

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title 40, United States Code, to establish an Appalachian regional energy hub initiative, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. McCONNELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title 40, United States Code, to establish an Appalachian regional energy hub initiative, 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 “Appalachian Regional
5 Energy Hub Initiative Act”.

6 SEC. 2. APPALACHIAN REGIONAL ENERGY HUB.

7 (a) APPALACHIAN REGIONAL ENERGY HUB INITIA-
8 TIVE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 145
2 of subtitle IV of title 40, United States Code, is
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 **“§ 14511. Appalachian regional energy hub initiative”**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Appalachian Regional Com-
6 mission may provide technical assistance to, make grants
7 to, enter into contracts with, or otherwise provide amounts
8 to individuals or entities in the Appalachian region for
9 projects and activities—

10 “(1) to conduct research and analysis regarding
11 the economic impact of an ethane storage hub in the
12 Appalachian region that supports a more-effective
13 energy market performance due to the scale of the
14 project, such as a project with the capacity to store
15 and distribute more than 100,000 barrels per day of
16 hydrocarbon feedstock with a minimum gross heat-
17 ing value of 1,700 Btu per standard cubic foot;

18 “(2) with the potential to significantly con-
19 tribute to the economic resilience of the area in
20 which the project is located; and

21 “(3) that will help establish a regional energy
22 hub in the Appalachian region for natural gas and
23 natural gas liquids, including storage and associated
24 pipelines.

1 “(b) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the
2 cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this sec-
3 tion—

4 “(1) not more than 50 percent may be provided
5 from amounts made available to carry out this sec-
6 tion;

7 “(2) in the case of a project to be carried out
8 in a county for which a distressed county designa-
9 tion is in effect under section 14526, not more than
10 80 percent may be provided from amounts made
11 available to carry out this section; and

12 “(3) in the case of a project to be carried out
13 in a county for which an at-risk county designation
14 is in effect under section 14526, not more than 70
15 percent may be provided from amounts made avail-
16 able to carry out this section.

17 “(c) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—Subject to sub-
18 section (b), a grant provided under this section may be
19 provided from amounts made available to carry out this
20 section, in combination with amounts made available—

21 “(1) under any other Federal program; or

22 “(2) from any other source.

23 “(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any provi-
24 sion of law limiting the Federal share under any other
25 Federal program, amounts made available to carry out

1 this section may be used to increase that Federal share,
2 as the Appalachian Regional Commission determines to be
3 appropriate.”.

4 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
5 subchapter I of chapter 145 of title 40, United
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item
7 relating to section 14510 the following:

“14511. Appalachian regional energy hub initiative.”.

8 (b) AUTHORIZATIONS.—Section 14703 of title 40,
9 United States Code, is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as
11 subsection (e) and (f), respectively; and

12 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(d) APPALACHIAN REGIONAL ENERGY HUB INITIA-
15 TIVE.—Of the amounts made available under subsection
16 (a), \$5,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 14511
17 for each fiscal year.”.