

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6185

To authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to significant actions that exacerbate climate change, to reinforce comprehensive efforts to limit global average temperature rise, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Ms. ESCOBAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means, 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

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## A BILL

To authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to significant actions that exacerbate climate change, to reinforce comprehensive efforts to limit global average temperature rise, 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 “Targeting Environ-  
5 mental and Climate Recklessness Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Climate change is imposing significant dam-  
4 age on communities in the United States and abroad  
5 in the form of severe weather events, wildfires, heat  
6 waves, droughts, flooding, ocean acidification, and  
7 other threats to public health and safety. Scientists  
8 expect those effects to grow in frequency and inten-  
9 sity in the coming decades, jeopardizing the jobs,  
10 health, and safety of the people of the United  
11 States.

12 (2) Collectively, the international community  
13 needs to limit global warming to under 1.5 degrees  
14 Celsius above pre-industrial levels in order to avoid  
15 the most catastrophic effects of climate change. In  
16 2024, average temperatures passed the 1.5-degree  
17 threshold for the first time. With sustained 1.5-de-  
18 gree warming, scientists expect the United States to  
19 experience a sharp rise in annual heat-related  
20 deaths, longer and more destructive wildfire seasons,  
21 more frequent and severe droughts, reduced crop  
22 yields, more multibillion-dollar flood disasters, in-  
23 creased high-tide flooding in coastal areas, more  
24 days with unhealthy air quality, and longer tick and  
25 mosquito seasons, among other effects. Low-income

1 communities and communities of color will experi-  
2 ence the worst effects.

3 (3) The adverse impacts of climate change will  
4 increase exponentially as warming continues. Under  
5 the current trajectory, the world will experience  
6 warming that exceeds 3 degrees Celsius by the end  
7 of the century. At 3 degrees of warming, scientists  
8 expect dangerous conditions in the United States  
9 where outdoor work is unsafe for many months of  
10 the year, farmers struggle to keep livestock and  
11 grow crops, power grids become overloaded, water  
12 becomes scarce during summer months, poor air  
13 quality leads to widespread health problems, severe  
14 wildfires and droughts become more common, major  
15 flooding events occur on a regular basis, mosquito-  
16 and tick-borne illnesses spread further, and some  
17 coastal areas become submerged.

18 (4) Climate change is also expected to pose a  
19 significant challenge to the international commu-  
20 nity's shared vision of fulfilling the United Nations  
21 Sustainable Development Goals.

22 (5) To avert catastrophe, the United States and  
23 every country on Earth will need to make drastic re-  
24 forms to global economic systems to reduce green-

1 house gas emissions, reduce deforestation, and adapt  
2 to unavoidable changes in the climate.

3 (6) Internationally, economic actors continue to  
4 pursue activities, such as development of new coal-  
5 fired power plants and deforestation, that contribute  
6 to dangerous levels of greenhouse gas emissions and  
7 the destruction of carbon sinks. In addition to car-  
8 rying a significant climate risk, many of those activi-  
9 ties are associated with serious human rights abuses,  
10 acts of corruption, and environmental injustice  
11 against Indigenous communities, communities of  
12 color, and other communities that have historically  
13 faced marginalization and discrimination.

14 (7) Illegal deforestation is a significant driver  
15 of the destruction of the Amazon rainforest. Crimi-  
16 nal networks with the capacity to coordinate large-  
17 scale extraction, processing, and sale of timber de-  
18 ploy armed personnel to protect their interests.  
19 Those criminal networks regularly attack and  
20 threaten members of Indigenous communities, other  
21 environmental defenders, and enforcement officials.  
22 Perpetrators of such violence are rarely brought to  
23 justice. Numerous studies show that transnational  
24 criminal organizations no longer limit themselves  
25 only to drug trafficking but diversify their oper-

1        ations to include natural resource crimes, among  
2        other activities.

3            (8) The goals articulated in the Paris Agree-  
4        ment depend on collective action involving the entire  
5        international community. Progress made by one eco-  
6        nomic actor can be reduced or cancelled out if an-  
7        other economic actor emits significant greenhouse  
8        gas emissions into the Earth’s atmosphere or de-  
9        stroys important carbon sinks.

10           (9) In 2025, President Donald J. Trump with-  
11        drew the United States from the Paris Agreement  
12        and attacked climate change-related activities across  
13        the Federal Government.

14           (10) President Trump’s decision to ignore cli-  
15        mate change has provided the People’s Republic of  
16        China with a strategic opportunity to make signifi-  
17        cant competitive gains in preparing for a new eco-  
18        nomic order in a world that has warmed by 1.5 de-  
19        grees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

20           (11) During the first year of President Trump’s  
21        second term, the United States experienced one of  
22        its costliest years on record for wildfires and storms,  
23        record-breaking heat waves, and severe flooding—all  
24        disasters that were linked to climate change.

1           (12) The United States Government has devel-  
2           oped and implements targeted measures to restrict  
3           access to the United States financial system for spe-  
4           cific individuals and entities whose actions threaten  
5           or run counter to United States national interests.  
6           While the United States has not yet used such meas-  
7           ures for climate-related activities alone, the United  
8           States Government has deployed such measures in  
9           response to terrorism, proliferation of weapons of  
10          mass destruction, transnational organized crime,  
11          narcotics trafficking, malicious cyber-enabled activ-  
12          ity, wildlife trafficking, serious human rights abuses,  
13          and acts of corruption.

14          (13) The United States should take action to  
15          address the urgency of the climate crisis and hold  
16          actors responsible for environmental and climate  
17          harm.

18 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON A COMPREHENSIVE AP-**

19 **PROACH TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE.**

20          It is the sense of Congress that—

21               (1) the targeted measures described in this Act  
22               are only one component of the comprehensive ap-  
23               proach needed to address climate change and miti-  
24               gate its effects;

1           (2) the United States Government must ensure  
2 through law and regulation that entities in the  
3 United States are not engaged in or complicit in any  
4 of the egregious behaviors for which foreign persons  
5 may be targeted under this Act;

6           (3) the United States Government should con-  
7 tinue to make progress toward scaling international  
8 climate finance to more than \$11,000,000,000 annu-  
9 ally and promote international efforts to support cli-  
10 mate change adaptation and mitigation;

11           (4) the United States Government must work  
12 proactively with foreign governments, including by  
13 offering positive incentives, to address climate  
14 change and to promote economic development in  
15 ways that do not needlessly increase carbon emis-  
16 sions, deforestation, or the risk of corruption;

17           (5) the targeted measures described in this Act  
18 should be employed if engagement has failed to pre-  
19 vent significant actions that exacerbate climate  
20 change and deforestation; and

21           (6) given broad international support for coun-  
22 tering climate change, the Secretary of State should  
23 encourage the governments of other countries to im-  
24 plement targeted measures that are similar to the  
25 provisions of this Act, and the Secretary of the

1 Treasury should support implementation of such  
2 measures, in order to increase the effectiveness of  
3 actions taken by the United States to combat signifi-  
4 cant actions that exacerbate climate change, includ-  
5 ing related corruption and human rights violations.

6 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON APPLICATION OF GLOB-**  
7 **AL MAGNITSKY SANCTIONS TO ENVIRON-**  
8 **MENT-LINKED CORRUPTION AND HUMAN**  
9 **RIGHTS ABUSES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United  
11 States to consider use of applicable authorities described  
12 in Executive Order 13818 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating  
13 to blocking the property of persons involved in serious  
14 human rights abuse or corruption) in relation to activities  
15 described in section 5(b), including for acts of corruption  
16 and serious human rights abuses against individuals de-  
17 scribed in subsection (b).

18 (b) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—An individual de-  
19 scribed in this subsection is an individual who—

20 (1) advocates for the protection of the environ-  
21 ment, public health, Indigenous rights, or commu-  
22 nity land rights;

23 (2) investigates, exposes, or raises awareness of  
24 harm or corruption related to natural resource use;  
25 or

1           (3) is obliged to leave the individual’s habitual  
2           home due, in whole or in part, to sudden or progres-  
3           sive change in the environment—

4                   (A) caused by human activities or attrib-  
5                   utable to climate change; and

6                   (B) that adversely affects the individual’s  
7                   life or living conditions.

8 **SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SIG-**  
9                   **NIFICANT ACTIONS THAT EXACERBATE CLI-**  
10                   **MATE CHANGE, DEFORESTATION, OR HARM**  
11                   **TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS.**

12           (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
13           gress that the President should employ the authorities  
14           provided by this section to prioritize action against, and  
15           deterrence of, egregious behaviors that—

16                   (1) undermine efforts to limit the increase in  
17                   global average temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius  
18                   above pre-industrial levels;

19                   (2) contribute to deforestation; or

20                   (3) present specific harm to environmental de-  
21                   fenders.

22           (b) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose one or  
23           more of the sanctions described in subsection (c) with re-  
24           spect to any foreign person the President determines,  
25           based on credible information—

1           (1) knowingly, recklessly, or willfully engages in  
2           an activity in a foreign country that causes, or is  
3           likely to cause, greenhouse gas emissions that are  
4           not in line with scientifically established pathways to  
5           help avoid a sustained increase in the Earth’s tem-  
6           perature of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-  
7           industrial levels, as determined by the Intergovern-  
8           mental Panel on Climate Change, including any ac-  
9           tion that significantly undermines, as a result of  
10          timing, magnitude, or corruption, projects for the  
11          adoption in the country of high-efficiency, low-car-  
12          bon, or renewable energy technology or infrastruc-  
13          ture, including the construction of low-efficiency fos-  
14          sil fuel power plants;

15          (2) engages in an activity in a foreign country  
16          that causes, or is likely to cause, illegal deforestation  
17          or loss of natural carbon sinks, including—

18                 (A) establishment of incentives for, or pro-  
19                 motion of, knowingly conducting deforestation;  
20                 or

21                 (B) engagement in, or failure to combat, il-  
22                 legal logging, mining, or ranching;

23          (3) knowingly engages in an activity in a for-  
24          eign country that misrepresents the environmental  
25          impact of a project, investment, or product, includ-

1 ing misrepresenting the amount of greenhouse gas  
2 emissions associated with the project, investment, or  
3 product, in the context of—

4 (A) assessments conducted by multilateral  
5 organizations, national governments, or inves-  
6 tors; or

7 (B) public efforts to gain market advan-  
8 tage based on purported environmental advan-  
9 tages of a product;

10 (4) engages in an activity in a foreign country  
11 that causes, or is likely to cause, limitations on or  
12 circumvention of opposition to deforestation or  
13 projects described in paragraph (1) by individuals  
14 seeking to protect the environment, public health, or  
15 community land rights, including actions that en-  
16 courage impunity for those perpetrating physical  
17 threats or violence against such individuals;

18 (5) is otherwise responsible for or complicit in  
19 an activity described in any of paragraphs (1)  
20 through (4), including a government official who ap-  
21 proves or implements policies or acts that serve to  
22 promote such an activity;

23 (6) has acted or purported to act for or on be-  
24 half of, directly or indirectly, any foreign person in  
25 a matter relating to an activity described in any of

1 paragraphs (1) through (4), including for or on be-  
2 half of a government official described in paragraph  
3 (5);

4 (7) has materially assisted, sponsored, or pro-  
5 vided financial, material, or technological support  
6 for, or goods or services to or in support of, an ac-  
7 tivity described in any of paragraphs (1) through  
8 (4); or

9 (8) is owned or controlled by a foreign person  
10 that engages an activity described in any of para-  
11 graphs (1) through (4) or is described in paragraph  
12 (5).

13 (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions that  
14 may be imposed with respect to a foreign person under  
15 subsection (b) are the following:

16 (1) INADMISSIBILITY TO UNITED STATES.—In  
17 the case of a foreign person who is an individual—

18 (A) ineligibility to receive a visa to travel  
19 to the United States or to be admitted to the  
20 United States; or

21 (B) if the individual has been issued a visa  
22 or other documentation, revocation, in accord-  
23 ance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and  
24 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of the visa  
25 or other documentation.

1 (2) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The blocking, in ac-  
3 cordance with the International Emergency  
4 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.),  
5 of all transactions in all property and interests  
6 in property of the foreign person if such prop-  
7 erty and interests in property are in the United  
8 States, come within the United States, or are or  
9 come within the possession or control of a  
10 United States person.

11 (B) INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMER-  
12 GENCY REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of  
13 section 202 of the International Emergency  
14 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall  
15 not apply for purposes of this paragraph.

16 (3) OTHER SANCTIONS OPTIONS.—Any of the  
17 sanctions described in section 235 of the Countering  
18 America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22  
19 U.S.C. 9529).

20 (d) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION IN  
21 IMPOSING SANCTIONS.—In determining whether to im-  
22 pose sanctions under subsection (b), the President shall  
23 consider—

1 (1) information provided jointly by the chair-  
2 person and ranking member of each of the appro-  
3 priate congressional committees; and

4 (2) credible information obtained by other coun-  
5 tries and nongovernmental organizations that mon-  
6 itor environmental harm or violations of human  
7 rights.

8 (e) EXCEPTIONS.—

9 (1) INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT  
10 ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not  
11 apply with respect to—

12 (A) any activity subject to the reporting  
13 requirements under title V of the National Se-  
14 curity Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

15 (B) any authorized intelligence or law en-  
16 forcement activities of the United States.

17 (2) COMPLIANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS HEAD-  
18 QUARTERS AGREEMENT.—This section shall not  
19 apply with respect to the admission of an individual  
20 to the United States if the admission of the indi-  
21 vidual is necessary to comply with United States ob-  
22 ligations under the Agreement between the United  
23 Nations and the United States of America regarding  
24 the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at  
25 Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force

1 November 21, 1947, under the Convention on Con-  
2 sular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and  
3 entered into force March 19, 1967, or under other  
4 international obligations of the United States.

5 (3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF  
6 GOODS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to block  
8 and prohibit all transactions in all property and  
9 interests in property under this section shall not  
10 include the authority to impose sanctions on the  
11 importation of goods.

12 (B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph,  
13 the term “good” means any article, natural or  
14 man-made substance, material, supply or manu-  
15 factured product, including inspection and test  
16 equipment, and excluding technical data.

17 (f) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

18 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-  
19 ercise all authorities provided under sections 203  
20 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic  
21 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out  
22 this section.

23 (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-  
24 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a  
25 violation of this section or any regulation, license, or

1 order issued to carry out this section shall be subject  
2 to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c)  
3 of section 206 of the International Emergency Eco-  
4 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same ex-  
5 tent as a person that commits an unlawful act de-  
6 scribed in subsection (a) of that section.

7 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
9 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
10 mittees” means—

11 (A) the Committee on Environment and  
12 Public Works and the Committee on Foreign  
13 Relations of the Senate; and

14 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
15 merce and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
16 the House of Representatives.

17 (2) CARBON SINK.—The term “carbon sink”  
18 means a feature or process that absorbs more car-  
19 bon from the atmosphere than it releases.

20 (3) DEFORESTATION.—The term “deforest-  
21 ation” means the conversion of forest to other land  
22 use, whether human-induced or not, that results  
23 in—

1 (A) permanent reduction of the tree can-  
2 opy to less than a minimum 10 percent thresh-  
3 old; and

4 (B) the conversion of areas of forest to ag-  
5 riculture, pasture, water reservoirs, mining, or  
6 urban areas.

7 (4) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with  
8 respect to conduct, means—

9 (A) a person has actual knowledge of the  
10 facts; or

11 (B) a reasonable person acting in the cir-  
12 cumstances and exercising reasonable care  
13 would have that knowledge.

14 (5) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-  
15 son” means a person that is not a United States  
16 person.

17 (6) RECKLESSLY.—The term “recklessly”, with  
18 respect to conduct, means that a person displays a  
19 deliberate indifference or conscious disregard to the  
20 consequences of the conduct.

21 (7) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
22 “United States person” means—

23 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-  
24 fully admitted for permanent residence to the  
25 United States; or

1 (B) an entity organized under the laws of  
2 the United States or of any jurisdiction within  
3 the United States, including a foreign branch of  
4 such an entity.

5 (8) WILLFULLY.—The term “willfully”, with  
6 respect to conduct, means a person has knowledge—

7 (A) of the facts; and

8 (B) that the conduct was subject to sanc-  
9 tions under this section.

10 **SEC. 6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE OFFICE OF FOR-**  
11 **EIGN ASSETS CONTROL.**

12 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
13 retary of the Treasury such sums as may be necessary  
14 to support the targeting by the Office of Foreign Assets  
15 Control of persons under this Act and to enhance the abil-  
16 ity of that Office to target persons for the imposition of  
17 sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Ac-  
18 countability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

○