

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7129

To amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to reauthorize water power research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2026

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, 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 amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to reauthorize water power research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities, 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 “Water Power Research
5 and Development Reauthorization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WATER POWER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

2 Subtitle C of title VI of the Energy Independence and
3 Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–140; 42 U.S.C.
4 17211 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) in section 633 (42 U.S.C. 17212; relating
6 to water power technology research, development,
7 and demonstration)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “capacity
9 and reduce the cost” inserting “capacity or effi-
10 ciency, and reduce the cost,”; and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(5) To advance scalable, United States-based
14 manufacturing of composite and additive manufac-
15 tured marine energy components through collabora-
16 tions with regional universities and industry, includ-
17 ing advanced composite research facilities and addi-
18 tive manufacturing facilities.”;

19 (2) in section 634 (42 U.S.C. 17213; relating
20 to hydropower research, development, and dem-
21 onstration)—

22 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
23 by inserting “generation,” after “efficiency,”;

24 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
25 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “, cyber-
26 security,” after “physical”;

1 (C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
2 follows:

3 “(3) study, in conjunction with other relevant
4 Federal agencies, State agencies, local agencies, and
5 Tribal entities (including Alaska Native Corpora-
6 tions), as appropriate, methods to improve the hy-
7 dropower licensing process, including by compiling
8 current environmental data and studies, accepted
9 best practices, public comments, and methodologies
10 to assess the full range of potential environmental
11 and economic impacts;”;

12 (D) in paragraph (6)—

13 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
14 graph (A), by striking “develop methods
15 and technologies to improve environmental
16 impact” and inserting “develop and sup-
17 port studies, methods, and technologies to
18 assess and improve environmental impact”;
19 and

20 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
21 “hydrology,” after “water quality”;

22 (E) in paragraph (7)(G), by inserting “for
23 hydropower and pumped storage applications”
24 after “components”;

1 (F) in paragraph (9), by inserting “, and
2 project management and delivery strategies,”
3 after “systems analysis”;

4 (G) in paragraph (10)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
6 “and” at the end;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
8 “and” after the semicolon; and

9 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing new subparagraph:

11 “(D) improving methods for incorporating
12 hydropower and pumped storage in grid mod-
13 eling systems.”;

14 (H) in paragraph (13), by striking “and”
15 at the end; and

16 (I) by striking paragraph (14) and insert-
17 ing the following:

18 “(14) identify mechanisms and systems to test,
19 validate, and improve performance and reliability of
20 hydropower and pumped storage technologies; and

21 “(15) support workforce development programs,
22 training, student-led research, and education and
23 outreach activities to foster growth of the next gen-
24 eration of hydropower professionals and research-
25 ers.”;

1 (3) in section 635(a) (42 U.S.C. 17214(a); re-
2 relating to marine energy research, development, and
3 demonstration) is amended—

4 (A) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
5 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “infra-
6 structure and facilities” and inserting “infra-
7 structure, facilities, and equipment”;

8 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “, which
9 may include smart building systems” and in-
10 sserting “and microgrids, which may include
11 smart energy management systems”;

12 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “main-
13 taining a sustainable marine energy supply
14 chain based in the United States” and inserting
15 “establish and support manufacturing and an
16 industrial marine energy supply chain based in
17 the United States”;

18 (D) in paragraph (9), by inserting “, which
19 may include production of hydrogen and other
20 transportation fuels” before the semicolon;

21 (E) in paragraph (13), by inserting “utili-
22 zation of advanced manufacturing processes, in-
23 cluding the” after “such as the”;

24 (F) in paragraph (17), by striking “; and”
25 and inserting “, including data centers, subsea

1 or offshore power, and microgrids, sensors, and
2 communications systems;”;

3 (G) in paragraph (18)—

4 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
5 graph (A), by striking “to develop” and in-
6 serting “develop”; and

7 (ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to
8 read as follows:

9 “(B) for the generation and storage of
10 power to promote the resilience of waterside
11 communities, including high-energy tidal envi-
12 ronments, and critical infrastructure (as such
13 term is defined in section 1016(e) of Public
14 Law 107–56 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e))), including
15 in applications relating to—

16 “(i) desalination;

17 “(ii) disaster recovery and resilience;

18 “(iii) aquaculture;

19 “(iv) marine carbon dioxide removal;

20 “(v) community microgrids in isolated
21 power systems; and

22 “(vi) resilience and microgrid dem-
23 onstration sites integrating marine energy
24 and working waterfront economies.”; and

1 (H) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(19) develop, validate, and demonstrate ma-
4 rine energy systems designed for extreme tidal tem-
5 peratures and icing conditions.”;

6 (4) in section 636 (42 U.S.C. 17215; relating
7 to National Marine Energy Centers)—

8 (A) in subsection (b), by adding at the end
9 the following new paragraph:

10 “(4) Whether the institution is a regional test
11 site with the proven ability to demonstrate unique
12 natural advantages, including high tidal ranges,
13 strong currents, and cold-water operating condi-
14 tions.”; and

15 (B) in subsection (c)—

16 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
17 (1), by striking “and National Labora-
18 tories,” and inserting “National Labora-
19 tories, and other relevant Federal agen-
20 cies,”;

21 (ii) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking
22 “and” at the end;

23 (iii) in paragraph (3), by striking the
24 period and inserting “; and”; and

1 (iv) by adding at the end the following
2 new paragraph:

3 “(4) support workforce development, training,
4 student-led research programs, and development and
5 dissemination of curriculum, education, and outreach
6 activities to foster growth of the next generation of
7 marine energy professionals and researchers.”;

8 (5) in section 637 (42 U.S.C. 17216; relating
9 to organization and administration of programs)—

10 (A) in subsection (b)—

11 (i) in paragraph (1), by inserting
12 “other domestic and” after “Alaska Native
13 Corporations, and”;

14 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “(in-
15 cluding the United States Agency for
16 International Development)” and inserting
17 “, including the Department of State and
18 the International Trade Administration of
19 the Department of Commerce,”; and

20 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing new paragraph:

22 “(4) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Sec-
23 retary shall seek to coordinate with the National Sea
24 Grant College Program and the Department of Com-

1 merce to leverage existing ocean networks and coast-
2 al innovation initiatives.”;

3 (B) in subsection (f), by amending para-
4 graph (2) to read as follows:

5 “(2) workforce development and training activi-
6 ties in collaboration with regional workforce hubs,
7 including institutions of higher education, Tribal
8 Colleges and Universities (including Alaska-Native
9 serving institutions), land grant and sea grant insti-
10 tutions, foundations, non-profit organizations, and
11 maritime academies, to support education, recruit-
12 ment, and the dissemination of standards and best
13 practices for enabling water power production, in-
14 cluding hydropower and marine energy collegiate
15 competitions, graduate student research program
16 and fellowships relating to marine energy, and other
17 workforce programs.”;

18 (C) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “an
19 annual” and inserting “a biennial”; and

20 (D) by amending subsection (h) to read as
21 follows:

22 “(g) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one
23 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
24 and at least once every two years thereafter, the Secretary
25 shall provide a briefing to the relevant authorizing and ap-

1 appropriations committees of Congress and make available
2 to the public the findings of research conducted and activi-
3 ties carried out pursuant to this subtitle, including the
4 most current strategic plan under subsection (g) and the
5 progress made in implementing such plan.”; and

6 (6) by amending section 639 (42 U.S.C. 17218;
7 relating to authorization of appropriations) by strik-
8 ing “\$186,600,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
9 through 2025, including \$137,428,378 for marine
10 energy and \$49,171,622 for hydropower research,
11 development, and demonstration activities” and in-
12 serting “\$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
13 through 2030, including \$200,000,000 for marine
14 energy and \$100,000,000 for hydropower research,
15 development, and demonstration activities”.

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