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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a research initiative to develop technologies to remove methane from the atmosphere, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MULLIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a research initiative to develop technologies to remove methane from the atmosphere, 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 “Methane Removal Re-  
5 search and Innovation Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. METHANE REMOVAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2           TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
3           mittees” means the Committee on Science, Space,  
4           and Technology of the House of Representatives and  
5           the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of  
6           the Senate.

7           (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
8           term “institution of higher education” has the  
9           meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the  
10          Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

11          (3) METHANE REMOVAL APPROACH.—The term  
12          “methane removal approach” means enhancing sinks  
13          by breaking down methane in, or removing methane  
14          from, the ambient atmosphere through a physical,  
15          chemical, or biological method, or combination there-  
16          of.

17          (4) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “Na-  
18          tional Laboratory” has the meaning given such term  
19          in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42  
20          U.S.C. 15801).

21          (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
22          the Secretary of Energy.

23          (b) METHANE REMOVAL.—

24               (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
2           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
3           Secretary shall establish a research initiative, to  
4           be known as the “Methane Removal Research  
5           Initiative” (in this section referred to as the  
6           “Initiative”), to expand the scientific under-  
7           standing of chemistry, geosciences, biosciences,  
8           atmospheric sciences, earth and environmental  
9           systems sciences, engineering, materials, social  
10          sciences, and ethics useful for the practical de-  
11          velopment of methane removal approaches.

12          (B) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out  
13          the Initiative, the Secretary shall seek to the  
14          greatest extent practicable to leverage expertise  
15          and resources from the following:

16               (i) The Office of Science of the De-  
17               partment of Energy, especially the Basic  
18               Energy Sciences Program and the Biologi-  
19               cal and Environmental Research Program  
20               of such Office.

21               (ii) The Office of Fossil Energy of the  
22               Department of Energy.

23               (iii) The Advanced Research Projects  
24               Agency-Energy.

25               (iv) The National Science Foundation.

1 (v) The National Oceanic and Atmos-  
2 pheric Administration.

3 (vi) The Environmental Protection  
4 Agency.

5 (vii) The Department of Agriculture.

6 (viii) The United States Geological  
7 Survey.

8 (ix) The Department of the Interior.

9 (x) The National Aeronautics and  
10 Space Administration.

11 (xi) The National Institute of Stand-  
12 ards and Technology.

13 (2) METHANE REMOVAL.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Through the Initiative,  
15 the Secretary shall organize activities among  
16 multidisciplinary teams, consisting of experts  
17 from National Laboratories, institutions of  
18 higher education, private sector entities, and  
19 other appropriate entities to support research,  
20 development, demonstration, and commercial  
21 application activities examining the feasibility,  
22 costs, potential scale, social barriers, and the  
23 practical development of methane removal ap-  
24 proaches.

1 (B) RESEARCH GOALS.—The activities de-  
2 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include defin-  
3 ing and satisfying milestone-driven research  
4 goals relating to examining the following:

5 (i) Existing mechanisms of atmos-  
6 pheric oxidation and atmospheric oxidative  
7 capacity.

8 (ii) Methanotrophy enhancement.

9 (iii) Biological methods involving  
10 plants.

11 (iv) Methane concentrators and break-  
12 down reactors.

13 (v) Methane breakdown coatings and  
14 other new materials.

15 (vi) Other new and existing methane  
16 removal approaches.

17 (vii) Tools to assess atmospheric  
18 methane removal methods.

19 (viii) Science communication and pub-  
20 lic engagement materials.

21 (C) CONSISTENCY WITH NATIONAL ACAD-  
22 EMIES REPORT.—The research goals described  
23 in subparagraph (B) shall be informed by the  
24 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,  
25 and Medicine report entitled “A Research

1           Agenda Toward Atmospheric Methane Re-  
2           removal”.

3           (D) ORGANIZATION.—The Secretary is au-  
4           thorized to organize research activities under  
5           this paragraph through single Principal Investi-  
6           gator awards, small research groups, Energy  
7           Frontier Research Centers, Energy Innovation  
8           Hubs, or other organizational structures.

9           (E) RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall pro-  
10          vide sufficient resources for the purpose of sat-  
11          isfying the goals specified in subparagraph (B)  
12          over a period of time to be determined by the  
13          Secretary.

14          (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than  
15          three years after the date of the enactment of this  
16          Act and every three years thereafter, the Secretary,  
17          in consultation with the heads of other relevant De-  
18          partment of Energy applied energy and commer-  
19          cialization offices, the Administrator of the National  
20          Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Ad-  
21          ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,  
22          and other relevant Federal officials at the Sec-  
23          retary’s discretion, shall submit to the appropriate  
24          congressional committees a brief report detailing the  
25          following:

1                   (A) Research activities and goals under  
2                   paragraph (2).

3                   (B) Progress toward meeting such goals.

4                   (C) A summary of the state of scientific  
5                   knowledge on methane removal approaches, in-  
6                   cluding key knowledge gaps and proposed re-  
7                   search to fill such knowledge gaps.

8                   (D) Resource limitations and needs.

9                   (E) Recommendations for future activities  
10                  to advance methane removal technologies.

11               (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
12               authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
13               out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027  
14               through 2031.