

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5871

To amend title 23, United States Code, to make certain natural infrastructure projects eligible for surface transportation block grant funding, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

Mr. MALINOWSKI (for himself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. SIRES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to make certain natural infrastructure projects eligible for surface transportation block grant funding, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Natural Infrastructure
5 and Resilience Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESILIENCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a) of title 23, United
8 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (17) through
2 (34) as paragraphs (18), (19), (20), (21), (22), (23),
3 (25), (26), (27), (28), (29), (30), (31), (32), (33),
4 (34), and (35), respectively;

5 (2) by inserting after paragraph (16) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(17) NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term
8 ‘natural infrastructure’ means infrastructure that
9 uses, restores, or emulates natural ecological proc-
10 esses and—

11 “(A) is created through the action of nat-
12 ural physical, geological, biological, and chem-
13 ical processes over time;

14 “(B) is created by human design, engineer-
15 ing, and construction to emulate or act in con-
16 cert with natural processes; or

17 “(C) involves the use of plants, soils, and
18 other natural features, including through the
19 creation, restoration, or preservation of vege-
20 tated areas using materials appropriate to the
21 region to manage stormwater and runoff, to at-
22 tenuate flooding and storm surges, and for
23 other related purposes.”;

24 (3) by inserting after paragraph (23) (as so re-
25 designated) the following:

1 “(24) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’, with
2 respect to a project, means a project with the ability
3 to anticipate, prepare for, or adapt to conditions or
4 withstand, respond to, or recover rapidly from dis-
5 ruptions, including the ability—

6 “(A)(i) to resist hazards or withstand im-
7 pacts from weather events and natural disas-
8 ters; or

9 “(ii) to reduce the magnitude, duration, or
10 impact of a disruptive weather event or natural
11 disaster to a project; and

12 “(B) to have the absorptive capacity,
13 adaptive capacity, and recoverability to decrease
14 project vulnerability to weather events or other
15 natural disasters.”; and

16 (4) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (32) (as
17 so redesignated)—

18 (A) by striking the period at the end and
19 inserting “; and”;

20 (B) by striking “through the implementa-
21 tion” and inserting the following: “through—

22 “(i) the implementation”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(ii) the consideration of incorpor-
25 ating natural infrastructure.”.

1 (b) SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PRO-
2 GRAM.—Section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code,
3 is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
5 (15) as paragraphs (5) through (16), respectively;
6 and

7 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(4) Projects that use natural infrastructure
10 alone or in combination with other eligible projects
11 to enhance resilience of a transportation facility oth-
12 erwise eligible for assistance under this section.”.

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