

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2613

To provide for climate change planning, mitigation, adaptation, and resilience in the United States Territories and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 4, 2021

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for climate change planning, mitigation, adaptation, and resilience in the United States Territories and Freely Associated States, 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 “Insular Area Climate
5 Change Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

Sec. 4. Findings.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Insular Area Climate Change Interagency Task Force.
 Sec. 102. Non-Federal cost-share waiver.
 Sec. 103. Coral reefs prize competitions.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Sec. 201. Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program.
 Sec. 202. Runit Dome report and monitoring activities.

TITLE III—NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 301. Climate Change Insular Research Grant Program.
 Sec. 302. Coastal management technical assistance and report.
 Sec. 303. National Weather Service technical assistance and grants.
 Sec. 304. Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act.

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Sec. 401. Office of Insular Area Energy Policy and Programs.
 Sec. 402. Comprehensive energy plans.
 Sec. 403. Energy Efficient Product Rebate Program.
 Sec. 404. Renewable Energy Grant Program.
 Sec. 405. Offshore wind for the territories.
 Sec. 406. State Energy Program non-Federal cost-share waiver.

TITLE V—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Sec. 501. Definitions.
 Sec. 502. Insular Area National Program Office.
 Sec. 503. Insular Area Sustainable Infrastructure Grant Program.
 Sec. 504. Insular Area Renewable Energy Grant Program.
 Sec. 505. Insular Area Technical Assistance Program.

TITLE VI—EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Sec. 601. Community disaster loans repayment cancellation.
 Sec. 602. Disaster relief non-Federal cost-share waiver.

TITLE VII—SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Sec. 701. Sense of Congress regarding the threat of climate change.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

3 (1) **ADAPTATION.**—The term “adaptation”
 4 means the capacity of natural and human systems to
 5 adjust to climate change or its impacts in a matter

1 that will reduce damage or take advantage of any
2 beneficial aspects.

3 (2) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term
4 “Freely Associated States” means the Republic of
5 the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micro-
6 nesia, and the Republic of Palau.

7 (3) INSULAR AREAS.—The term “Insular
8 Areas” means the territories and Freely Associated
9 States.

10 (4) MITIGATION.—The term “mitigation”
11 means measures and initiatives that would limit or
12 reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

13 (5) RESILIENCE.—The term “resilience” means
14 the capacity of natural and human systems to resist,
15 assimilate, and recover from the effects of climate
16 change in an efficient and timely manner, maintain-
17 ing or restoring basic structures and essential func-
18 tions.

19 (6) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term “renew-
20 able energy” means energy that has been derived
21 from Earth’s natural resources that are not finite or
22 exhaustible, including solar, wind, hydroelectric, geo-
23 thermal, and ocean (thermal and mechanics).

24 (7) RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM.—The term
25 “renewable energy system” includes off-grid or

1 stand-alone systems, microgrids, nano grids, and vir-
2 tual power plants systems based on renewable en-
3 ergy sources, including storage and other related an-
4 cillary equipment. These may also be referred to as
5 “eligible projects”. Waste to energy are not consid-
6 ered as eligible projects.

7 (8) TERRITORIES.—The term “territories”
8 means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the
9 Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and
10 the Virgin Islands of the United States.

11 (9) TERRITORY.—The term “territory” means
12 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-
13 ern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, or the Vir-
14 gin Islands of the United States.

15 **SEC. 4. FINDINGS.**

16 Congress finds as follows:

17 (1) The Insular Areas are topographically and
18 environmentally diverse and treasured by millions of
19 individuals who call them home.

20 (2) The territories in the Caribbean (Puerto
21 Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States)
22 and the territories in the Pacific (American Samoa,
23 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
24 lands, and Guam) face many of the same climate

1 change-related challenges. Freely Associated States
2 face similar climate change-related vulnerabilities.

3 (3) Insular Areas are experiencing sea level
4 rise, coastal erosion, and increasing storm impacts
5 that threaten lives, critical infrastructure, eco-
6 systems, and livelihood security.

7 (4) Sea level rise from climate change poses an
8 existential threat to low-lying Insular Areas, includ-
9 ing the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the im-
10 pacts of which could significantly undermine the
11 strategic, economic, and defense interests of the
12 United States.

13 (5) Temperature increases are likely to further
14 create and intensify the length of droughts, reduce
15 water supply, impact public health, and increase de-
16 mand of freshwater in Insular Areas. In addition,
17 temperature increases will drive coral reefs to extinc-
18 tion, eliminating a natural barrier against storm
19 surge, increasing destruction of infrastructure, and
20 threatening lives of the inhabitants of the islands.

21 (6) In 2017, two major storms, Hurricane Irma
22 and Hurricane Maria, impacted Puerto Rico and the
23 Virgin Islands of the United States. Hurricane
24 Maria caused thousands of deaths in Puerto Rico
25 and the Virgin Islands of the United States and sig-

1 nificant damage to their infrastructure, including
 2 Puerto Rico’s energy system. Hurricane Maria de-
 3 stroyed millions of trees in Puerto Rico and the Vir-
 4 gin Islands of the United States, which has signifi-
 5 cantly increased erosion and sediment transport. As
 6 a result, reservoirs have lost significant storage ca-
 7 pacity and coral reefs are severely impacted.

8 (7) In 2018, Typhoon Yutu impacted the Com-
 9 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and
 10 Guam, causing catastrophic destruction in those ter-
 11 ritories.

12 **TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

13 **SEC. 101. INSULAR AREA CLIMATE CHANGE INTERAGENCY** 14 **TASK FORCE.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.—Not later
 16 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
 17 the following shall jointly establish the “Insular Area Cli-
 18 mate Change Interagency Task Force” (hereafter in this
 19 section referred to as the “Task Force”):

20 (1) The Secretary of the Interior.

21 (2) The Secretary of Energy.

22 (3) The Secretary of State.

23 (4) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-
 24 opment.

25 (5) The Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (6) The Secretary of Commerce.

2 (7) The Administrator of the Federal Emer-
3 gency Management Agency.

4 (8) The Administrator of the Environmental
5 Protection Agency.

6 (b) CHAIRPERSON.—The Task Force shall be chaired
7 by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
8 ment Agency.

9 (c) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

10 (1) evaluate all Federal programs regarding
11 ways to provide greater access to Federal programs
12 and equitable baseline funding in relation to States,
13 to territories for climate change planning, mitiga-
14 tion, adaptation, and resilience;

15 (2) identify statutory barriers to providing ter-
16 ritories greater access to Federal programs and eq-
17 uitable baseline funding; and

18 (3) provide recommendations related to climate
19 change in Insular Areas in consultation with local
20 governments and non-governmental organizations in
21 Insular Areas with expertise on climate change.

22 (d) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—Not later than 1
23 year after the establishment of the Task Force, the Task
24 Force, in consultation with Insular Area governments,
25 shall issue a comprehensive report that—

1 (1) identifies Federal programs that have an
2 impact on climate change planning, mitigation, ad-
3 aptation, and resilience, but exclude territories in re-
4 gard to eligibility, funding, and assistance, or do not
5 provide equitable baseline funding in relation to
6 States; and

7 (2) provides advice and recommendations re-
8 lated to climate change in Insular Areas, such as
9 new suggested Federal programs or initiatives.

10 (e) PUBLICATION; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Ad-
11 ministrators of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
12 cy shall ensure that the report required under subsection
13 (d) is—

14 (1) submitted to the Committees on Energy and
15 Commerce and Natural Resources of the House of
16 Representatives, and Energy and Natural Resources
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) published in the Federal Register for public
19 comment for a period of at least 60 days; and

20 (3) made available on a public website along
21 with any comments received during the public com-
22 ment period required under paragraph (2).

1 **SEC. 102. NON-FEDERAL COST-SHARE WAIVER.**

2 Section 501 of Public Law 95–134 (commonly known
3 as the “Omnibus Territories Act of 1977”) (48 U.S.C.
4 1469a), is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in
6 the case of the Insular Areas, any department or agency
7 shall waive any requirement for non-Federal matching
8 funds under \$750,000 (including in-kind contributions)
9 required by law to be provided by those jurisdictions.”.

10 **SEC. 103. CORAL REEFS PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

11 (a) PRIZE COMPETITIONS.—The Director of the Of-
12 fice of Science and Technology Policy shall work with the
13 head of each Federal agency represented on the U.S. Coral
14 Reef Task Force established under Executive Order 13089
15 (63 Fed. Reg. 32701) to establish prize competitions, in
16 accordance with section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Tech-
17 nology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719), that pro-
18 mote coral reef research and conservation in the Insular
19 Areas, the State of Hawaii or Florida, or any other area
20 in the United States or Insular Areas, as determined by
21 the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Pol-
22 icy, facing a significant ecological threat due to coral reef
23 die-offs.

24 (b) WAIVER OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Section
25 204(b)(2) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16
26 U.S.C. 6403(b)(2)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking the paragraph designation and
 2 all that follows through “The Administrator” and
 3 inserting the following:

4 “(2) WAIVERS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator”;

6 and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(B) SUSTAINING CORAL REEF MANAGE-
 9 MENT AND MONITORING.—The Administrator
 10 shall waive the matching requirement under
 11 paragraph (1) for grants to implement State
 12 and territorial coral reef conservation coopera-
 13 tive agreements to sustain coral reef manage-
 14 ment and monitoring in the State of Florida or
 15 Hawaii, American Samoa, the Commonwealth
 16 of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the
 17 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the United
 18 States Virgin Islands.”.

19 **TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF THE**
 20 **INTERIOR**

21 **SEC. 201. OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS TECHNICAL ASSIST-**
 22 **ANCE PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, act-
 24 ing through the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assist-
 25 ance Program, shall provide technical assistance for cli-

1 mate change planning, mitigation, adaptation, and resil-
2 ience to Insular Areas under the jurisdiction of such Pro-
3 gram.

4 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Inte-
6 rior to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of the
7 fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

8 **SEC. 202. RUNIT DOME REPORT AND MONITORING ACTIVI-**
9 **TIES.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior
12 shall submit to the Committees on Natural Resources and
13 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives,
14 and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
15 of the Senate, a report, prepared by independent experts
16 not employed by the U.S. government, on the impacts of
17 climate change on the “Runit Dome” nuclear waste dis-
18 posal site in Enewetak Atoll, Marshall Islands, and on
19 other environmental hazards in the vicinity thereof. The
20 report shall include the following:

21 (1) A detailed scientific analysis of any threats
22 to the environment, and to the health and safety of
23 Enewetak Atoll residents, posed by each of the fol-
24 lowing:

1 (A) The “Runit Dome” nuclear waste dis-
2 posal site.

3 (B) Crypts used to contain nuclear waste
4 and other toxins on Enewetak Atoll.

5 (C) Radionuclides and other toxins present
6 in the lagoon of Enewetak Atoll, including areas
7 in the lagoon where nuclear waste was dumped.

8 (D) Radionuclides and other toxins, includ-
9 ing beryllium, which may be present on the is-
10 lands of Enewetak Atoll as a result of nuclear
11 tests and other activities of the U.S. govern-
12 ment, including tests of chemical and biological
13 warfare agents, rocket tests, contaminated air-
14 craft landing on Enewetak Island, and nuclear
15 cleanup activities.

16 (E) Radionuclides and other toxins that
17 may be present in the drinking water on
18 Enewetak Island or in the water source for the
19 desalination plant.

20 (F) Radionuclides and other toxins that
21 may be present in the groundwater under and
22 in the vicinity of the nuclear waste disposal fa-
23 cility on Runit Island.

24 (2) A detailed scientific analysis of the extent to
25 which rising sea levels, severe weather events and

1 other effects of climate change might exacerbate any
2 of the threats identified above.

3 (3) A detailed plan, including costs, to relocate
4 all of the nuclear waste and other toxic waste con-
5 tained in—

6 (A) the “Runit Dome” nuclear waste dis-
7 posal site;

8 (B) all of the crypts on Enewetak Atoll
9 containing such waste; and

10 (C) the three dumping areas in Enewetak’s
11 lagoon to a safe, secure facility to be con-
12 structed in an uninhabited, unincorporated ter-
13 ritory of the United States.

14 (b) MARSHALLESE PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary
15 of the Interior shall allow scientists or other experts se-
16 lected by the Republic of the Marshall Islands to partici-
17 pate in all aspects of the preparation of the report re-
18 quired by subsection (a), including, without limitation, de-
19 veloping the work plan, identifying questions, conducting
20 research, and collecting and interpreting data.

21 (c) PUBLICATION.—The report required in subsection
22 (a) shall be published in the Federal Register for public
23 comment for a period of not fewer than 60 days.

24 (d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the In-
25 terior shall publish the study required under subsection

1 (a) and results submitted under subsection (b) on a public
2 website.

3 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION FOR RE-
4 PORT.—It is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the
5 Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, for
6 fiscal year 2022 such sums as may be necessary to
7 produce the report required in subsection (a).

8 (f) INDEFINITE AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION
9 FOR RUNIT DOME MONITORING ACTIVITIES.—It is hereby
10 authorized to be appropriated to the Department of En-
11 ergy such sums as may be necessary to comply with the
12 requirements of section 103(f)(1)(B) of the Compact of
13 Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C.
14 1921b(f)(1)(B)).

15 **TITLE III—NATIONAL OCEANIC**
16 **AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINIS-**
17 **TRATION**

18 **SEC. 301. CLIMATE CHANGE INSULAR RESEARCH GRANT**
19 **PROGRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-
21 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall es-
22 tablish a Climate Change Insular Research Grant Pro-
23 gram to provide grants to institutions of higher education,
24 as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher
25 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)), and nonprofit

1 organizations in Insular Areas for monitoring, collecting,
2 synthesizing, analyzing, and publishing local climate
3 change data, including ocean temperature, sea level rise,
4 ocean acidification, and altered ocean currents data.

5 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
6 out this section there is authorized to be appropriated to
7 the Administrator \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
8 2022 through 2026.

9 **SEC. 302. COASTAL MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
10 **AND REPORT.**

11 (a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
13 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
14 acting through the Director of the Office for Coastal
15 Management, shall provide technical assistance to
16 Insular Areas to enhance such entities' coastal man-
17 agement and climate change programs.

18 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
19 carry out this subsection there is authorized to be
20 appropriated to the Administrator of the National
21 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
22 \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022 through
23 2026.

24 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator of the Na-
25 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, acting

1 through the Director of the Office for Coastal Manage-
2 ment, shall submit an annual report to the Committee on
3 Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and
4 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
5 of the Senate on the status of—

6 (1) wetland, mangrove, and estuary conditions
7 in Insular Areas; and

8 (2) climate change impacts, including ecological,
9 economic, and cultural impacts, in Insular Areas.

10 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TECHNICAL AS-**
11 **SISTANCE AND GRANTS.**

12 (a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
14 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
15 acting through the Director of the National Weather
16 Service, shall provide technical assistance and out-
17 reach to Insular Areas through the San Juan,
18 Tiyan, and Pago Pago Weather Forecast Offices of
19 the National Weather Service. For the purposes of
20 this section, the Administrator may also employ
21 other agency entities as the Administrator deems
22 necessary, in order to improve weather data collec-
23 tion and provide science, data, information, and im-
24 pact-based decision support services to reduce hurri-

1 cane, typhoon, droughts, tsunamis, tides, and sea
2 level rise impacts in the Insular Areas.

3 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
4 carry out this subsection there is authorized to be
5 appropriated to the Administrator \$5,000,000 for
6 each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

7 (b) GRANTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
9 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
10 may provide grants to academic, nonprofit, and local
11 entities to conduct climate change research to im-
12 prove weather data collection and provide science,
13 data, information, and impact-based decision sup-
14 port services to reduce hurricane, typhoon, droughts,
15 tsunamis, tides, and sea level rise impacts in the In-
16 sular Areas.

17 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
18 carry out this subsection there is authorized to be
19 appropriated to the Administrator \$5,000,000 for
20 each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

21 **SEC. 304. OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING INTEGRATION**

22 **ACT.**

23 Section 12204 of the Ocean and Coastal Mapping In-
24 tegration Act (33 U.S.C. 3503) is amended—

25 (1) in paragraph (12), by striking “and”;

1 (2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(14) the study of Insular Areas and the effects
5 of climate change”.

6 **TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF**
7 **ENERGY**

8 **SEC. 401. OFFICE OF INSULAR AREA ENERGY POLICY AND**
9 **PROGRAMS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Department of En-
11 ergy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7131 et seq.) is amend-
12 ed by adding at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 218. OFFICE OF INSULAR AREA ENERGY POLICY AND**
14 **PROGRAMS.**

15 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
16 the Department an Office of Insular Area Energy Policy
17 and Programs (referred to in this section as the ‘Office’).
18 The Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall be
19 appointed by the Secretary and compensated at a rate
20 equal to that of level IV of the Executive Schedule under
21 section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

22 “(b) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

23 “(1) direct, coordinate, implement, and monitor
24 energy planning, education, management, conserva-
25 tion, and delivery programs of the Department to—

1 “(A) assist Insular Areas in developing
2 comprehensive energy plans;

3 “(B) expand renewable energy and energy
4 efficiency in Insular Areas;

5 “(C) reduce or stabilize energy costs in In-
6 sular Areas;

7 “(D) enhance and strengthen energy infra-
8 structure in Insular Areas to withstand natural
9 disasters; and

10 “(E) work with Insular Areas to develop
11 improved regulatory and oversight conditions;
12 and

13 “(2) centralize and align all ongoing Depart-
14 ment of Energy efforts in the Insular Areas.

15 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Director shall submit
16 an annual report to the Committee on Natural Resources
17 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
18 House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy
19 and Natural Resources of the Senate on the status of all
20 projects undertaken and grants approved by the Office.

21 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
23 out this section \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
24 2022 through 2026.

1 “(e) NON-FEDERAL COST-SHARE WAIVER.—Any
2 funding made available to Insular Areas by the Office of
3 Insular Area Energy Policy and Programs under this or
4 any other Federal law shall not be subject to a non-Fed-
5 eral share funding requirement.”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

7 (1) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of con-
8 tents of the Department of Energy Organization Act
9 is amended by inserting after the item relating to
10 section 217 the following:

“Sec. 218. Office of Insular Area Energy Policy and Programs.”.

11 (2) POSITIONS AT LEVEL IV.—Section 5315 of
12 title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting
13 after the item related to the Director, Office of
14 Science, Department of Energy the following new
15 item: “Director, Office of Insular Area Energy Pol-
16 icy and Programs, Department of Energy.”.

17 **SEC. 402. COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLANS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Office of Insular
20 Area Energy Policy and Programs in the Department of
21 Energy, in consultation with the Office of Insular Affairs
22 of the Department of the Interior, shall submit to the
23 Committees on Energy and Commerce and Natural Re-
24 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
2 a report containing—

3 (1) the results of a study of the execution of the
4 comprehensive energy plans required by section 9 of
5 Public Law 113–235 (48 U.S.C. 1492a), includ-
6 ing—

7 (A) initial, planned, and current sources of
8 renewable energy;

9 (B) initial, planned, and current energy
10 imports; and

11 (C) projected and actual energy needs dur-
12 ing calendar year 2020 for each Insular Area;

13 (2) the lessons learned from the preparation of
14 these plans;

15 (3) the date on which each plan was most re-
16 cently updated; and

17 (4) recommendations with respect to each Insu-
18 lar Area, on the need to update such plans.

19 (b) PUBLICATION; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Sec-
20 retary of Energy shall ensure that—

21 (1) the report required by subsection (a) is pub-
22 lished in the Federal Register for public comment
23 for a period of not fewer than 60 days; and

1 (2) the report required by subsection (a) and
2 any comments received under subsection (b) are
3 made available on a public website.

4 **SEC. 403. ENERGY EFFICIENT PRODUCT REBATE PROGRAM.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ELIGIBLE TERRITORY.—The term “eligible
7 territory” means a territory that meets the require-
8 ments of subsection (c).

9 (2) ENERGY STAR PROGRAM.—The term “En-
10 ergy Star program” means the program established
11 by section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conserva-
12 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a).

13 (3) RESIDENTIAL ENERGY STAR PRODUCT.—
14 The term “residential Energy Star product” means
15 a product for a residence that is rated for energy ef-
16 ficiency under the Energy Star program.

17 (4) ENERGY OFFICE.—The term “energy of-
18 fice” means the government agency within the terri-
19 tory responsible for developing an energy conserva-
20 tion plan under section 362 of the Energy Policy
21 and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6322).

22 (5) REBATE PROGRAM.—The term “rebate pro-
23 gram” means an energy efficient product rebate pro-
24 gram described in subsection (c)(1).

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy
2 shall establish a program, to be known as the “Energy
3 Efficient Product Rebate Program”, under which the Di-
4 rector of the Office of Insular Area Energy Policy and
5 Programs shall provide allocations to eligible territories in
6 accordance with this section.

7 (c) ELIGIBLE TERRITORIES.—A territory shall be eli-
8 gible to receive an allocation under subsection (d) if the
9 territory—

10 (1) establishes (or has established) an energy
11 efficient product rebate program to provide rebates
12 to residential consumers for the purchase of residen-
13 tial Energy Star products to replace used products
14 of the same type;

15 (2) establishes clear requirements to prevent il-
16 legal dumping of old products and the overflow of
17 landfills, and ensure environmental justice;

18 (3) submits an application for the allocation at
19 such time, in such form, and containing such infor-
20 mation as the Director of the Office of Insular Area
21 Energy Policy and Programs may require; and

22 (4) provides assurances satisfactory to the Di-
23 rector of the Office of Insular Area Energy Policy
24 and Programs that the territory will use the alloca-

1 tion to supplement, but not supplant, funds made
2 available to carry out the rebate program.

3 (d) AMOUNT OF ALLOCATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
5 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, the Di-
6 rector of the Office of Insular Area Energy Policy
7 and Programs shall allocate to the energy office of
8 each eligible territory to carry out subsection (e) an
9 amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying
10 the amount made available under subsection (g) for
11 the fiscal year by the ratio that the population of the
12 territory in the most recent calendar year for which
13 data are available bears to the total population of all
14 eligible territories in that calendar year.

15 (2) MINIMUM ALLOCATIONS.—For each fiscal
16 year, the amounts allocated under this subsection
17 shall be adjusted proportionately so that no eligible
18 territory is allocated a sum that is less than an
19 amount determined by the Director.

20 (e) USE OF ALLOCATED FUNDS.—An allocation to
21 an energy office under subsection (d) may be used to pay
22 not more than 75 percent of the cost of establishing and
23 carrying out a rebate program.

1 (f) ISSUANCE OF REBATES.—The amount of a rebate
2 provided under a rebate program shall be determined by
3 the applicable energy office, taking into consideration—

4 (1) the amount of the allocation to the energy
5 office under subsection (d);

6 (2) the amount of any tax incentive available
7 for the purchase of the residential Energy Star
8 product; and

9 (3) the difference between the cost of the resi-
10 dential Energy Star product and the cost of a prod-
11 uct that is not a residential Energy Star product,
12 but is of the same type as, and is the nearest capac-
13 ity, performance, and other relevant characteristics
14 (as determined by the energy office) to, the residen-
15 tial Energy Star product.

16 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
18 \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022 through
19 2026.

20 **SEC. 404. RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
23 tity” means a not-for-profit organization determined
24 eligible by the Secretary for purposes of this section.

1 (2) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL LAB-
2 ORATORIES.—The term “Department of Energy na-
3 tional laboratories” has the same meaning as the
4 term “National Laboratory” under section 2 of the
5 Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

6 (3) MICROGRID.—The term “microgrid” means
7 an electric system—

8 (A) that serves the local community with a
9 power generation and distribution system; and

10 (B) that has the ability—

11 (i) to disconnect from a traditional
12 electric grid; and

13 (ii) to operate autonomously when dis-
14 connected.

15 (4) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
16 the Renewable Energy Grant Program established
17 under subsection (b).

18 (5) SMART GRID.—The term “smart grid”
19 means an intelligent electric grid that uses digital
20 communications technology, information systems,
21 and automation to, while maintaining high system
22 reliability—

23 (A) detect and react to local changes in
24 usage;

1 (B) improve system operating efficiency;

2 and

3 (C) reduce spending costs.

4 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the
6 Office of Insular Area Energy Policy and Programs (re-
7 ferred to in this section as the “Director”) shall establish
8 a Renewable Energy Grant Program under which the Di-
9 rector may award grants to covered entities to facilitate
10 projects in Insular Areas described in subsection (d).

11 (c) APPLICATIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant
13 under the Program, a covered entity shall submit to
14 the Director an application at such time, in such
15 form, and containing such information as the Sec-
16 retary may require.

17 (2) PRIORITY.—In providing grants under the
18 Program, the Director shall give priority to proposed
19 projects that, as determined by the Director—

20 (A) maximize public health benefits;

21 (B) are the most cost-effective; and

22 (C) serve areas with environmental justice
23 communities—

24 (i) in rural areas; or

25 (ii) that are poor air quality areas.

1 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—A covered entity receiving a
3 grant under the Program may use grant funds for
4 a project, in territories of the United States—

5 (A) to develop or construct a renewable en-
6 ergy system;

7 (B) to carry out an activity to increase en-
8 ergy efficiency;

9 (C) to develop or construct an energy stor-
10 age system or device for—

11 (i) a system developed or constructed
12 under subparagraph (A); or

13 (ii) an activity carried out under sub-
14 paragraph (B);

15 (D) to develop or construct—

16 (i) a smart grid; or

17 (ii) a microgrid; or

18 (E) to train residents of territories of the
19 United States to develop, construct, maintain,
20 or operate a renewable energy system.

21 (2) LIMITATION.—A covered entity receiving a
22 grant under the Program may not use grant funds
23 to develop or construct a facility that generates elec-
24 tricity using energy derived from—

25 (A) fossil fuels; or

1 (B) nuclear power.

2 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Director shall en-
3 sure that Department of Energy national laboratories
4 offer to provide technical assistance to each covered entity
5 carrying out a project assisted with a grant under the Pro-
6 gram.

7 (f) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the es-
8 tablishment of the Program, and on an annual basis there-
9 after, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report con-
10 taining—

11 (1) an estimate of the amount of funds dis-
12 bursed under the Program;

13 (2) an estimate of the energy conservation
14 achieved as a result of the Program;

15 (3) a description of challenges encountered in
16 implementing projects described in subsection (d)(1);
17 and

18 (4) any recommendations as to additional legis-
19 lative measures to increase the use of renewable en-
20 ergy in territories of the United States, as appro-
21 priate.

22 (g) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

23 (1) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 180
24 days after the date of enactment of this section, the
25 Comptroller General of the United States shall—

1 (A) conduct a study regarding renewable
2 energy and energy efficiency in territories of the
3 United States; and

4 (B) submit to Congress a report con-
5 taining—

6 (i) the findings of the study; and

7 (ii) related recommendations.

8 (2) COMPONENTS.—The study conducted under
9 paragraph (1) shall consider, in relation to terri-
10 tories of the United States, the potential—

11 (A) to modify existing electric power sys-
12 tems to use renewable energy sources;

13 (B) to expand the use of microgrids; and

14 (C) to improve energy resiliency.

15 **SEC. 405. OFFSHORE WIND FOR THE TERRITORIES.**

16 (a) APPLICATION OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF
17 LANDS ACT WITH RESPECT TO TERRITORIES OF THE
18 UNITED STATES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Outer Con-
20 tinental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331) is
21 amended—

22 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting “or
23 lying within the exclusive economic zone of the
24 United States and the Outer Continental Shelf
25 adjacent to any territory of the United States,

1 except that such term shall not include any
2 area conveyed by Congress to a territorial gov-
3 ernment for administration” after “control”;

4 (B) in subsection (p), by striking “and”
5 after the semicolon at the end;

6 (C) in subsection (q), by striking the pe-
7 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

8 (D) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(r) The term ‘State’ means the several States, the
10 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa,
11 the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Common-
12 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

13 (2) EXCLUSIONS.—Section 18 of the Outer
14 Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) is
15 amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(i) This section shall not apply to the scheduling of
17 lease sales in the Outer Continental Shelf adjacent to the
18 Territories of the United States.”.

19 (b) WIND LEASE SALES FOR AREAS OF OUTER CON-
20 TINENTAL SHELF.—The Outer Continental Shelf Lands
21 Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) is amended by adding at
22 the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 33. WIND LEASE SALES FOR AREAS OF OUTER CONTI-**
2 **NENTAL SHELF.**

3 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may conduct
4 wind lease sales on the Outer Continental Shelf.

5 “(b) WIND LEASE SALE PROCEDURE.—Any wind
6 lease sale conducted under this section shall be considered
7 a lease under section 8(p).

8 “(c) WIND LEASE SALES OFF COASTS OF TERRI-
9 TORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.—

10 “(1) STUDY ON FEASIBILITY OF CONDUCTING
11 WIND LEASE SALES.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
13 conduct a study on the feasibility, including the
14 technological and long-term economic feasibility,
15 and the potential environmental effects of, con-
16 ducting wind lease sales on an area of the
17 Outer Continental Shelf within the territorial
18 jurisdiction of American Samoa, Guam, the
19 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
20 lands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of
21 the United States.

22 “(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the
23 study required in subparagraph (A), the Sec-
24 retary shall consult—

1 “(i) the National Laboratories, as
2 that term is defined in section 2 of the En-
3 ergy Policy Act of 2005;

4 “(ii) the National Oceanic and Atmos-
5 pheric Administration, including the Office
6 of National Marine Sanctuaries and Na-
7 tional Marine Fisheries Service; and

8 “(iii) the Governor of each of Amer-
9 ican Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana
10 Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Is-
11 lands of the United States.

12 “(C) PUBLICATION.—The study required
13 in subparagraph (A) shall be published in the
14 Federal Register for public comment for a pe-
15 riod of not fewer than 60 days.

16 “(D) SUBMISSION OF RESULTS.—Not later
17 than 18 months after the date of enactment of
18 this section, the Secretary shall submit the re-
19 sults of the study conducted under subpara-
20 graph (A) to—

21 “(i) the Committee on Energy and
22 Natural Resources of the Senate;

23 “(ii) the Committee on Natural Re-
24 sources of the House of Representatives;
25 and

1 “(iii) each Delegate or Resident Com-
2 missioner to the House of Representatives
3 from American Samoa, Guam, the North-
4 ern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the
5 Virgin Islands of the United States.

6 “(E) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Sec-
7 retary shall publish the study required under
8 subparagraph (A) and results submitted under
9 subparagraph (D) on a public website.

10 “(2) CALL FOR INFORMATION AND NOMINA-
11 TIONS.—The Secretary shall issue a call for informa-
12 tion and nominations for proposed wind lease sales
13 for areas determined to be feasible under the study
14 conducted under paragraph (1).

15 “(3) CONDITIONAL WIND LEASE SALES.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each territory,
17 the Secretary shall conduct not less than 1 wind
18 lease sale on an area of the Outer Continental
19 Shelf within the territorial jurisdiction of such
20 territory that meets each of the following cri-
21 teria:

22 “(i) The study required under para-
23 graph (1)(A) concluded that a wind lease
24 sale on the area is feasible.

1 “(ii) The Secretary has determined
2 that the call for information has generated
3 sufficient interest for the area.

4 “(iii) The Secretary has consulted
5 with the Secretary of Defense and other
6 relevant Federal agencies regarding such a
7 sale.

8 “(iv) The Secretary has consulted
9 with the Governor of the territory regard-
10 ing the suitability of the area for wind en-
11 ergy development.

12 “(B) EXCEPTION.—If no area of the Outer
13 Continental Shelf within the territorial jurisdic-
14 tion of a territory meets each of the criteria in
15 clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A),
16 the requirement under subparagraph (A) shall
17 not apply to such territory.”.

18 **SEC. 406. STATE ENERGY PROGRAM NON-FEDERAL COST-**

19 **SHARE WAIVER.**

20 Funding made available to a territory under the De-
21 partment of Energy’s State Energy Program (42 U.S.C.
22 6321 et seq.) shall not be subject to a non-Federal share
23 funding requirement.

1 **TITLE V—ENVIRONMENTAL**
2 **PROTECTION AGENCY**

3 **SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this title:

5 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
6 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
7 mental Protection Agency.

8 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
9 the Director of the Insular Area National Program
10 Office.

11 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
12 ty” means each of the following:

13 (A) A government, municipality, agency, or
14 instrumentality of a territory.

15 (B) A private, nonprofit organization or in-
16 stitution.

17 (C) An institution of higher education (as
18 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
19 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001), except that such
20 term does not include private, nonprofit institu-
21 tions of higher education).

22 (D) Any combination of entities described
23 in subparagraphs (A) through (C), including
24 partnerships and consortiums of local govern-
25 ments.

1 (4) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the In-
2 sular Area National Program Office established by
3 section 502.

4 (5) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term “renew-
5 able energy” means energy that has been derived
6 from Earth’s natural resources that are not finite or
7 exhaustible, including solar, wind, hydroelectric, geo-
8 thermal, ocean (thermal and mechanics).

9 **SEC. 502. INSULAR AREA NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
11 the Environmental Protection Agency an office, to be
12 known as the Insular Area National Program Office. The
13 Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall be ap-
14 pointed by the Administrator and compensated at a rate
15 equal to that of level IV of the Executive Schedule under
16 section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

17 (b) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

18 (1) direct, coordinate, implement, and monitor
19 programs of the Environmental Protection Agency
20 to—

21 (A) build, enhance, and strengthen infra-
22 structure in Insular Areas to withstand natural
23 disasters;

24 (B) expand renewable energy and energy
25 efficiency in Insular Areas; and

1 (C) provide technical assistance in Insular
2 Areas; and

3 (2) centralize and align all ongoing Environ-
4 mental Protection Agency efforts in the Insular
5 Areas.

6 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Director shall submit an
7 annual report to the Committee on Natural Resources and
8 the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
9 of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and
10 Natural Resources of the Senate on the status of all
11 projects undertaken and grants approved by the Office.

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
13 Insular Area National Program Office, there is authorized
14 to be appropriated to the Administrator \$20,000,000 for
15 each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

16 (e) NON-FEDERAL COST-SHARE WAIVER.—Any
17 funding made available to Insular Areas by the Office
18 shall not be subject to a non-Federal share funding re-
19 quirement.

20 **SEC. 503. INSULAR AREA SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE**
21 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the
24 Insular Area National Program Office shall establish and
25 carry out a program, to be known as the Insular Area

1 Sustainable Infrastructure Grant Program, to provide
2 grants to eligible entities in the Insular Areas to build,
3 enhance, and strengthen infrastructure systems in Insular
4 Areas to withstand natural disasters, including drinking
5 water systems, septic systems, stormwater systems, and
6 solid waste systems.

7 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
8 a grant for infrastructure system projects under the Insu-
9 lar Area Sustainable Infrastructure Grant Program may
10 use such funds for—

11 (1) development-phase activities, including plan-
12 ning, feasibility analysis (including any related anal-
13 ysis necessary to carry out an eligible project), rev-
14 enue forecasting, environmental review, permitting,
15 preliminary engineering and design work, and other
16 preconstruction activities;

17 (2) construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation,
18 and replacement activities; and

19 (3) the acquisition of real property or an inter-
20 est in real property (including land relating to the
21 project, and improvements to land), environmental
22 mitigation, construction contingencies, and acquisi-
23 tion of equipment.

24 (c) APPLICATIONS.—

1 (1) INCLUSIONS.—An application under this
2 subsection shall include—

3 (A) a description of the project proposed
4 by the eligible entity;

5 (B) an evaluation (using methodology ap-
6 proved by the Director) of the quantifiable and
7 unquantifiable benefits of the proposed project;

8 (C) an estimate of the cost of the proposed
9 project; and

10 (D) a description of the age and expected
11 lifetime of the infrastructure system funded by
12 the project.

13 (2) PRIORITY.—In providing grants under this
14 section, the Director shall give priority to proposed
15 projects that, as determined by the Director—

16 (A) maximize public health benefits;

17 (B) are the most cost effective; and

18 (C) serve areas with environmental justice
19 communities—

20 (i) in rural remote areas; or

21 (ii) that have challenged environ-
22 mental conditions.

23 (3) APPLICATION GUIDANCE AND PROCESSES.—

24 The Director shall provide Insular Areas—

1 (A) guidance for use in applying for grant
2 funds under this section, including information
3 regarding—

4 (i) the process and forms for applica-
5 tions;

6 (ii) permissible uses of funds received;
7 and

8 (iii) an annual deadline for submission
9 of the applications;

10 (B) a process by which the Director shall
11 approve or disapprove each application; and

12 (C) a streamlined process by which an In-
13 sular Area may renew an application described
14 in subparagraph (A) for subsequent fiscal
15 years.

16 (d) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

17 (1) OFFICE.—The Director shall use 100 per-
18 cent of the funds made available to carry out this
19 section to provide grants, on a competitive basis, to
20 eligible entities in Insular Areas.

21 (2) GRANT RECIPIENT.—An eligible entity may
22 use not more than 10 percent of a grant provided
23 under this section for administrative expenses of an
24 approved project.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
2 out this section there is authorized to be appropriated to
3 the Administrator \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
4 2022 through 2026.

5 **SEC. 504. INSULAR AREA RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT PRO-**
6 **GRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Insu-
9 lar Area National Program Office shall establish and carry
10 out a program, to be known as the Insular Area Renew-
11 able Energy Grant Program to provide grants to eligible
12 entities in the Insular Areas to expand renewable energy
13 and energy efficiency in the Insular Areas.

14 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

15 (1) PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE.—

16 The following projects may be carried out with
17 amounts made available under this section:

18 (A) Construction of a new renewable en-
19 ergy system.

20 (B) A project for energy redundancy and
21 resilience based on renewable energy and for
22 hurricane and storm damage reduction on re-
23 newable energy systems that the Director deter-
24 mines is technically sound, economically justi-
25 fied, and environmentally acceptable.

1 (C) A project for enhanced energy effi-
2 ciency in the operation of infrastructure that
3 belongs to an eligible entity.

4 (D) A project for repair, rehabilitation, or
5 replacement of a renewable energy system.

6 (E) A project to prevent, reduce, or miti-
7 gate the effects of hurricanes or storms, includ-
8 ing projects that enhance the resilience of re-
9 newable energy systems.

10 (F) Acquisition of real property or an in-
11 terest in real property—

12 (i) if the acquisition is integral to a
13 project described in subparagraphs (A)
14 through (D); or

15 (ii) pursuant to an existing plan that,
16 in the judgment of the Director, as appli-
17 cable, would mitigate the environmental
18 impacts of renewable energy system infra-
19 structure projects.

20 (G) A combination of projects under sub-
21 paragraphs (A) through (F).

22 (2) ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE.—
23 An eligible entity may use a grant provided under
24 this section for, with respect to an eligible project—

1 (A) development-phase activities, including
2 planning, feasibility analysis (including any re-
3 lated analysis necessary to carry out an eligible
4 project), revenue forecasting, environmental re-
5 view, permitting, preliminary engineering and
6 design work, and other preconstruction activi-
7 ties;

8 (B) construction, reconstruction, rehabili-
9 tation, and replacement activities; and

10 (C) the acquisition of real property or an
11 interest in real property (including land relating
12 to the project, and improvements to land), envi-
13 ronmental mitigation, construction contin-
14 gencies, and acquisition of equipment.

15 (c) APPLICATIONS.—

16 (1) INCLUSIONS.—An application under this
17 subsection shall include—

18 (A) a description of the project proposed
19 by the eligible entity;

20 (B) an evaluation (using methodology ap-
21 proved by the Director) of the quantifiable and
22 unquantifiable benefits of the proposed project;

23 (C) an estimate of the cost of the proposed
24 project; and

1 (D) a description of the age and expected
2 lifetime of a renewable energy or energy effi-
3 ciency system funded by the project.

4 (2) PRIORITY.—In providing grants under this
5 section, the Director shall give priority to proposed
6 projects that, as determined by the Director—

7 (A) maximize public health benefits;

8 (B) are the most cost effective; and

9 (C) serve areas with environmental justice
10 communities—

11 (i) in rural remote areas; or

12 (ii) that are poor air quality areas.

13 (3) APPLICATION GUIDANCE AND PROCESSES.—

14 The Director shall provide Insular Areas—

15 (A) guidance for use in applying for grant
16 funds under this section, including information
17 regarding—

18 (i) the process and forms for applica-
19 tions;

20 (ii) permissible uses of funds received;

21 and

22 (iii) an annual deadline for submission
23 of the applications;

24 (B) a process by which the Director shall
25 approve or disapprove each application; and

1 (C) a streamlined process by which an In-
2 sular Area may renew an application described
3 in subparagraph (A) for subsequent fiscal
4 years.

5 (d) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

6 (1) OFFICE.—The Director shall use 100 per-
7 cent of the funds made available to carry out this
8 section to provide grants, on a competitive basis, to
9 eligible entities in Insular Areas.

10 (2) GRANT RECIPIENT.—An eligible entity may
11 use not more than 10 percent of a grant provided
12 under this section to fund administrative expenses of
13 an approved project.

14 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
15 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to
16 the Administrator \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
17 2022 through 2026.

18 **SEC. 505. INSULAR AREA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRO-**
19 **GRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a pro-
21 gram, to be known as the Insular Area Technical Assist-
22 ance Program, to provide technical assistance to Insular
23 Areas relating to climate change planning, mitigation, ad-
24 aptation, and resilience.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
3 carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal
4 years 2022 through 2026.

5 **TITLE VI—EMERGENCY**
6 **MANAGEMENT**

7 **SEC. 601. COMMUNITY DISASTER LOANS REPAYMENT CAN-**
8 **CELLATION.**

9 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, repay-
10 ment of a loan made to a local government in an Insular
11 Area under section 417 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
12 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5184),
13 including any interest on such loan, shall be canceled.

14 **SEC. 602. DISASTER RELIEF NON-FEDERAL COST-SHARE**
15 **WAIVER.**

16 Funding made available to an Insular Area for dis-
17 aster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastruc-
18 ture and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation
19 pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
20 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) shall
21 not be subject to a non-Federal share funding require-
22 ment.

1 **TITLE VII—SENSE OF CONGRESS**
2 **REGARDING THE THREAT OF**
3 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

4 **SEC. 701. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE THREAT**
5 **OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

7 (1) climate change is an existential threat to
8 the Freely Associated States; and

9 (2) the United States should examine additional
10 ways to help the Federated States of Micronesia, the
11 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic
12 of Palau address and mitigate the impacts of climate
13 change and rising sea level through their respective
14 Compacts of Free Association.

○