

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 903

To amend the Clean Air Act to establish a grant program for supporting local communities in detecting, preparing for, communicating about, or mitigating the environmental and public health impacts of wildfire smoke and extreme heat, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. WHITESIDES, and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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 amend the Clean Air Act to establish a grant program for supporting local communities in detecting, preparing for, communicating about, or mitigating the environmental and public health impacts of wildfire smoke and extreme heat, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Smoke and Heat  
3 Ready Communities Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

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

9 (2) EXTREME HEAT.—The term “extreme  
10 heat” has the meaning given the term through a  
11 rulemaking of the Administrator, in consultation  
12 with the heads of relevant Federal agencies.

13 (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
14 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the  
15 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
16 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

17 (4) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The  
18 term “Native Hawaiian organization” has the mean-  
19 ing given the term in section 6207 of the Elemen-  
20 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
21 U.S.C. 7517).

22 **SEC. 3. SMOKE AND EXTREME HEAT-READY COMMUNITIES.**

23 Part A of title I of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401  
24 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 139. SMOKE AND EXTREME HEAT-READY COMMU-**  
2 **NITIES.**

3 “(a) DEFINITION OF EXTREME HEAT.—The term  
4 ‘extreme heat’ has the meaning given the term in section  
5 2 of the Smoke and Heat Ready Communities Act of  
6 2025.

7 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of  
8 appropriations, the Administrator may make grants under  
9 this section to air pollution control agencies to support air  
10 pollution control agencies in developing and implementing  
11 programs that support local communities in detecting,  
12 preparing for, communicating with the public about, or  
13 mitigating the environmental and public health aspects of  
14 wildfire smoke and extreme heat.

15 “(c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out a pro-  
16 gram described in subsection (b), an air pollution control  
17 agency may use funds from a grant received under this  
18 section for—

19 “(1) activities related to the monitoring of, the  
20 interpretation of, and communicating with the public  
21 about past, present, and future data related to ambi-  
22 ent air quality conditions that are caused by wildfire  
23 smoke and extreme heat;

24 “(2) conducting community outreach in areas  
25 that may be prone to poor air quality that is attrib-  
26 utable to elevated levels of particulate matter, ozone,

1 and other harmful components of wildfire smoke and  
2 extreme heat;

3 “(3) the deployment of air quality monitoring  
4 equipment in a manner that is sufficient to evaluate  
5 an increased prevalence of poor air quality that is  
6 attributable to elevated levels of particulate matter,  
7 ozone, and other harmful components of wildfire  
8 smoke and extreme heat;

9 “(4) equipping public buildings with air filtra-  
10 tion systems that are capable of removing particu-  
11 late matter and other harmful components of wild-  
12 fire smoke and extreme heat from the air so that the  
13 public buildings may serve as cleaner air spaces dur-  
14 ing wildfire smoke events and extreme heat events  
15 and other poor air quality events;

16 “(5) the purchase, storage, and distribution of  
17 face masks and personal protective equipment, in-  
18 cluding N-95 filtering facepiece respirators, portable  
19 air filtration systems, and other masks and equip-  
20 ment that are capable of removing or otherwise pre-  
21 venting the inhalation of particulate matter, ozone,  
22 and other harmful components of wildfire smoke and  
23 extreme heat from the air;

1           “(6) subgrants or providing other financing to  
2 private or other public entities with demonstrated fi-  
3 nancial need—

4                   “(A) to acquire protective gear; or

5                   “(B) to carry out weatherization measures  
6 to mitigate air infiltration; and

7           “(7) such other activities that the Adminis-  
8 trator determines to be necessary to carry out the  
9 purposes of this section.

10          “(d) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

11           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
12 the Administrator shall establish a formula to dis-  
13 tribute grants under this section among air pollution  
14 control agencies.

15           “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the  
16 formula required under paragraph (1), the Adminis-  
17 trator shall consider—

18                   “(A) the vulnerability of communities with-  
19 in a State to wildfire smoke and extreme heat;  
20 and

21                   “(B) the degree to which a State is prone  
22 to poor air quality that is attributable to ele-  
23 vated levels of particulate matter from wildfire  
24 smoke and extreme heat.

1       “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
3 essary to carry out this section.”.

4 **SEC. 4. RESEARCH ON WILDFIRE SMOKE AND EXTREME**  
5 **HEAT.**

6       (a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-  
9 trator shall establish at institutions of higher edu-  
10 cation (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher  
11 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) 4 cen-  
12 ters, each of which shall be known as a “Center of  
13 Excellence for Wildfire Smoke and Extreme Heat”,  
14 to carry out research relating to—

15           (A) the effects on public health, including  
16 the health of outdoor workers, of—

17           (i) smoke emissions from wildland  
18 fires; and

19           (ii) extreme heat; and

20           (B) means by which communities can bet-  
21 ter respond to the impacts of—

22           (i) emissions from wildland fires; and

23           (ii) extreme heat events.

24           (2) PRIORITY.—In selecting institutions of  
25 higher education (as so defined) at which to estab-

1       lish a center under paragraph (1), the Administrator  
2       shall give priority to institutions of higher education  
3       (as so defined) that—

4               (A) have established expertise with respect  
5       to air quality or dedicated centers of air quality  
6       research;

7               (B) have experience with relevant outreach  
8       and extension work;

9               (C) have established relationships with rel-  
10       evant Federal, State, and local agencies, com-  
11       munity organizations, Native Hawaiian organi-  
12       zations, and Indian Tribes; and

13              (D) are located in an area that is economi-  
14       cally or environmentally impacted by wildfire  
15       smoke or extreme heat.

16       (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17       There is authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-  
18       ministrator to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000  
19       for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

20       (b) RESEARCH.—

21              (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
22       after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-  
23       trator shall begin to carry out research—

24              (A) to study the health effects of—

1 (i) smoke emissions from wildland  
2 fires; and

3 (ii) extreme heat;

4 (B) to develop and disseminate personal  
5 and community-based interventions to reduce  
6 exposure to and adverse health effects of—

7 (i) smoke emissions from wildland  
8 fires; and

9 (ii) extreme heat;

10 (C) to increase the quality of smoke and  
11 extreme heat monitoring and prediction tools  
12 and techniques; and

13 (D) to develop implementation and com-  
14 munication strategies.

15 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

16 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-  
17 ministrator to carry out this subsection \$20,000,000  
18 for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

19 **SEC. 5. COMMUNITY SMOKE AND EXTREME HEAT PLAN-**  
20 **NING.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
22 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall es-  
23 tablish a competitive grant program to assist eligible enti-  
24 ties described in subsection (b) in developing and imple-  
25 menting collaborative community plans for mitigating the

1 impacts of smoke emissions from wildland fires and ex-  
2 treme heat.

3 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity that is eligible  
4 to submit an application for a grant under subsection (a)  
5 is—

6 (1) a State;

7 (2) a unit of local government (including any  
8 special district, such as an air quality management  
9 district or a school district);

10 (3) an Indian Tribe; or

11 (4) a Native Hawaiian organization.

12 (c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
13 under subsection (a), an eligible entity described in sub-  
14 section (b) shall submit to the Administrator an applica-  
15 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such  
16 information as the Administrator may require, which shall  
17 include a plan to collaborate with a public institution of  
18 higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the High-  
19 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) or other  
20 research institution that—

21 (1) has established expertise with respect to air  
22 quality or dedicated centers of air quality research;

23 (2) has experience with relevant outreach and  
24 extension work;

1           (3) has established relationships with relevant  
2       Federal, State, and local agencies, community orga-  
3       nizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, and In-  
4       dian Tribes; and

5           (4) is located in an area that is economically or  
6       environmentally impacted by wildfire smoke or ex-  
7       treme heat.

8       (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator  
9       may use amounts made available to carry out this section  
10      to provide to eligible entities described in subsection (b)  
11      technical assistance in—

12           (1) submitting grant applications under sub-  
13      section (c); or

14           (2) carrying out projects using a grant under  
15      this section.

16      (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
17      authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to  
18      carry out this section \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026  
19      and each fiscal year thereafter.

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