

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1135

To impose an assessment related to fossil fuel emissions, to establish the
Polluters Pay Climate Fund, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2025

Mr. NADLER (for himself, Ms. CHU, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BALINT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. OMAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To impose an assessment related to fossil fuel emissions,
to establish the Polluters Pay Climate Fund, 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 “Polluters Pay Climate
5 Fund Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) climate change, resulting primarily from the
4 combustion of fossil fuels, is an immediate, grave
5 threat to the communities, environment, and econ-
6 omy of the United States;

7 (2) severe consequences of climate change have
8 already materialized in the United States, including
9 rising sea levels, increasing temperatures, extreme
10 weather events, flooding, heat waves, loss of bio-
11 diversity, and other climate change-driven ecosystem
12 threats;

13 (3) the Federal Government jointly with States
14 and localities must develop and implement protective
15 measures to counteract the adverse effects of climate
16 change, protect communities, and build resilience to
17 extreme weather;

18 (4) the government response must include pro-
19 tections for communities that are most vulnerable to
20 climate change impacts, especially communities of
21 color, low-income communities, and Tribal and In-
22 digenous communities that are also more likely to
23 have experienced systemic disinvestment and be
24 overburdened by fossil fuel pollution;

25 (5) the protective measures necessary to re-
26 spond to the adverse effects of climate change in the

1 United States will require trillions of dollars of new
2 investment during the decade after the date of en-
3 actment of this Act;

4 (6) climate change related extreme weather
5 events, such as those described in paragraph (2),
6 cost the United States at least \$150,000,000,000
7 each year and disproportionately affect underserved
8 and overburdened communities, according to the
9 Fifth National Climate Assessment;

10 (7) the \$100,000,000,000 each year that fossil
11 fuel companies are collectively assessed for the Pol-
12 luters Pay Climate Fund established in this Act rep-
13 resents only a small portion of the total cost to the
14 Federal government to respond to climate change re-
15 lated extreme weather events and make needed cli-
16 mate change adaptation and resilience investments;

17 (8) peer-reviewed research can now determine
18 with great accuracy the share of carbon dioxide re-
19 leased into the atmosphere by the operations and
20 products of specific fossil fuel companies, which is
21 what informs the formulas to determine carbon diox-
22 ide emissions that are used in the amendments made
23 by this Act;

1 (9) the fossil fuel industry has been aware of
 2 the central role that their product plays in causing
 3 climate change since before the year 2000;

4 (10) the fossil fuel industry must now increase
 5 their contribution to government expenditures to
 6 protect the Nation from climate disaster; and

7 (11) this Act and assessments under the
 8 amendments made by this Act are not intended—

9 (A) to be a determination of fault; or

10 (B) to have any impact on the ability of
 11 any person or other government to hold pol-
 12 luters accountable for harms caused.

13 **SEC. 3. TAX RELATING TO CURRENT STOCK OF GREEN-**
 14 **HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 38 of the Internal Rev-
 16 enue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the
 17 following new subchapter:

18 **“Subchapter E—Certain Fossil Fuel**
 19 **Emissions**

“Sec. 4691. Imposition of tax.

20 **“SEC. 4691. IMPOSITION OF TAX.**

21 “(a) IMPOSITION.—Each assessable person shall pay
 22 to the Secretary of the Treasury not later than the appli-
 23 cable payment date a tax in an amount determined under
 24 subsection (b).

1 “(b) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each as-
3 sessable person, the tax under this section shall be
4 equal to an amount that bears the same ratio to
5 \$1,000,000,000,000 as—

6 “(A) the assessable person’s applicable
7 share of covered carbon dioxide emissions taken
8 into account under this section, bears to

9 “(B) the aggregate applicable shares of
10 covered carbon dioxide emissions of all assess-
11 able persons taken into account under this sec-
12 tion.

13 “(2) DETERMINATION OF APPLICABLE
14 SHARE.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The applicable share
16 of covered carbon dioxide emissions taken into
17 account under this section for any assessable
18 person shall be the excess (if any) of—

19 “(i) the covered carbon dioxide emis-
20 sions attributable to such person (deter-
21 mined in metric tons), as determined by
22 the Secretary based on product-related car-
23 bon dioxide emissions of such person, over

24 “(ii) 1,000,000,000 metric tons.

“(B) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary may adjust the amount determined under subparagraph (A)(i) with respect to an assessable person who is described in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii) (or who is a successor in interest to a person described in such subsection) if such person establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary that a portion of such amount was—

“(i) attributable to the extraction of crude oil by another assessable person who is described in subsection (c)(2)(B)(i) (or a successor in interest to a person described in such subsection), and

“(ii) taken into account in determining such amount for such other assessable person.

“(c) ASSESSABLE PERSON.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘assessable person’ means—

“(A) any person that is described in paragraph (2), or

“(B) any successor in interest to a person described in paragraph (2).

1 “(2) PERSON DESCRIBED.—A person is de-
2 scribed in this paragraph if such person—

3 “(A) is a United States person or is en-
4 gaged in a trade or business within the United
5 States during the period beginning on the date
6 of the enactment of this Act and ending on De-
7 cember 31, 2025,

8 “(B) during any part of the covered pe-
9 riod, was engaged in the trade or business of—

10 “(i) extracting any fossil fuel, or

11 “(ii) refining any crude oil, and

12 “(C) is determined by the Secretary to be
13 responsible for more than 1,000,000,000 metric
14 tons of covered carbon dioxide emissions.

15 “(3) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
17 subsection, all persons treated as a single em-
18 ployer under subsection (a) or (b) of section 52
19 or subsection (m) or (o) of section 414 shall be
20 treated as a single assessable person.

21 “(B) INCLUSION OF FOREIGN CORPORA-
22 TIONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), in
23 applying subsections (a) and (b) of section 52
24 to this section, section 1563 shall be applied
25 without regard to subsection (b)(2)(C) thereof.

1 “(4) JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY.—If more
 2 than one person is liable for payment of the tax
 3 under subsection (a) with respect to a single assess-
 4 able person by reason of the application of para-
 5 graph (3), all such persons shall be jointly and sev-
 6 erally liable for payment of such tax.

7 “(d) OTHER DEFINITIONS AND RULES.—For pur-
 8 poses of this section—

9 “(1) APPLICABLE PAYMENT DATE.—The term
 10 ‘applicable payment date’ means September 30,
 11 2026.

12 “(2) COVERED CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS.—
 13 The term ‘covered carbon dioxide emissions’ means,
 14 with respect to any person, the total quantity of car-
 15 bon dioxide released into the atmosphere during the
 16 covered period by reason such person engaging in
 17 the trade or business of extracting fossil fuels or of
 18 refining crude oil.

19 “(3) COVERED PERIOD.—The term ‘covered pe-
 20 riod’ means the period that—

21 “(A) began on January 1, 2000, and

22 “(B) ended on December 31, 2023.

23 “(4) FOSSIL FUEL.—The term ‘fossil fuel’
 24 means coal, crude oil, and fuel gases.

1 “(5) COAL.—The term ‘coal’ means anthracite,
2 bituminous, subbituminous, and lignite coal.

3 “(6) CRUDE OIL.—The term ‘crude oil’ means
4 oil or petroleum of any kind and in any form, includ-
5 ing bitumen, oil sands, heavy oil, conventional and
6 unconventional oil, shale oil, natural gas liquids, con-
7 densates, and related fossil fuel liquids.

8 “(7) FUEL GASES.—The term ‘fuel gases’
9 means natural gas, associated natural gas, conven-
10 tional and unconventional gas, shale gas, and related
11 methane gas production.

12 “(8) DETERMINATION OF CARBON DIOXIDE
13 EMISSIONS.—In determining the amount of carbon
14 dioxide emissions with respect to any assessable per-
15 son—

16 “(A) an amount equivalent to 942.5 metric
17 tons of carbon dioxide shall be treated as re-
18 leased for every 1,000,000 pounds of coal,

19 “(B) an amount equivalent to 432,180
20 metric tons of carbon dioxide shall be treated as
21 released for every 1,000,000 barrels of crude
22 oil, and

23 “(C) an amount equivalent to 54,440 met-
24 ric tons of carbon dioxide shall be treated as re-

1 leased for every 1,000,000,000 cubic feet of fuel
2 gases.

3 “(e) ELECTION TO PAY LIABILITY IN INSTALL-
4 MENTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An assessable person may
6 elect to pay the tax under this section in 9 annual
7 installments of the following amounts:

8 “(A) 20 percent of the tax under this sec-
9 tion in the case of the first installment.

10 “(B) 10 percent of the tax under this sec-
11 tion in each of the following 8 installments.

12 “(2) DATE FOR PAYMENT OF INSTALLMENTS.—

13 If an election is made under paragraph (1), the first
14 installment shall be paid on the applicable payment
15 date and each succeeding installment shall be paid
16 on the same date as the applicable payment date for
17 each calendar year following the calendar year with
18 respect to which the preceding installment was
19 made.

20 “(3) ACCELERATION OF PAYMENT.—If there is
21 an addition to tax for failure to timely pay any in-
22 stallment required under this subsection, a liquida-
23 tion or sale of substantially all the assets of the as-
24 sessable person (including in a title 11 or similar
25 case), a cessation of business by the assessable per-

1 son, or any similar circumstance, then the unpaid
2 portion of all remaining installments shall be due on
3 the date of such event (or in the case of a title 11
4 or similar case, the day before the petition is filed).
5 The preceding sentence shall not apply to the sale
6 of substantially all the assets of an assessable person
7 to a buyer if such buyer enters into an agreement
8 with the Secretary under which such buyer is liable
9 for the remaining installments due under this sub-
10 section in the same manner as if such buyer were
11 the assessable person.

12 “(4) PRORATION OF DEFICIENCY TO INSTALL-
13 MENTS.—If an election is made under paragraph (1)
14 to pay the tax under this section in installments and
15 a deficiency has been assessed with respect to such
16 tax, the deficiency shall be prorated to the install-
17 ments payable under paragraph (1). The part of the
18 deficiency so prorated to any installment the date
19 for payment of which has not arrived shall be col-
20 lected at the same time as, and as a part of, such
21 installment. The part of the deficiency so prorated
22 to any installment the date for payment of which
23 has arrived shall be paid upon notice and demand
24 from the Secretary. This subsection shall not apply
25 if the deficiency is due to negligence, to intentional

1 disregard of rules and regulations, or to fraud with
2 intent to evade tax.

3 “(5) ELECTION.—Any election under paragraph
4 (1) shall be made not later than the applicable pay-
5 ment date and shall be made in such manner as the
6 Secretary shall provide.

7 “(6) INSTALLMENTS NOT TO PREVENT CREDIT
8 OR REFUND OF OVERPAYMENTS OR INCREASE ESTI-
9 MATED TAXES.—If an election is made under para-
10 graph (1) to pay the tax under this section in in-
11 stallments—

12 “(A) no installment of such tax shall—

13 “(i) in the case of a request for credit
14 or refund, be taken into account as a li-
15 ability for purposes of determining whether
16 an overpayment exists for purposes of sec-
17 tion 6402 before the date on which such
18 installment is due, or

19 “(ii) for purposes of sections 6425,
20 6654, and 6655, be treated as a tax im-
21 posed by section 1, section 11, or sub-
22 chapter L of chapter 1, and

23 “(B) the first sentence of section 6403
24 shall not apply with respect to any such install-
25 ment.

1 “(f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after
 2 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
 3 promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out
 4 this section.”.

5 (b) NO DEDUCTION.—Section 275(a) of such Code
 6 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
 7 graph:

8 “(7) Taxes imposed by subchapter E of chapter
 9 38.”.

10 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sub-
 11 chapters for chapter 38 of such Code is amended by add-
 12 ing at the end the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER E—CERTAIN FOSSIL FUEL EMISSIONS”.

13 **SEC. 4. POLLUTER PAYS CLIMATE CHANGE FUND.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 98
 16 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by
 17 adding at the end the following new section:

18 **“SEC. 9512. POLLUTERS PAY CLIMATE FUND.**

19 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
 20 Treasury of the United States a trust fund, to be known
 21 as the ‘Polluters Pay Climate Fund’ (hereinafter in this
 22 section referred to as the ‘Fund’), consisting of amounts
 23 as are appropriated or credited to such Trust Fund as
 24 provided in this section and section 9602(b).

1 “(b) TRANSFERS.—There are hereby appropriated to
 2 the Fund amounts equivalent to the taxes received in the
 3 Treasury under section 4691.

4 “(c) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND.—Amounts in
 5 the fund shall be available, as provided in appropriations
 6 Acts, for the purpose of making expenditures to carry out
 7 the purposes of section 4(b) of the Polluters Pay Climate
 8 Fund Act of 2025.”.

9 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 10 tions for subchapter A of chapter 98 of such Code
 11 is amended by adding at the end the following new
 12 item:

“Sec. 9512. Polluters Pay Climate Fund.”.

13 (b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

14 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

15 (A) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Admin-
 16 istrator” means the Administrator of the Envi-
 17 ronmental Protection Agency.

18 (B) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMU-
 19 NITY.—The term “environmental justice com-
 20 munity” means a community with significant
 21 representation of communities of color, low-in-
 22 come communities, or Tribal and Indigenous
 23 communities that experiences, or is at risk of
 24 experiencing, higher or more adverse human

1 health or environmental effects as compared to
2 other communities.

3 (C) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the
4 Polluters Pay Climate Change Fund established
5 under section 9512 of the Internal Revenue
6 Code of 1986.

7 (D) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
8 means the Secretary of the Treasury.

9 (2) USE OF FUND AMOUNTS.—

10 (A) GENERAL PURPOSES.—The Secretary,
11 in consultation with the Administrator and the
12 heads of other relevant agencies, shall use
13 amounts in the Fund for the purposes of fur-
14 therming a comprehensive and equitable Federal
15 response to climate change impacts through in-
16 vestments in climate resilience, adaptation, dis-
17 aster response, and environmental justice, in-
18 cluding—

19 (i) climate-related disaster recovery
20 and mitigation support;

21 (ii) climate change adaptation support
22 through climate and disaster planning as-
23 sistance, funding for climate-resilient infra-
24 structure, and improved climate and ex-
25 treme weather prediction capabilities;

(iii) initiatives that increase the climate resilience of energy systems through energy efficiency, grid resilience, and distributed electricity generation initiatives;

(iv) initiatives that increase the climate resilience of the food system through support for climate-resilient farming practices;

(v) initiatives that increase the climate resilience of the transportation system through planning and climate change adaptation support;

(vi) initiatives that increase the climate resilience of ecosystems through conservation, restoration, and wildfire management activities;

(vii) support for climate-related public health initiatives, including efforts to address extreme heat; and

(viii) initiatives that increase the climate resiliency of drinking water and stormwater infrastructure.

(B) SPECIFIED USES.—In carrying out subparagraph (A) each fiscal year and to the

1 greatest extent practicable, the Secretary shall
2 use amounts in the Fund—

3 (i) to provide funding of not less than
4 \$15,000,000,000 to the Federal Emer-
5 gency Management Agency for response
6 and resilience programs of the Federal
7 Emergency Management Agency to ad-
8 dress climate-related disasters, including
9 hurricanes, flooding, extreme heat, and
10 wildfires, of which not less than
11 \$3,000,000,000 shall be used to carry out
12 the Building Resilient Infrastructure and
13 Communities program under section 203
14 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
15 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
16 5133); and

17 (ii) to provide funding of not less than
18 \$6,000,000,000 for grants and technical
19 assistance under section 138 of the Clean
20 Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7438), subject to the
21 condition that the Administrator may de-
22 termine the appropriate amounts to be
23 used for those grants and that technical
24 assistance.

1 (C) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SET
2 ASIDE.—Of the amounts appropriated from the
3 Fund each fiscal year, 40 percent shall be used
4 for investments that benefit environmental jus-
5 tice communities.

6 (D) SELECTION.—For the purpose of de-
7 termining how to award amounts appropriated
8 from the Fund in excess of the amounts re-
9 quired to be used under subparagraph (B), the
10 Secretary, in coordination with the Adminis-
11 trator and the heads of other relevant agencies,
12 shall establish selection criteria, which shall give
13 the highest priority to projects or other activi-
14 ties that are most impactful in achieving the
15 purposes described in subparagraph (A), as de-
16 termined by the Secretary, in coordination with
17 the Administrator and the heads of other rel-
18 evant agencies.

19 **SEC. 5. AVAILABILITY OF REMEDIES.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act or the amend-
21 ments made by this Act shall be construed to relieve any
22 person from liability at common law or under any State
23 or Federal law.

24 (b) EFFECT ON CLAIMS RELATED TO CLIMATE
25 CHANGE.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made

1 by this Act, the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.),
2 or Federal common law preempts, displaces, or restricts
3 any right or remedy of any person, State, unit of local
4 government, or Tribal government under any State or
5 local law (including common law) relating to an allegation
6 of—

7 (1) deception concerning the effects of fossil
8 fuel on climate change;

9 (2) damage or injury resulting from the role of
10 fossil fuel in contributing to climate change; or

11 (3) the failure to avoid damage or injury re-
12 lated to climate change, including claims for nui-
13 sance, trespass, design defect, negligence, failure to
14 warn, or deceptive or unfair practices and claims for
15 injunctive, declaratory, monetary, or other relief.

16 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
17 or the amendments made by this Act shall—

18 (1) require the repayment of any funds made
19 available from the Polluter Pays Climate Change
20 Fund established under section 9512 of the Internal
21 Revenue Code of 1986 and used pursuant to section
22 4(b) as a result of any award of damages imposed
23 by a court of law relating to any causes of action or
24 allegations described in subsection (b); or

25 (2) permit the use of any such funds—

1 (A) as evidence in such an action or allega-
2 tion; or

3 (B) to offset any award of damages in
4 such an action or allegation.

5 **SEC. 6. NON-PREEMPTION OF AUTHORITIES.**

6 Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this
7 Act shall be construed to preempt or supersede any State
8 or local law, regulation, policy, or program, including laws,
9 regulations, policies, and programs that—

10 (1) limit, set, or enforce standards for green-
11 house gas emissions;

12 (2) monitor, report, and keep records of green-
13 house gas emissions;

14 (3) provide cost recovery for climate adaptation,
15 mitigation, or resilience; or

16 (4) conduct or support investigations.

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