) PROVIDING AMOUNTS TO STATES FOR GRANTS AND LOANS.—The Federal Cochair may provide amounts to the State of Alaska, or political subdivisions thereof, for making the grants and loans described in subsection (d).

(f) LOANS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—A loan under subsection (d) for the cost of planning and obtaining financing (including the cost of preliminary surveys and analyses of market needs, preliminary site engineering and architectural fees, site options, application and mortgage commitment fees, legal fees, and construction loan fees and discounts)
of a project described in that subsection may be for
not more than 90 percent of that cost.

(2) Interest.—A loan under subsection (d)
shall be made without interest, except that a loan
made to an eligible entity established for profit shall
bear interest at the prevailing market rate author-
ized for an insured or guaranteed loan for that type
of project.

(3) Payment.—

(A) In general.—The Federal Cochair
shall require payment of a loan made under this
section under terms and conditions the Sec-
retary may require by not later than the date
of completion of the project.

(B) Cancellation.—For a loan other
than a loan to an eligible entity established for
profit, the Secretary may cancel any part of the
debt with respect to a loan made under sub-
section (d) if the Secretary determines that a
permanent loan to finance the project cannot be
obtained in an amount adequate for repayment
of a loan made under subsection (d).

(g) Grants.—

(1) In general.—A grant under this section
for expenses incidental to planning and obtaining fi-
nancing for a project described in this section that
the Federal Cochair considers unrecoverable from
the proceeds of a permanent loan made to finance
the project—

(A) may not be made to an eligible entity
established for profit; and

(B) may not exceed 90 percent of those ex-
enses.

(2) SITE DEVELOPMENT COSTS AND OFFSITE
IMPROVEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair
may make grants and commitments for grants
under terms and conditions the Federal Cochair
may require to eligible entities for reasonable
site development costs and necessary offsite im-
provements, such as sewer and water line exten-
sions, if the grant or commitment—

(i) is essential to ensuring that hous-
ing is constructed on the site in the future;

and

(ii) otherwise meets the requirements
for assistance under this section.

(B) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—The amount of
a grant under this paragraph may not—
(i) with respect to the construction of housing, exceed 40 percent of the cost of the construction; and

(ii) with respect to the rehabilitation of housing, exceed 10 percent of the reasonable value of the rehabilitation, as determined by the Federal Cochair.

(h) Information, Advice, and Technical Assistance.—The Federal Cochair may provide, or contract with public or private organizations to provide, information, advice, and technical assistance with respect to the construction, rehabilitation, and operation by nonprofit organizations of housing for low-income or moderate-income households, or for public employees, in rural Alaska villages under this section.

SEC. 215. DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) Authorization of Appropriations.—Section 382M(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–12(a)) is amended by striking “$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

(b) Termination of Authority.—Section 382N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–13) is repealed.

(e) Fees.—Section 382B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)(C), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) collect fees for the Delta Doctors program of the Authority and retain and expend those fees.”.

(d) Succession.—Section 382B(h)(5)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(h)(5)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);

and

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) assuming the duties of the Federal cochairperson and the alternate Federal cochairperson for purposes of continu-
ation of normal operations in the event that both positions are vacant; and”.

(e) **INDIAN TRIBES.**—Section 382C(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–2(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, Indian Tribes,” after “States”; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, Tribal,” after “State”.

**SEC. 216. NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL AUTHORITY REAUTHORIZATION.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 383N(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–12(a)) is amended by striking “$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2018” and inserting “$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

(b) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Section 383O of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–13) is repealed.