

SB-32

A pragmatic, three-pronged approach to seek market-based solutions to rising carbon emissions in the United States focusing on investments in sustainable transportation, cleaner energy production, and negative emissions solutions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Bristol of Colorado introduced the following bill;

A BILL

A pragmatic, three-pronged approach to seek market-based solutions to rising carbon emissions in the United States focusing on investments in sustainable transportation, cleaner energy production, and negative emissions solutions.

Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Clean Energy Future Act".

SECTION 2. TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation shall be directed to expand Amtrak coverage across the country to encourage train travel, the most energy-efficient form of long-distance travel, over others like airplane and car travel. The Department shall also replace all of its remaining diesel-powered trains with electric trains, following the model of the Northeast Corridor's Acela Express.

Tax credits of an amount to be determined by the Department of the Treasury shall be offered to producers of electric cars and other alternatively-powered vehicles across a range of vehicle classes and prices. Existing tax credits for consumers that purchase electric vehicles shall be expanded as well. In conjunction with these incentives, the Department of Transportation shall be directed to invest in nationwide charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.

The Department of Transportation shall also conduct research on emissions reduction measures for air travel, through both research grants for the development of more efficient aircraft and the study of potentially stricter fuel efficiency standards for aircraft.

SECTION 3. ENERGY

The Department of Energy and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy shall be tasked with expanding their grants towards the research and development of alternative forms of energy, including renewable energy, nuclear power with an emphasis on Thorium-based reactors, and cleaner-burning fossil fuels like coal and natural gas, all of which will be necessary to diversify the nation's energy production.

The Department of the Treasury shall be directed to create or expand existing tax credits for the installation of solar panels on private residential and commercial properties, and similarly incentivize the production of other forms of alternative energy and more sustainable building practices (at the Department's discretion).

The existing electrical grids within the United States (the Western, Eastern, and Texas Interconnections) shall be integrated into one national electrical grid through the use of high-voltage direct current transmission lines. This national grid shall be further integrated with the electrical grids of Canada and Mexico to facilitate the exchange of electricity during emergencies and periods of volatile energy production that may result from the transition toward and increased reliance on renewable energy. The new unified grid shall be subject to strict emergency capability standards determined by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SECTION 4. NATURAL SOLUTIONS

The US Forest Service shall be directed to create a comprehensive plan for sustainable forest management and mass reforestation efforts (including urban forestry projects) with the goal of offsetting some of the nation's carbon emissions.

To further offset national carbon emissions, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior shall be jointly tasked with expanding grants for the research and development of other negative emissions technologies, including ocean fertilization and soil carbon sequestration, and creating a comprehensive plan for implementing and expanding these and similar policies on a national scale.

SECTION 5. FUNDING

Much of the funding required for the above provisions can be procured through reallocation within the existing budgets of the relevant Departments. In order to raise additional funds and further disincentivize carbon emissions, a tax of a size determined by the Department of the Treasury in consultation with the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget shall be levied on the products of all carbon-emitting processes. In conjunction with the carbon tax, import tariffs of the same amount shall be placed on all products sold in markets without an equivalent carbon tax, with the goal of equalizing the tax's impact on American consumers across the global market.