

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3891

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to update and expand Federal economic development investment in the economic recovery, resiliency, and competitiveness of communities, regions, and States across the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7, 2024

Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to update and expand Federal economic development investment in the economic recovery, resiliency, and competitiveness of communities, regions, and States across the United States, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 101. Findings and declarations.
- Sec. 102. Definitions.
- Sec. 103. Increased coordination.
- Sec. 104. Grants for public works and economic development.
- Sec. 105. Grants for planning and grants for administrative expenses.
- Sec. 106. Cost sharing.
- Sec. 107. Regulations on relative needs and allocations.
- Sec. 108. Research and technical assistance; university centers.
- Sec. 109. Investment priorities.
- Sec. 110. Grants for economic adjustment.
- Sec. 111. Renewable energy program.
- Sec. 112. Workforce training grants.
- Sec. 113. Congressional notification requirements.
- Sec. 114. Specific flexibilities related to deployment of high-speed broadband.
- Sec. 115. Critical supply chain site development grant program.
- Sec. 116. Updated distress criteria and grant rates.
- Sec. 117. Comprehensive economic development strategies.
- Sec. 118. Office of Tribal Economic Development.
- Sec. 119. Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience.
- Sec. 120. Establishment of technical assistance liaisons.
- Sec. 121. Annual report to Congress.
- Sec. 122. Modernization of environmental reviews.
- Sec. 123. GAO report on economic development programs.
- Sec. 124. GAO report on Economic Development Administration regulations and policies.
- Sec. 125. GAO study on rural communities.
- Sec. 126. General authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 127. Technical correction.

#### TITLE II—REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 201. Regional commission authorizations.
- Sec. 202. Regional commission modifications.
- Sec. 203. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies.
- Sec. 204. Economic and infrastructure development grants.
- Sec. 205. Financial assistance.
- Sec. 206. Northern Border Regional Commission area.
- Sec. 207. Southwest Border Regional Commission area.
- Sec. 208. Great Lakes Authority area.
- Sec. 209. Additional regional commission programs.
- Sec. 210. Tribal and colonia participation in southwest border region.
- Sec. 211. Establishment of Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.
- Sec. 212. Establishment of Southern New England Regional Commission.
- Sec. 213. Denali Commission reauthorization.
- Sec. 214. Denali Housing Fund.
- Sec. 215. Delta Regional Authority reauthorization.
- Sec. 216. Northern Great Plains Regional Authority reauthorization.

1     **TITLE I—PUBLIC WORKS AND**  
2     **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

3     **SEC. 101. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**

4         Section 2 of the Public Works and Economic Devel-  
5     opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121) is amended to read  
6     as follows:

7     **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**

8         “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

9             “(1) there continue to be areas of the United  
10         States—

11                 “(A) experiencing chronic high unemploy-  
12             ment, underemployment, outmigration, and low  
13             per capita incomes; and

14                 “(B) facing sudden and severe economic  
15             dislocations because of structural economic  
16             changes, changing trade patterns, certain Fed-  
17             eral actions (including environmental require-  
18             ments that result in the removal of economic  
19             activities from a locality), impacts from natural  
20             disasters, and transitioning industries, including  
21             energy generation, steel production, and min-  
22             ing;

23             “(2) economic growth in the States, cities, and  
24             rural areas of the United States is produced by ex-  
25             panding economic opportunities, expanding free en-

1       terprise through trade, promoting resilience in public  
2       infrastructure, creating conditions for job creation,  
3       job retention, and business development, and by cap-  
4       turing the opportunities to lead the industries of the  
5       future, including advanced technologies, clean energy  
6       production, and advanced manufacturing tech-  
7       nologies;

8               “(3) the goal of Federal economic development  
9       programs is to raise the standard of living for all  
10       citizens and increase the wealth and overall rate of  
11       growth of the economy by encouraging communities  
12       to develop a more competitive and diversified eco-  
13       nomic base by—

14               “(A) creating an environment that pro-  
15       motes economic activity by improving and ex-  
16       panding modern public infrastructure;

17               “(B) promoting job creation, retention,  
18       and workforce readiness through increased in-  
19       novation, productivity, and entrepreneurship;  
20       and

21               “(C) empowering local and regional com-  
22       munities experiencing chronic high unemploy-  
23       ment, underemployment, low labor force partici-  
24       pation, and low per capita income to develop

1 private sector business and attract increased  
2 private sector capital investment;

3 “(4) while economic development is an inher-  
4 ently local process, the Federal Government should  
5 work in partnership with public and private State,  
6 regional, Tribal, and local organizations to maximize  
7 the impact of existing resources and enable regions,  
8 communities, and citizens to participate more fully  
9 in the American dream and national prosperity;

10 “(5) in order to avoid duplication of effort and  
11 achieve meaningful, long-lasting results, Federal,  
12 State, Tribal, and local economic development activi-  
13 ties should have a clear focus, improved coordina-  
14 tion, a comprehensive approach, and simplified and  
15 consistent requirements;

16 “(6) Federal economic development efforts will  
17 be more effective if the efforts are coordinated with,  
18 and build on, the trade, workforce investment, sci-  
19 entific research, environmental protection, transpor-  
20 tation, and technology programs of the United  
21 States, including through the consolidation and  
22 alignment of plans and strategies to promote effec-  
23 tive economic development;

24 “(7) rural communities face unique challenges  
25 in addressing infrastructure needs, sometimes lack-

1       ing the necessary tax base for required upgrades,  
2       and often encounter limited financing options and  
3       capacity, which can impede new development and  
4       long-term economic growth; and

5               “(8) assisting communities and regions in be-  
6       coming more resilient to the effects of extreme  
7       weather threats and events will promote economic  
8       development and job creation.

9               “(b) DECLARATIONS.—In order to promote a strong,  
10       growing, resilient, competitive, and secure economy  
11       throughout the United States, the opportunity to pursue,  
12       and be employed in, high-quality jobs with family-sus-  
13       taining wages, and to live in communities that enable busi-  
14       ness creation and wealth, Congress declares that—

15               “(1) assistance under this Act should be made  
16       available to both rural- and urban-distressed com-  
17       munities;

18               “(2) local communities should work in partner-  
19       ship with neighboring communities, States, Indian  
20       tribes, and the Federal Government to increase the  
21       capacity of the local communities to develop and im-  
22       plement comprehensive economic development strate-  
23       gies to alleviate economic distress and enhance com-  
24       petitiveness in the global economy;

1           “(3) whether suffering from long-term distress  
2           or a sudden dislocation, distressed communities  
3           should be encouraged to support entrepreneurship to  
4           take advantage of the development opportunities af-  
5           forded by technological innovation and expanding  
6           newly opened global markets; and

7           “(4) assistance under this Act should be made  
8           available to modernize and promote recycling, pro-  
9           mote the productive reuse of abandoned industrial  
10          facilities and the redevelopment of brownfields, and  
11          invest in public assets that support travel and tour-  
12          ism and outdoor recreation.”.

13 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

14          (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Public Works and  
15          Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122) is  
16          amended—

17                 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through  
18                 (12) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9),  
19                 (12), (13), (14), (16), and (17), respectively;

20                 (2) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as so re-  
21                 designated) the following:

22                         “(1) BLUE ECONOMY.—The term ‘blue econ-  
23                         omy’ means the sustainable use of marine, lake, or  
24                         other aquatic resources in support of economic devel-  
25                         opment objectives.

1           “(2) CAPACITY BUILDING.—The term ‘capacity  
2 building’ includes all activities associated with early  
3 stage community-based project formation and  
4 conceptualization, prior to project predevelopment  
5 activity, including grants to local community organi-  
6 zations for planning participation, community out-  
7 reach and engagement activities, research, and  
8 mentorship support to move projects from formation  
9 and conceptualization to project predevelopment.”;

10           (3) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated), in  
11 subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “to the extent ap-  
12 propriate” and inserting “to the extent determined  
13 appropriate by the Secretary”;

14           (4) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), in  
15 subparagraph (A)—

16           (A) in clause (v), by striking “or” at the  
17 end;

18           (B) in clause (vi), by striking the period at  
19 end and inserting a semicolon; and

20           (C) by adding at the end the following:

21           “(vii) an economic development orga-  
22 nization; or

23           “(viii) a public-private partnership for  
24 public infrastructure.”;



1           (5) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as so re-  
2 designated) the following:

3           “(10) OUTDOOR RECREATION.—The term ‘out-  
4 door recreation’ means all recreational activities, and  
5 the economic drivers of those activities, that occur in  
6 nature-based environments outdoors.

7           “(11) PROJECT PREDEVELOPMENT.—The term  
8 ‘project predevelopment’ means a measure required  
9 to be completed before the initiation of a project, in-  
10 cluding—

11                 “(A) planning and community asset map-  
12 ping;

13                 “(B) training;

14                 “(C) technical assistance and organiza-  
15 tional development;

16                 “(D) feasibility and market studies;

17                 “(E) demonstration projects; and

18                 “(F) other predevelopment activities deter-  
19 mined by the Secretary to be appropriate.”;

20           (6) by striking paragraph (12) (as so redesign-  
21 nated) and inserting the following:

22           “(12) REGIONAL COMMISSION.—The term ‘Re-  
23 gional Commission’ means any of the following:

1           “(A) The Appalachian Regional Commis-  
2 sion established by section 14301(a) of title 40,  
3 United States Code.

4           “(B) The Delta Regional Authority estab-  
5 lished by section 382B(a)(1) of the Consoli-  
6 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7  
7 U.S.C. 2009aa-1(a)(1)).

8           “(C) The Denali Commission established  
9 by section 303(a) of the Denali Commission Act  
10 of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law  
11 105-277).

12           “(D) The Great Lakes Authority estab-  
13 lished by section 15301(a)(4) of title 40, United  
14 States Code.

15           “(E) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Commis-  
16 sion established by section 15301(a)(5) of title  
17 40, United States Code.

18           “(F) The Northern Border Regional Com-  
19 mission established by section 15301(a)(3) of  
20 title 40, United States Code.

21           “(G) The Northern Great Plains Regional  
22 Authority established by section 383B(a)(1) of  
23 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
24 Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb-1(a)(1)).

1           “(H) The Southeast Crescent Regional  
2 Commission established by section 15301(a)(1)  
3 of title 40, United States Code.

4           “(I) The Southern New England Regional  
5 Commission established by section 15301(a)(6)  
6 of title 40, United States Code.

7           “(J) The Southwest Border Regional Com-  
8 mission established by section 15301(a)(2) of  
9 title 40, United States Code.”;

10          (7) by inserting after paragraph (14) (as so re-  
11 designated) the following:

12           “(15) TRAVEL AND TOURISM.—The term ‘trav-  
13 el and tourism’ means any economic activity that  
14 primarily serves to encourage recreational or busi-  
15 ness travel in or to the United States.”; and

16          (8) in paragraph (17) (as so redesignated), by  
17 striking “established as a University Center for Eco-  
18 nomic Development under section 207(a)(2)(D)”  
19 and inserting “established under section 207(c)(1)”.

20          (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 207(a)(3)  
21 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of  
22 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147(a)(3)) is amended by striking “sec-  
23 tion 3(4)(A)(vi)” and inserting “section 3(6)(A)(vi)”.

1 **SEC. 103. INCREASED COORDINATION.**

2 Section 103 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
3 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3133) is amended by  
4 striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

5 “(b) MEETINGS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out subsection  
7 (a), or for any other purpose relating to economic  
8 development activities, the Secretary may convene  
9 meetings with Federal agencies, State and local gov-  
10 ernments, economic development districts, Indian  
11 tribes, and other appropriate planning and develop-  
12 ment organizations.

13 “(2) REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to meet-  
15 ings described in paragraph (1), not later than  
16 1 year after the date of enactment of the Eco-  
17 nomic Development Reauthorization Act of  
18 2024, and not less frequently than every 2  
19 years thereafter, the Secretary shall convene a  
20 meeting with the Regional Commissions in fur-  
21 therance of subsection (a).

22 “(B) ATTENDEES.—The attendees for a  
23 meeting convened under this paragraph shall  
24 consist of—

1           “(i) the Secretary, acting through the  
2           Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Eco-  
3           nomic Development, serving as Chair;

4           “(ii) the Federal Cochairpersons of  
5           the Regional Commissions, or their des-  
6           ignees; and

7           “(iii) the State Cochairpersons of the  
8           Regional Commissions, or their designees.

9           “(C) PURPOSE.—The purposes of a meet-  
10          ing convened under this paragraph shall in-  
11          clude—

12           “(i) to enhance coordination between  
13           the Economic Development Administration  
14           and the Regional Commissions in carrying  
15           out economic development programs;

16           “(ii) to reduce duplication of efforts  
17           by the Economic Development Administra-  
18           tion and the Regional Commissions in car-  
19           rying out economic development programs;

20           “(iii) to develop best practices and  
21           strategies for fostering regional economic  
22           development; and

23           “(iv) any other purposes as deter-  
24           mined appropriate by the Secretary.

1           “(D) REPORT.—Where applicable and pur-  
 2           suant to subparagraph (C), not later than 1  
 3           year after a meeting under this paragraph, the  
 4           Secretary shall prepare and make publicly avail-  
 5           able a report detailing, at a minimum—

6                   “(i) the planned actions by the Eco-  
 7                   nomic Development Administration and  
 8                   the Regional Commissions to enhance co-  
 9                   ordination or reduce duplication of efforts  
 10                  and a timeline for implementing those ac-  
 11                  tions; and

12                   “(ii) any best practices and strategies  
 13                  developed.”.

14 **SEC. 104. GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DE-**  
 15 **VELOPMENT.**

16           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Public Works  
 17           and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141)  
 18           is amended—

19                   (1) in subsection (a)—

20                           (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or for  
 21                           the improvement of waste management and re-  
 22                           cycling systems” after “development facility”;  
 23                           and

24                           (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “in-  
 25                           creasing the resilience” after “expansion,”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “suc-  
3 cessful establishment or expansion” and insert-  
4 ing “successful establishment, expansion, or re-  
5 tention,”; and

6 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting  
7 “and underemployed” after “unemployed”;

8 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
9 section (d); and

10 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(c) **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—In awarding  
13 grants under subsection (a) and subject to the criteria in  
14 subsection (b), the Secretary may also consider the extent  
15 to which a project would—

16 “(1) lead to economic diversification in the  
17 area, or a part of the area, in which the project is  
18 or will be located;

19 “(2) address and mitigate impacts from ex-  
20 treme weather events, including development of resil-  
21 ient infrastructure, products, and processes;

22 “(3) benefit highly rural communities without  
23 adequate tax revenues to invest in long-term or cost-  
24 ly infrastructure;

25 “(4) increase access to high-speed broadband;

1           “(5) support outdoor recreation to spur eco-  
2           nomic development, with a focus on rural commu-  
3           nities;

4           “(6) promote job creation or retention relative  
5           to the population of the impacted region with out-  
6           sized significance;

7           “(7) promote travel and tourism; or

8           “(8) promote blue economy activities.”.

9   **SEC. 105. GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR AD-**  
10                           **MINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

11           Section 203 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
12           velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3143) is amended—

13           (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
14           section (e);

15           (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
16           lowing:

17           “(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—Administrative  
18           expenses that may be paid with a grant under this section  
19           include—

20           “(1) expenses related to carrying out the plan-  
21           ning process described in subsection (b);

22           “(2) expenses related to project  
23           predevelopment; and

24           “(3) expenses related to hiring professional  
25           staff to assist communities in—



1           “(A) project predevelopment and imple-  
2           menting projects and priorities included in—

3                   “(i) a comprehensive economic devel-  
4                   opment strategy; or

5                   “(ii) an economic development plan-  
6                   ning grant;

7           “(B) identifying and using other Federal,  
8           State, and Tribal economic development pro-  
9           grams;

10           “(C) leveraging private and philanthropic  
11           investment;

12           “(D) preparing disaster coordination and  
13           preparation plans; and

14           “(E) carrying out economic development  
15           and predevelopment activities in accordance  
16           with professional economic development best  
17           practices.”; and

18           (3) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), in  
19           paragraph (4)—

20                   (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “;  
21                   and” and inserting “(including broadband);”;

22                   (B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as  
23                   subparagraph (G); and

24                   (C) by inserting after subparagraph (E)  
25           the following:

1           “(F) address and mitigate impacts of ex-  
2           treme weather; and”.

3 **SEC. 106. COST SHARING.**

4           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204 of the Public Works  
5 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3144)  
6 is amended—

7           (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “50” and  
8           inserting “60”;

9           (2) in subsection (b)—

10           (A) by striking “In determining” and in-  
11           serting the following:

12           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In determining”; and

13           (B) by adding at the end the following:

14           “(2) REGIONAL COMMISSION FUNDS.—Notwith-  
15           standing any other provision of law, any funds con-  
16           tributed by a Regional Commission for a project  
17           under this title may be considered to be part of the  
18           non-Federal share of the costs of the project.”; and

19           (3) in subsection (c)—

20           (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or can  
21           otherwise document that no local matching  
22           funds are reasonably obtainable” after “or po-  
23           litical subdivision”;

24           (B) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) by striking “section 207” and in-  
2 serting “section 203 or 207”; and

3 (ii) by striking “project if” and all  
4 that follows through the period at the end  
5 and inserting “project.”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—In the case of a  
8 grant provided under section 209 for a project for  
9 economic recovery in response to a major disaster or  
10 emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford  
11 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
12 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Secretary may increase the  
13 Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 per-  
14 cent of the total cost of the project.

15 “(5) SMALL COMMUNITIES.—In the case of a  
16 grant to a political subdivision of a State (as de-  
17 scribed in section 3(6)(A)(iv)) that has a population  
18 of fewer than 10,000 residents and meets 1 or more  
19 of the eligibility criteria described in section 301(a),  
20 the Secretary may increase the Federal share under  
21 paragraph (1) up to 100 percent of the total cost of  
22 the project.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 703 of the  
24 Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42  
25 U.S.C. 3233) is amended—

1 (1) by striking subsection (b); and

2 (2) by striking the section designation and  
3 heading and all that follows through “In addition”  
4 in subsection (a) and inserting the following:

5 **“SEC. 703. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DIS-**  
6 **ASTER ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.**

7 “In addition”.

8 **SEC. 107. REGULATIONS ON RELATIVE NEEDS AND ALLOCA-**  
9 **TIONS.**

10 Section 206 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
11 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3146) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph  
13 (B) and inserting the following:

14 “(B) the per capita income levels, the labor  
15 force participation rate, and the extent of  
16 underemployment in eligible areas; and”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and reten-  
18 tion” after “creation”.

19 **SEC. 108. RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; UNI-**  
20 **VERSITY CENTERS.**

21 Section 207 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
22 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by inserting “,  
24 project predevelopment,” after “planning”; and

25 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(c) UNIVERSITY CENTERS.—

2 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In accordance with  
3 subsection (a)(2)(D), the Secretary may make  
4 grants to institutions of higher education to serve as  
5 university centers.

6 “(2) GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE.—The Secretary  
7 shall ensure that the network of university centers  
8 established under this subsection provides services in  
9 each State.

10 “(3) DUTIES.—To the maximum extent prac-  
11 ticable, a university center established under this  
12 subsection shall—

13 “(A) collaborate with other university cen-  
14 ters;

15 “(B) collaborate with economic develop-  
16 ment districts and other relevant Federal eco-  
17 nomic development technical assistance and  
18 service providers to provide expertise and tech-  
19 nical assistance to develop, implement, and sup-  
20 port comprehensive economic development strat-  
21 egies and other economic development planning  
22 at the local, regional, and State levels, with a  
23 focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, work-  
24 force development, and regional economic devel-  
25 opment;

1           “(C) provide technical assistance, business  
2           development, and technology transfer services  
3           to businesses in the area served by the univer-  
4           sity center;

5           “(D) establish partnerships with 1 or more  
6           commercialization intermediaries that are public  
7           or nonprofit technology transfer organizations  
8           eligible to receive a grant under section 602 of  
9           the American Innovation and Competitiveness  
10          Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s-9);

11          “(E) promote local and regional capacity  
12          building; and

13          “(F) provide to communities and regions  
14          assistance relating to data collection and anal-  
15          ysis and other research relating to economic  
16          conditions and vulnerabilities that can inform  
17          economic development and adjustment strate-  
18          gies.

19          “(4) CONSIDERATION.—In making grants  
20          under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider  
21          the significant role of regional public universities in  
22          supporting economic development in distressed com-  
23          munities through the planning and the implementa-  
24          tion of economic development projects and initia-  
25          tives.”.

1 **SEC. 109. INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.**

2 Title II of the Public Works and Economic Develop-  
3 ment Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after section  
4 207 (42 U.S.C. 3147) the following:

5 **“SEC. 208. INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), for a  
7 project to be eligible for assistance under this title, the  
8 project shall be consistent with 1 or more of the following  
9 investment priorities:

10 “(1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—Economic  
11 development planning or implementation projects  
12 that support development of public facilities, includ-  
13 ing basic public infrastructure, transportation infra-  
14 structure, or telecommunications infrastructure.

15 “(2) WORKFORCE.—Economic development  
16 planning or implementation projects that—

17 “(A) support job skills training to meet the  
18 hiring needs of the area in which the project is  
19 to be carried out and that result in well-paying  
20 jobs; or

21 “(B) otherwise promote labor force partici-  
22 pation.

23 “(3) INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.—  
24 Economic development planning or implementation  
25 projects that—

1           “(A) support the development of innova-  
2           tion and entrepreneurship-related infrastruc-  
3           ture;

4           “(B) promote business development and  
5           lending; or

6           “(C) foster the commercialization of new  
7           technologies that are creating technology-driven  
8           businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of  
9           the future.

10          “(4) ECONOMIC RECOVERY RESILIENCE.—Eco-  
11          nomic development planning or implementation  
12          projects that enhance the ability of an area to with-  
13          stand and recover from adverse short-term or long-  
14          term changes in economic conditions, including ef-  
15          fects from industry contractions or impacts from  
16          natural disasters.

17          “(5) MANUFACTURING.—Economic development  
18          planning or implementation projects that encourage  
19          job creation, business expansion, technology and  
20          capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manu-  
21          facturing, including efforts that contribute to the  
22          competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or  
23          the domestic production of innovative, high-value  
24          products and production technologies.



1           “(b) CONDITIONS.—If the Secretary plans to use an  
2 investment priority that is not described in subsection (a),  
3 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environ-  
4 ment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee  
5 on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of  
6 Representatives a written notification that explains the  
7 basis for using that investment priority.

8           “(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section  
9 waives any other requirement of this Act.”.

10 **SEC. 110. GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.**

11           Section 209 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
12 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3149) is amended—

13                   (1) in subsection (c)—

14                           (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “or” at  
15 the end;

16                           (B) in paragraph (5)—

17                                   (i) by inserting “, travel and tourism,  
18 natural resource-based, blue economy, or  
19 agricultural” after “manufacturing”; and

20                                   (ii) by striking the period at the end  
21 and inserting “; or”; and

22                           (C) by adding at the end the following:

23                                   “(6) economic dislocation in the steel industry  
24 due to the closure of a steel plant, primary steel  
25 economy contraction events (including temporary

1 layoffs and shifts to part-time work), or job losses  
 2 in the steel industry or associated with the departure  
 3 or contraction of the steel industry, for help in eco-  
 4 nomic restructuring of the communities.”;

5 (2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as  
 6 subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

7 (3) by inserting after section (c) the following:

8 “(d) ASSISTANCE TO COAL COMMUNITIES.—

9 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 “(A) COAL ECONOMY.—The term ‘coal  
 11 economy’ means the complete supply chain of  
 12 coal-reliant industries, including—

13 “(i) coal mining;

14 “(ii) coal-fired power plants;

15 “(iii) transportation or logistics; and

16 “(iv) manufacturing.

17 “(B) CONTRACTION EVENT.—The term  
 18 ‘contraction event’ means the closure of a facil-  
 19 ity or a reduction in activity relating to a coal-  
 20 reliant industry, including an industry described  
 21 in any of clauses (i) through (iv) of subpara-  
 22 graph (A).

23 “(2) AUTHORIZATION.—On the application of  
 24 an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants

1 for projects in areas adversely impacted by a con-  
2 traction event in the coal economy.

3 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this  
5 subsection, the Secretary shall determine the  
6 eligibility of an area based on whether the eligi-  
7 ble recipient can reasonably demonstrate that  
8 the area—

9 “(i) has been adversely impacted by a  
10 contraction event in the coal economy with-  
11 in the previous 25 years; or

12 “(ii) will be adversely impacted by a  
13 contraction event in the coal economy.

14 “(B) PROHIBITION.—No regulation or  
15 other policy of the Secretary may limit the eligi-  
16 bility of an eligible recipient for a grant under  
17 this subsection based on the date of a contrac-  
18 tion event except as provided in subparagraph  
19 (A)(i).

20 “(C) DEMONSTRATING ADVERSE IM-  
21 PACT.—For the purposes of this paragraph, an  
22 eligible recipient may demonstrate an adverse  
23 impact by demonstrating—

24 “(i) a loss in employment;

25 “(ii) a reduction in tax revenue; or

1                   “(iii) any other factor, as determined  
2                   to be appropriate by the Secretary.

3           “(e) ASSISTANCE TO NUCLEAR HOST COMMU-  
4 NITIES.—

5           “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

6                   “(A) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commis-  
7                   sion’ means the Nuclear Regulatory Commis-  
8                   sion.

9                   “(B) COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD.—The  
10                   term ‘community advisory board’ means a com-  
11                   munity committee or other advisory organiza-  
12                   tion that aims to foster communication and in-  
13                   formation exchange between a licensee planning  
14                   for and involved in decommissioning activities  
15                   and members of the community that decommis-  
16                   sioning activities may affect.

17                   “(C) DECOMMISSION.—The term ‘decom-  
18                   mission’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
19                   tion 50.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regula-  
20                   tions (or successor regulations).

21                   “(D) LICENSEE.—The term ‘licensee’ has  
22                   the meaning given the term in section 50.2 of  
23                   title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or suc-  
24                   cessor regulations).

1           “(E) NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITY.—The  
2 term ‘nuclear host community’ means an eligi-  
3 ble recipient that has been impacted, or reason-  
4 ably demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Sec-  
5 retary that it will be impacted, by a nuclear  
6 power plant licensed by the Commission that—

7                   “(i) is not co-located with an oper-  
8 ating nuclear power plant;

9                   “(ii) is at a site with spent nuclear  
10 fuel; and

11                   “(iii) as of the date of enactment of  
12 the Economic Development Reauthoriza-  
13 tion Act of 2024—

14                           “(I) has ceased operations; or

15                           “(II) has provided a written noti-  
16 fication to the Commission that it will  
17 cease operations.

18           “(2) AUTHORIZATION.—On the application of  
19 an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make  
20 grants—

21                   “(A) to assist with economic development  
22 in nuclear host communities; and

23                   “(B) to fund community advisory boards  
24 in nuclear host communities.

1           “(3) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out this sub-  
2           section, to the maximum extent practicable, the Sec-  
3           retary shall implement the recommendations de-  
4           scribed in the report submitted to Congress under  
5           section 108 of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and  
6           Modernization Act (Public Law 115–439; 132 Stat.  
7           5577) entitled ‘Best Practices for Establishment and  
8           Operation of Local Community Advisory Boards As-  
9           sociated with Decommissioning Activities at Nuclear  
10          Power Plants’.

11           “(4) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary  
12          shall establish a methodology to ensure, to the max-  
13          imum extent practicable, geographic diversity among  
14          grant recipients under this subsection.”.

15   **SEC. 111. RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM.**

16          Section 218 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
17          velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3154d) is amended—

18           (1) in the section heading, by striking  
19           “**BRIGHTFIELDS DEMONSTRATION**” and insert-  
20           ing “**RENEWABLE ENERGY**”;

21           (2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the  
22           following:

23           “(a) DEFINITION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITE.—  
24          In this section, the term ‘renewable energy site’ means a  
25          brownfield site that is redeveloped through the incorpora-

1 tion of 1 or more renewable energy technologies, including  
2 solar, wind, geothermal, ocean, and emerging, but proven,  
3 renewable energy technologies.”;

4 (3) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
6 “DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM” and inserting  
7 “ESTABLISHMENT”;

8 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
9 by striking “brightfield” and inserting “renew-  
10 able energy”; and

11 (C) in paragraph (1), by striking “solar  
12 energy technologies” and inserting “renewable  
13 energy technologies described in subsection  
14 (a),”; and

15 (4) by striking subsection (d).

16 **SEC. 112. WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.**

17 Title II of the Public Works and Economic Develop-  
18 ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) is amended  
19 by adding at the end the following:

20 **“SEC. 219. WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible  
22 recipient, the Secretary may make grants to support the  
23 development and expansion of innovative workforce train-  
24 ing programs through sectoral partnerships leading to  
25 quality jobs and the acquisition of equipment or construc-

1 tion of facilities to support workforce development activi-  
2 ties.

3 “(b) ELIGIBLE USES.—Funds from a grant under  
4 this section may be used for—

5 “(1) acquisition or development of land and im-  
6 provements to house workforce training activities;

7 “(2) acquisition, design and engineering, con-  
8 struction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or im-  
9 provement of such a facility, including related equip-  
10 ment and machinery;

11 “(3) acquisition of machinery or equipment to  
12 support workforce training activities;

13 “(4) planning, technical assistance, and train-  
14 ing;

15 “(5) sector partnerships development, program  
16 design, and program implementation; and

17 “(6) in the case of an eligible recipient that is  
18 a State, subject to subsection (c), a State program  
19 to award career scholarships to train individuals for  
20 employment in critical industries with high demand  
21 and vacancies necessary for further economic devel-  
22 opment of the applicable State that—

23 “(A) requires significant post-secondary  
24 training; but



1           “(B) does not require a post-secondary de-  
2           gree.

3           “(c) CAREER SCHOLARSHIPS STATE GRANT PRO-  
4 GRAM.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award  
6           grants to States for the purpose described in sub-  
7           section (b)(6).

8           “(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a  
9           grant under this subsection, the Chief Executive of  
10          a State shall submit to the Secretary an application  
11          at such time, in such manner, and containing such  
12          information as the Secretary may require, which  
13          shall include, at a minimum, the following:

14                 “(A) A method for identifying critical in-  
15                 dustry sectors driving in-State economic growth  
16                 that face staffing challenges for in-demand jobs  
17                 and careers.

18                 “(B) A governance structure for the imple-  
19                 mentation of the program established by the  
20                 State, including defined roles for the consortia  
21                 of agencies of such State, at a minimum, to in-  
22                 clude the State departments of economic devel-  
23                 opment, labor, and education, or the State de-  
24                 partments or agencies with jurisdiction over  
25                 those matters.

1           “(C) A strategy for recruiting participants  
2           from at least 1 community that meets 1 or  
3           more of the criteria described in section 301(a).

4           “(D) A plan for how the State will develop  
5           a tracking system for eligible programs, partici-  
6           pant enrollment, participant outcomes, and an  
7           application portal for individual participants.

8           “(3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall award  
9           not more than 1 grant under this subsection to any  
10          State.

11          “(4) ELIGIBLE USES.—A grant under this sub-  
12          section may be used for—

13                 “(A) necessary costs to carry out the mat-  
14                 ters described in this subsection, including tui-  
15                 tion and stipends for individuals that receive a  
16                 career scholarship grant, subject to the require-  
17                 ments described in paragraph (6); and

18                 “(B) program implementation, planning,  
19                 technical assistance, or training.

20          “(5) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding sec-  
21          tion 204, the Federal share of the cost of any award  
22          carried out with a grant made under this subsection  
23          shall not exceed 70 percent.

24          “(6) PARTICIPANT AMOUNTS.—A State shall  
25          ensure that grant funds provided under this sub-

1 section to each individual that receives a career  
2 scholarship grant under the program established by  
3 the applicable State is the lesser of the following  
4 amounts:

5 “(A) In a case in which the individual is  
6 also eligible for a Federal Pell Grant under sec-  
7 tion 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
8 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) for enrollment at the appli-  
9 cable training program for any award year of  
10 the training program, \$11,000 minus the  
11 amount of the awarded Federal Pell Grant.

12 “(B) For an individual not described in  
13 paragraph (1), the lesser of—

14 “(i) \$11,000; and

15 “(ii) the total cost of the training pro-  
16 gram in which the individual is enrolled,  
17 including tuition, fees, career navigation  
18 services, textbook costs, expenses related to  
19 assessments and exams for certification or  
20 licensure, equipment costs, and wage sti-  
21 pends (in the case of a training program  
22 that is an earn-and-learn program).

23 “(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordi-  
24 nate the development of new workforce development mod-

1 els with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Edu-  
2 cation.”.

3 **SEC. 113. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

4 Title II of the Public Works and Economic Develop-  
5 ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended  
6 by section 112) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 **“SEC. 220. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIRE-**  
9 **MENTS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a project described  
11 in subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide to the Com-  
12 mittee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate  
13 and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
14 of the House of Representatives notice, in accordance with  
15 subsection (c), of the award of a grant for the project not  
16 less than 3 business days before notifying an eligible re-  
17 cipient of their selection for that award.

18 “(b) PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—A project referred to  
19 in subsection (a) is a project that the Secretary has se-  
20 lected to receive a grant administered by the Economic  
21 Development Administration in an amount not less than  
22 \$100,000.

23 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—A notification under sub-  
24 section (a) shall include—

25 “(1) the name of the project;

1 “(2) the name of the applicant;

2 “(3) the region in which the project is to be  
3 carried out;

4 “(4) the State in which the project is to be car-  
5 ried out;

6 “(5) the amount of the grant awarded;

7 “(6) a description of the project; and

8 “(7) any additional information, as determined  
9 to be appropriate by the Secretary.

10 “(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall  
11 make a notification under subsection (a) publicly available  
12 not later than 60 days after the date on which the Sec-  
13 retary provides the notice.”.

14 **SEC. 114. SPECIFIC FLEXIBILITIES RELATED TO DEPLOY-**  
15 **MENT OF HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.**

16 Title II of the Public Works and Economic Develop-  
17 ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended  
18 by section 113) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 **“SEC. 221. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIA-**  
21 **TIVE.**

22 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 “(1) BROADBAND PROJECT.—The term  
24 ‘broadband project’ means, for the purposes of pro-  
25 viding, extending, expanding, or improving high-

1 speed broadband service to further the goals of this  
2 Act—

3 “(A) planning, technical assistance, or  
4 training;

5 “(B) the acquisition or development of  
6 land; or

7 “(C) the acquisition, design and engineer-  
8 ing, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, ex-  
9 pansion, or improvement of facilities, including  
10 related machinery, equipment, contractual  
11 rights, and intangible property.

12 “(2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ‘eligible  
13 recipient’ includes—

14 “(A) a public-private partnership; and

15 “(B) a consortium formed for the purpose  
16 of providing, extending, expanding, or improv-  
17 ing high-speed broadband service between 1 or  
18 more eligible recipients and 1 or more for-profit  
19 organizations.

20 “(3) HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.—The term  
21 ‘high-speed broadband’ means the provision of 2-way  
22 data transmission with sufficient downstream and  
23 upstream speeds to end users to permit effective  
24 participation in the economy and to support eco-  
25 nomic growth, as determined by the Secretary.

1 “(b) BROADBAND PROJECTS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an el-  
3 ible recipient, the Secretary may make grants  
4 under this title for broadband projects, which shall  
5 be subject to the provisions of this section.

6 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In reviewing applica-  
7 tions submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
8 shall take into consideration geographic diversity of  
9 grants provided, including consideration of under-  
10 served markets, in addition to data requested in  
11 paragraph (3).

12 “(3) DATA REQUESTED.—In reviewing an ap-  
13 plication submitted under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
14 retary shall request from the Federal Communica-  
15 tions Commission, the Administrator of the National  
16 Telecommunications and Information Administra-  
17 tion, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Appa-  
18 lachian Regional Commission data on—

19 “(A) the level and extent of broadband  
20 service that exists in the area proposed to be  
21 served; and

22 “(B) the level and extent of broadband  
23 service that will be deployed in the area pro-  
24 posed to be served pursuant to another Federal  
25 program.

1           “(4) INTEREST IN REAL OR PERSONAL PROP-  
2           ERTY.—For any broadband project carried out by an  
3           eligible recipient that is a public-private partnership  
4           or consortium, the Secretary shall require that title  
5           to any real or personal property acquired or im-  
6           proved with grant funds, or if the recipient will not  
7           acquire title, another possessory interest acceptable  
8           to the Secretary, be vested in a public partner or eli-  
9           gible nonprofit organization or association for the  
10          useful life of the project, after which title may be  
11          transferred to any member of the public-private  
12          partnership or consortium in accordance with regu-  
13          lations promulgated by the Secretary.

14          “(5) PROCUREMENT.—Notwithstanding any  
15          other provision of law, no person or entity shall be  
16          disqualified from competing to provide goods or serv-  
17          ices related to a broadband project on the basis that  
18          the person or entity participated in the development  
19          of the broadband project or in the drafting of speci-  
20          fications, requirements, statements of work, or simi-  
21          lar documents related to the goods or services to be  
22          provided.

23          “(6) BROADBAND PROJECT PROPERTY.—

24                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
25                  permit a recipient of a grant for a broadband



1 project to grant an option to acquire real or  
2 personal property (including contractual rights  
3 and intangible property) related to that project  
4 to a third party on such terms as the Secretary  
5 determines to be appropriate, subject to the  
6 condition that the option may only be exercised  
7 after the Secretary releases the Federal interest  
8 in the property.

9 “(B) TREATMENT.—The grant or exercise  
10 of an option described in subparagraph (A)  
11 shall not constitute a redistribution of grant  
12 funds under section 217.

13 “(c) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—In determining the  
14 amount of the non-Federal share of the cost of a  
15 broadband project, the Secretary may provide credit to-  
16 ward the non-Federal share for the present value of allow-  
17 able contributions over the useful life of the broadband  
18 project, subject to the condition that the Secretary may  
19 require such assurances of the value of the rights and of  
20 the commitment of the rights as the Secretary determines  
21 to be appropriate.”.

22 **SEC. 115. CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT**  
23 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

24 Title II of the Public Works and Economic Develop-  
25 ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended

1 by section 114) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 **“SEC. 222. CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT**  
4 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible  
6 recipient, the Secretary may make grants under the ‘Crit-  
7 ical Supply Chain Site Development grant program’ (re-  
8 ferred to in this section as the ‘grant program’) to carry  
9 out site development or expansion projects for the purpose  
10 of making the site ready for manufacturing projects.

11 “(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In providing a grant to an  
12 eligible recipient under the grant program, the Secretary  
13 may consider whether—

14 “(1) the proposed improvements to the site will  
15 improve economic conditions for rural areas, Tribal  
16 communities, or areas that meet 1 or more of the  
17 criteria described in section 301(a);

18 “(2) the project is consistent with regional eco-  
19 nomic development plans, which may include a com-  
20 prehensive economic development strategy;

21 “(3) the eligible recipient has initiatives to  
22 prioritize job training and workforce development;  
23 and

1           “(4) the project supports industries determined  
2           by the Secretary to be of strategic importance to the  
3           national or economic security of the United States.

4           “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants to eligible re-  
5           cipients under the grant program, the Secretary shall give  
6           priority to eligible recipients that propose to carry out a  
7           project that—

8           “(1) has State, local, private, or nonprofit  
9           funds being contributed to assist with site develop-  
10          ment efforts; and

11          “(2) if the site development or expansion  
12          project is carried out, will result in a demonstrated  
13          interest in the site by commercial entities or other  
14          entities.

15          “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant provided under the  
16          grant program may be used for the following activities re-  
17          lating to the development or expansion of a site:

18          “(1) Investments in site utility readiness, in-  
19          cluding—

20                  “(A) construction of on-site utility infra-  
21                  structure;

22                  “(B) construction of last-mile infrastruc-  
23                  ture, including road infrastructure, water infra-  
24                  structure, power infrastructure, broadband in-

1           frastructure, and other physical last-mile infra-  
2           structure;

3           “(C) site grading; and

4           “(D) other activities to extend public utili-  
5           ties or services to a site, as determined appro-  
6           priate by the Secretary.

7           “(2) Investments in site readiness, including—

8           “(A) land assembly;

9           “(B) environmental reviews;

10          “(C) zoning;

11          “(D) design;

12          “(E) engineering; and

13          “(F) permitting.

14          “(3) Investments in workforce development and  
15          sustainability programs, including job training and  
16          retraining programs.

17          “(4) Investments to ensure that disadvantaged  
18          communities have access to on-site jobs.

19          “(e) PROHIBITION.—In awarding grants under the  
20          grant program, the Secretary shall not require an eligible  
21          recipient to demonstrate that a private company or invest-  
22          ment has selected the site for development or expansion.”.

1 **SEC. 116. UPDATED DISTRESS CRITERIA AND GRANT**  
2 **RATES.**

3 Section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic  
4 Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)) is amended  
5 by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

6 “(3) UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, OR  
7 ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS.—The area is  
8 an area that the Secretary determines has experi-  
9 enced or is about to experience a special need arising  
10 from actual or threatened severe unemployment,  
11 underemployment, or economic adjustment problems  
12 resulting from severe short-term or long-term  
13 changes in economic conditions.

14 “(4) LOW MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME.—The  
15 area has a median household income of 80 percent  
16 or less of the national average.

17 “(5) WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION.—The area  
18 has—

19 “(A) a labor force participation rate of 90  
20 percent or less of the national average; or

21 “(B) a prime-age employment gap of 5  
22 percent or more.

23 “(6) EXPECTED ECONOMIC DISLOCATION AND  
24 DISTRESS FROM ENERGY INDUSTRY TRANSITIONS.—  
25 The area is an area that is expected to experience  
26 actual or threatened severe unemployment or eco-

1        nomic adjustment problems resulting from severe  
2        short-term or long-term changes in economic condi-  
3        tions from energy industries that are experiencing  
4        accelerated contraction.”.

5 **SEC. 117. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
6 **STRATEGIES.**

7        Section 302 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
8        velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162) is amended—

9             (1) in subsection (a)(3)(A), by inserting “in-  
10        cluding to mitigate and adapt to extreme weather,”  
11        after “enhances and protects the environment,”; and

12            (2) by adding at the end the following:

13        “(d) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to  
14        grants awarded under section 207 or grants awarded  
15        under section 209(c)(2) that are regional in scope.”.

16 **SEC. 118. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

17        Title V of the Public Works and Economic Develop-  
18        ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) is amended  
19        by adding at the end the following:

20 **“SEC. 508. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

21        “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
22        the Economic Development Administration an Office of  
23        Tribal Economic Development (referred to in this section  
24        as the ‘Office’).

1 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office shall  
2 be—

3 “(1) to coordinate all Tribal economic develop-  
4 ment activities carried out by the Secretary;

5 “(2) to help Tribal communities access eco-  
6 nomic development assistance programs, including  
7 the assistance provided under this Act;

8 “(3) to coordinate Tribal economic development  
9 strategies and efforts with other Federal agencies;  
10 and

11 “(4) to be a participant in any negotiated  
12 rulemakings or consultations relating to, or having  
13 an impact on, projects, programs, or funding that  
14 benefit Tribal communities.

15 “(c) TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRAT-  
16 EGY.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
18 the date of enactment of the Economic Development  
19 Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Office shall initiate  
20 a Tribal consultation process to develop, and not less  
21 frequently than every 3 years thereafter, update, a  
22 strategic plan for Tribal economic development for  
23 the Economic Development Administration.

24 “(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
25 than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Eco-

1        nomic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024  
2        and not less frequently than every 3 years there-  
3        after, the Office shall submit to Congress the stra-  
4        tegic plan for Tribal economic development devel-  
5        oped under paragraph (1).

6        “(d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall establish a  
7        publicly facing website to help provide a comprehensive,  
8        single source of information for Indian tribes, Tribal lead-  
9        ers, Tribal businesses, and citizens in Tribal communities  
10       to better understand and access programs that support  
11       economic development in Tribal communities, including  
12       the economic development programs administered by Fed-  
13       eral agencies or departments other than the Department.

14       “(e) DEDICATED STAFF.—The Secretary shall en-  
15       sure that the Office has sufficient staff to carry out all  
16       outreach activities under this section.”.

17       **SEC. 119. OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESIL-**  
18       **IENCE.**

19       Title V of the Public Works and Economic Develop-  
20       ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) (as amended  
21       by section 118) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
22       lowing:



1 **“SEC. 509. OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESIL-**  
2 **IENCE.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
4 lish an Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience—

5 “(1) to direct and implement the post-disaster  
6 economic recovery responsibilities of the Economic  
7 Development Administration pursuant to subsections  
8 (c)(2) and (e) of section 209 and section 703;

9 “(2) to direct and implement economic recovery  
10 and enhanced resilience support function activities  
11 as directed under the National Disaster Recovery  
12 Framework; and

13 “(3) support long-term economic recovery in  
14 communities in which a major disaster or emergency  
15 has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Dis-  
16 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
17 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), or otherwise impacted by an  
18 event of national significance, as determined by the  
19 Secretary, through—

20 “(A) convening and deploying an economic  
21 development assessment team;

22 “(B) hosting or attending convenings re-  
23 lated to identification of additional Federal,  
24 State, local, and philanthropic entities and re-  
25 sources;

1           “(C) exploring potential flexibilities related  
2           to existing awards;

3           “(D) provision of technical assistance  
4           through staff or contractual resources; and

5           “(E) other activities determined by the  
6           Secretary to be appropriate.

7           “(b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION AUTHORI-  
8           TIES.—

9           “(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary is author-  
10          ized to appoint such temporary personnel as may be  
11          necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Of-  
12          fice of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, without re-  
13          gard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33  
14          of title 5, United States Code, governing appoint-  
15          ments in the competitive service and compensation  
16          of personnel.

17          “(2) CONVERSION OF EMPLOYEES.—Notwith-  
18          standing chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code,  
19          or any other provision of law relating to the exam-  
20          ination, certification, and appointment of individuals  
21          in the competitive service, the Secretary is author-  
22          ized to convert a temporary employee appointed  
23          under this subsection to a permanent appointment  
24          in the competitive service in the Economic Develop-

1       ment Administration under merit promotion proce-  
2       dures if—

3               “(A) the employee has served continuously  
4               for at least 2 years under 1 or more appoint-  
5               ments under this subsection; and

6               “(B) the employee’s performance has been  
7               at an acceptable level of performance through-  
8               out the period or periods referred to in sub-  
9               paragraph (A).

10              “(3) COMPENSATION.—An individual converted  
11              under this subsection shall become a career-condi-  
12              tional employee, unless the employee has already  
13              completed the service requirements for career ten-  
14              ure.

15              “(c) DISASTER TEAM.—

16              “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—As soon as practicable  
17              after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
18              retary shall establish a disaster team (referred to in  
19              this section as the ‘disaster team’) for the deploy-  
20              ment of individuals to carry out responsibilities of  
21              the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience after  
22              a major disaster or emergency has been declared  
23              under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
24              Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)

1 and the Department has been activated by the Fed-  
2 eral Emergency Management Agency.

3 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 “(A) DESIGNATION OF STAFF.—As soon  
5 as practicable after the date of enactment of  
6 this section, the Secretary shall designate to  
7 serve on the disaster team—

8 “(i) employees of the Office of Dis-  
9 aster Recovery and Resilience;

10 “(ii) employees of the Department  
11 who are not employees of the Economic  
12 Development Administration; and

13 “(iii) in consultation with the heads of  
14 other Federal agencies, employees of those  
15 agencies, as appropriate.

16 “(B) CAPABILITIES.—In designating indi-  
17 viduals under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
18 shall ensure that the disaster team includes a  
19 sufficient quantity of—

20 “(i) individuals who are capable of de-  
21 ploying rapidly and efficiently to respond  
22 to major disasters and emergencies; and

23 “(ii) highly trained full-time employ-  
24 ees who will lead and manage the disaster  
25 team.

1           “(3) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure  
2 that appropriate and ongoing training is provided to  
3 members of the disaster team to ensure that the  
4 members are adequately trained regarding the pro-  
5 grams and policies of the Economic Development  
6 Administration relating to post-disaster economic re-  
7 covery efforts.

8           “(4) EXPENSES.—In carrying out this section,  
9 the Secretary may—

10           “(A) use, with or without reimbursement,  
11 any service, equipment, personnel, or facility of  
12 any Federal agency with the explicit support of  
13 that agency, to the extent such use does not im-  
14 pair or conflict with the authority of the Presi-  
15 dent or the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
16 gency Management Agency under the Robert T.  
17 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
18 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) to direct  
19 Federal agencies in any major disaster or emer-  
20 gency declared under that Act; and

21           “(B) provide members of the disaster team  
22 with travel expenses, including per diem in lieu  
23 of subsistence, at rates authorized for an em-  
24 ployee of an agency under subchapter I of chap-  
25 ter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while

1 away from the home or regular place of busi-  
2 ness of the member in the performance of serv-  
3 ices for, or relating to, the disaster team.”.

4 **SEC. 120. ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LI-**  
5 **AISSONS.**

6 Title V of the Public Works and Economic Develop-  
7 ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) (as amended  
8 by section 119) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 **“SEC. 510. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Director of a re-  
12 gional office of the Economic Development Administration  
13 may designate a staff member to act as a ‘Technical As-  
14 sistance Liaison’ for any State served by the regional of-  
15 fice.

16 “(b) ROLE.—A Technical Assistance Liaison shall—

17 “(1) work in coordination with an Economic  
18 Development Representative to provide technical as-  
19 sistance, in addition to technical assistance under  
20 section 207, to eligible recipients that are  
21 underresourced communities, as determined by the  
22 Technical Assistance Liaison, that submit applica-  
23 tions for assistance under title II; and

24 “(2) at the request of an eligible recipient that  
25 submitted an application for assistance under title

1       II, provide technical feedback on unsuccessful grant  
2       applications.

3       “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may  
4       enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an eli-  
5       gible recipient for the purpose of providing technical as-  
6       sistance to eligible recipients that are underresourced com-  
7       munities that have submitted or may submit an applica-  
8       tion for assistance under this Act.”.

9       **SEC. 121. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

10       Section 603(b) of the Public Works and Economic  
11       Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3213(b)) is amend-  
12       ed—

13               (1) in paragraph (2)—

14                       (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
15               “areas” after “rural”; and

16                       (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
17               “and” at the end;

18               (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at  
19       the end and inserting “; and”; and

20               (3) by adding at the end the following:

21                       “(4)(A) include a list of all of the grants pro-  
22       vided by the Economic Development Administration  
23       for projects located in, or that primarily benefit,  
24       rural areas;

1           “(B) an explanation of the process used to de-  
2           termine how each project referred to in subpara-  
3           graph (A) would benefit a rural area; and

4           “(C) a certification that each project referred to  
5           in subparagraph (A)—

6                     “(i) is located in a rural area; or

7                     “(ii) will primarily benefit a rural area.”.

8   **SEC. 122. MODERNIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.**

9           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the  
10          date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce  
11          (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall sub-  
12          mit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works  
13          of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and  
14          Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report  
15          on the efforts of the Secretary to facilitate efficient, time-  
16          ly, and predictable environmental reviews of projects fund-  
17          ed by the Public Works and Economic Development Act  
18          of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.), including through ex-  
19          panded use of categorical exclusions, environmental as-  
20          sessments, or programmatic environmental impact state-  
21          ments.

22          (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In completing the report under  
23          subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

24                     (1) describe the actions the Secretary will take  
25                     to implement the amendments to the National Envi-



1       ronmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et  
2       seq.) made by section 321 of the Fiscal Responsi-  
3       bility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5; 137 Stat.  
4       38);

5               (2) describe the existing categorical exclusions  
6       most frequently used by the Secretary to streamline  
7       the environmental review of projects funded by the  
8       Public Works and Economic Development Act of  
9       1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.); and

10              (3) consider—

11                   (A) the adoption of additional categorical  
12       exclusions, including those used by other Fed-  
13       eral agencies, that would facilitate the environ-  
14       mental review of projects funded by the Public  
15       Works and Economic Development Act of 1965  
16       (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.);

17                   (B) the adoption of new programmatic en-  
18       vironmental impact statements that would fa-  
19       cilitate the environmental review of projects  
20       funded by the Public Works and Economic De-  
21       velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et  
22       seq.); and

23                   (C) agreements with other Federal agen-  
24       cies that would facilitate a more efficient proc-  
25       ess for the environmental review of projects

1 funded by the Public Works and Economic De-  
2 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et  
3 seq.).

4 (c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2 years after the  
5 submission of the report under subsection (a), the Sec-  
6 retary shall promulgate a final rule implementing, to the  
7 maximum extent practicable, measures considered by the  
8 Secretary under subsection (b) that are necessary to  
9 streamline the environmental review of projects funded by  
10 the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965  
11 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

12 **SEC. 123. GAO REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRO-**  
13 **GRAMS.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term  
16 “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller Gen-  
17 eral of the United States.

18 (2) REGIONAL COMMISSION.—The term “Re-  
19 gional Commission” has the meaning given the term  
20 in section 3 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
21 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122).

22 (b) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2026,  
23 the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee  
24 on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the  
25 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the

1 House of Representatives a report that evaluates economic  
2 development programs administered by the Economic De-  
3 velopment Administration and the Regional Commissions.

4 (c) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the report under  
5 subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall—

6 (1) evaluate the impact of programs described  
7 in that subsection on economic outcomes, including  
8 job creation and retention, the rate of unemployment  
9 and underemployment, labor force participation, and  
10 private investment leveraged;

11 (2) describe efforts by the Economic Develop-  
12 ment Administration and the Regional Commissions  
13 to document the impact of programs described in  
14 that subsection on economic outcomes described in  
15 paragraph (1);

16 (3) describe efforts by the Economic Develop-  
17 ment Administration and the Regional Commissions  
18 to carry out coordination activities described in sec-  
19 tion 103 of the Public Works and Economic Devel-  
20 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3133);

21 (4) consider other factors, as determined to be  
22 appropriate by the Comptroller General of the  
23 United States, to assess the effectiveness of pro-  
24 grams described in subsection (b); and

1           (5) make legislative recommendations for im-  
2           provements to programs described in subsection (b)  
3           as applicable.

4 **SEC. 124. GAO REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AD-**  
5 **MINISTRATION REGULATIONS AND POLICIES.**

6           (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7           (1) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term  
8           “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller Gen-  
9           eral of the United States.

10          (2) SMALL COMMUNITY.—The term “small  
11          community” means a community of less than 10,000  
12          year-round residents.

13          (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
14 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall  
15 submit to the Committee on Environment and Public  
16 Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transpor-  
17 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives  
18 a report that evaluates economic development regulations  
19 and policies administered by the Economic Development  
20 Administration that have hindered the ability of commu-  
21 nities to apply for and administer Economic Development  
22 Administration grants.

23          (c) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the report under  
24 subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall—

1           (1) review regulations and grant application  
2 processes promulgated by the Assistant Secretary of  
3 Commerce for Economic Development;

4           (2) evaluate the technical capacity of eligible re-  
5 cipients (as defined in section 3 of the Public Works  
6 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.  
7 3122)) to apply for Economic Development Adminis-  
8 tration grants;

9           (3) identify barriers to small communities ap-  
10 plying for Economic Development Administration  
11 grants, in consultation with—

12                 (A) State economic development represent-  
13 atives;

14                 (B) secretaries of State departments of  
15 economic development;

16                 (C) representatives for small communities  
17 that have received Economic Development Ad-  
18 ministration grants; and

19                 (D) representatives for small communities  
20 that have never applied for Economic Develop-  
21 ment Administration grants; and

22           (4) provide recommendations for simplifying  
23 and easing the ability for grant applicants to navi-  
24 gate the Economic Development Administration  
25 grant application process, including through a review

1 of regulations, including environmental regulations,  
2 not in the jurisdiction of the Economic Development  
3 Administration to identify possible grant application  
4 process improvements.

5 **SEC. 125. GAO STUDY ON RURAL COMMUNITIES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
8 of the United States (referred to in this section as the  
9 “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study to evaluate  
10 the impacts of funding provided by the Economic Develop-  
11 ment Administration to distressed communities (as de-  
12 scribed in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Eco-  
13 nomic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a))) lo-  
14 cated in rural areas.

15 (b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the study under  
16 subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

17 (1) identify not less than 5 geographically di-  
18 verse distressed communities in rural areas; and

19 (2) for each distressed community identified  
20 under paragraph (1), examine the impacts of fund-  
21 ing provided by the Economic Development Adminis-  
22 tration on—

23 (A) the local jobs and unemployment of the  
24 community; and

1 (B) the availability of affordable housing in  
2 the community.

3 (c) REPORT.—On completion of the study under sub-  
4 section (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the  
5 Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Sen-  
6 ate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-  
7 ture of the House of Representatives a report on the find-  
8 ings of the study and any recommendations that result  
9 from the study.

10 **SEC. 126. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 701 of the Public Works  
12 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3231)  
13 is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
15 section (k); and

16 (2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the  
17 following:

18 “(a) GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC  
19 DEVELOPMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated  
20 to carry out section 201, to remain available until ex-  
21 pended—

22 “(1) \$170,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

23 “(2) \$195,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

24 “(3) \$220,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

25 “(4) \$245,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

1           “(5) \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

2           “(b) GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR AD-  
3   MINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—There are authorized to be  
4   appropriated to carry out section 203, to remain available  
5   until expended—

6           “(1) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

7           “(2) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

8           “(3) \$110,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

9           “(4) \$120,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

10          “(5) \$130,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

11          “(c) GRANTS FOR TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND TECH-  
12   NICAL ASSISTANCE.—There are authorized to be appro-  
13   priated to carry out section 207, to remain available until  
14   expended—

15          “(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

16          “(2) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

17          “(3) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

18          “(4) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

19          “(5) \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

20          “(d) GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.—There  
21   are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209  
22   (other than subsections (d) and (e)), to remain available  
23   until expended—

24          “(1) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

25          “(2) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;



1 “(3) \$85,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

2 “(4) \$95,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

3 “(5) \$105,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

4 “(e) ASSISTANCE TO COAL COMMUNITIES.—There is  
5 authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209(d)  
6 \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029,  
7 to remain available until expended.

8 “(f) ASSISTANCE TO NUCLEAR HOST COMMU-  
9 NITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry  
10 out section 209(e), to remain available until expended—

11 “(1) to carry out paragraph (2)(A),  
12 \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through  
13 2029; and

14 “(2) to carry out paragraph (2)(B), \$5,000,000  
15 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2027.

16 “(g) RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM.—There is au-  
17 thorized to be appropriated to carry out section 218  
18 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029,  
19 to remain available until expended.

20 “(h) WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.—There is au-  
21 thorized to be appropriated to carry out section 219  
22 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029,  
23 to remain available until expended, of which \$10,000,000  
24 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 shall be used  
25 to carry out subsection (c) of that section.

1       “(i) CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT  
2 GRANT PROGRAM.—There is authorized to be appro-  
3 priated to carry out section 222 \$20,000,000 for each of  
4 fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until  
5 expended.

6       “(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.—There is  
7 authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 510  
8 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029,  
9 to remain available until expended.”.

10       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title VII of the  
11 Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42  
12 U.S.C. 3231 et seq.) is amended by striking section 704.

13 **SEC. 127. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**

14       Section 1 of the Public Works and Economic Devel-  
15 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law  
16 89–136) is amended by striking subsection (b) and insert-  
17 ing the following:

18       “(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents  
19 for this Act is as follows:

“Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

“Sec. 2. Findings and declarations.

“Sec. 3. Definitions.

“TITLE I—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS  
COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

“Sec. 101. Establishment of economic development partnerships.

“Sec. 102. Cooperation of Federal agencies.

“Sec. 103. Coordination.

“TITLE II—GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

“Sec. 201. Grants for public works and economic development.

- “See. 202. Base closings and realignments.
- “See. 203. Grants for planning and grants for administrative expenses.
- “See. 204. Cost sharing.
- “See. 205. Supplementary grants.
- “See. 206. Regulations on relative needs and allocations.
- “See. 207. Research and technical assistance; university centers.
- “See. 208. Investment priorities.
- “See. 209. Grants for economic adjustment.
- “See. 210. Changed project circumstances.
- “See. 211. Use of funds in projects constructed under projected cost.
- “See. 212. Reports by recipients.
- “See. 213. Prohibition on use of funds for attorney’s and consultant’s fees.
- “See. 214. Special impact areas.
- “See. 215. Performance awards.
- “See. 216. Planning performance awards.
- “See. 217. Direct expenditure or redistribution by recipient.
- “See. 218. Renewable energy program.
- “See. 219. Workforce training grants.
- “See. 220. Congressional notification requirements.
- “See. 221. High-Speed Broadband Deployment Initiative.
- “See. 222. Critical supply chain site development grant program.

“TITLE III—ELIGIBILITY; COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- “See. 301. Eligibility of areas.
- “See. 302. Comprehensive economic development strategies.

“TITLE IV—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

- “See. 401. Designation of economic development districts.
- “See. 402. Termination or modification of economic development districts.
- “See. 404. Provision of comprehensive economic development strategies to Regional Commissions.
- “See. 405. Assistance to parts of economic development districts not in eligible areas.

“TITLE V—ADMINISTRATION

- “See. 501. Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.
- “See. 502. Economic development information clearinghouse.
- “See. 503. Consultation with other persons and agencies.
- “See. 504. Administration, operation, and maintenance.
- “See. 506. Performance evaluations of grant recipients.
- “See. 507. Notification of reorganization.
- “See. 508. Office of Tribal Economic Development.
- “See. 509. Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience.
- “See. 510. Technical Assistance Liaisons.

“TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

- “See. 601. Powers of Secretary.
- “See. 602. Maintenance of standards.
- “See. 603. Annual report to Congress.
- “See. 604. Delegation of functions and transfer of funds among Federal agencies.
- “See. 605. Penalties.

“Sec. 606. Employment of expeditors and administrative employees.

“Sec. 607. Maintenance and public inspection of list of approved applications for financial assistance.

“Sec. 608. Records and audits.

“Sec. 609. Relationship to assistance under other law.

“Sec. 610. Acceptance of certifications by applicants.

“Sec. 611. Brownfields redevelopment reports.

“Sec. 612. Savings clause.

“TITLE VII—FUNDING

“Sec. 701. General authorization of appropriations.

“Sec. 702. Authorization of appropriations for defense conversation activities.

“Sec. 703. Authorization of appropriations for disaster economic recovery activities.”.

1 **TITLE II—REGIONAL ECONOMIC**  
 2 **AND INFRASTRUCTURE DE-**  
 3 **VELOPMENT**

4 **SEC. 201. REGIONAL COMMISSION AUTHORIZATIONS.**

5 Section 15751 of title 40, United States Code, is  
 6 amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the fol-  
 7 lowing:

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
 9 priated to each Commission to carry out this subtitle  
 10 \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

11 **SEC. 202. REGIONAL COMMISSION MODIFICATIONS.**

12 (a) MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15301  
 13 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(C)—

15 (A) by striking “An alternate member”  
 16 and inserting the following:

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An alternate  
 18 member”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(ii) STATE ALTERNATES.—If the al-  
3 ternate State member is unable to vote in  
4 accordance with clause (i), the alternate  
5 State member may delegate voting author-  
6 ity to a designee, subject to the condition  
7 that the executive director shall be notified,  
8 in writing, of the designation not less than  
9 1 week before the applicable vote is to take  
10 place.”; and

11 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “a Federal em-  
12 ployee” and inserting “an employee”.

13 (b) DECISIONS OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15302 of  
14 title 40, United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or alternate  
16 State members, including designees” after “State  
17 members”; and

18 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
19 following:

20 “(c) QUORUMS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a  
22 Commission shall determine what constitutes a  
23 quorum for meetings of the Commission.

24 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Any quorum for meet-  
25 ings of a Commission shall include—

1           “(A) the Federal Cochairperson or the al-  
2           ternate Federal Cochairperson; and

3           “(B) a majority of State members or alter-  
4           nate State members, including designees (exclu-  
5           sive of members representing States delinquent  
6           under section 15304(c)(3)(C)).”.

7           (c) ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AND EXPENSES OF  
8           COMMISSIONS.—Section 15304(a) of title 40, United  
9           States Code, is amended—

10           (1) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, which may  
11           be done without a requirement for the Commission  
12           to reimburse the agency or local government” after  
13           “status”;

14           (2) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as  
15           paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively;

16           (3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-  
17           lowing:

18           “(8) collect fees for services provided and retain  
19           and expend such fees;”;

20           (4) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated), by  
21           inserting “leases (including the lease of office space  
22           for any term),” after “cooperative agreements;” and

23           (5) in paragraph (10) (as so redesignated), by  
24           striking “maintain a government relations office in  
25           the District of Columbia and”.

1 (d) MEETINGS OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15305(b)  
2 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking  
3 “with the Federal Cochairperson” and all that follows  
4 through the period at the end and inserting the following:  
5 “with—

6 “(1) the Federal Cochairperson; and

7 “(2) at least a majority of the State members  
8 or alternate State members (including designees)  
9 present in-person or via electronic means.”.

10 (e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 15308(a) of title 40,  
11 United States Code, is amended by striking “90” and in-  
12 serting “180”.

13 **SEC. 203. TRANSFER OF FUNDS AMONG FEDERAL AGEN-**  
14 **CIES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 153 of subtitle V of title  
16 40, United States Code, is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating section 15308 as section  
18 15309; and

19 (2) by inserting after section 15307 the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 **“§ 15308. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), for  
23 purposes of this subtitle, each Commission may transfer  
24 funds to and accept transfers of funds from other Federal  
25 agencies.

1       “(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO OTHER FEDERAL  
2 AGENCIES.—Funds made available to a Commission may  
3 be transferred to other Federal agencies if the funds are  
4 used consistently with the purposes for which the funds  
5 were specifically authorized and appropriated.

6       “(c) TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM OTHER FEDERAL  
7 AGENCIES.—Funds may be transferred to any Commis-  
8 sion under this section if—

9               “(1) the statutory authority for the funds pro-  
10       vided by the Federal agency does not expressly pro-  
11       hibit use of funds for authorities being carried out  
12       by a Commission; and

13               “(2) the Federal agency that provides the funds  
14       determines that the activities for which the funds  
15       are to be used are otherwise eligible for funding  
16       under such a statutory authority.”.

17       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-  
18       ter 153 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is  
19       amended by striking the item relating to section 15308  
20       and inserting the following:

“15308. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies.  
“15309. Annual reports.”.

21 **SEC. 204. ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOP-**  
22 **MENT GRANTS.**

23       Section 15501 of title 40, United States Code, is  
24       amended—



1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (4)  
3 through (9) as paragraphs (6) through (11), re-  
4 spectively; and

5 (B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the  
6 following:

7 “(4) in coordination with relevant Federal agen-  
8 cies, to design, build, implement, or update infra-  
9 structure to support resilience to extreme weather  
10 events;

11 “(5) to promote the production of housing to  
12 meet economic development and workforce needs;”;  
13 and

14 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “(7)” and in-  
15 serting “(9)”.

16 **SEC. 205. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 155 of subtitle V of title  
18 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end  
19 the following:

20 **“§ 15507. Payment of non-Federal share for certain**  
21 **Federal grant programs**

22 “Amounts made available to carry out this subtitle  
23 shall be available for the payment of the non-Federal  
24 share for any project carried out under another Federal  
25 grant program—

1           “(1) for which a Commission is not the sole or  
2           primary funding source; and

3           “(2) that is consistent with the authorities of  
4           the applicable Commission.”.

5           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-  
6           ter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is  
7           amended by adding at the end the following:

          “15507. Payment of non-Federal share for certain Federal grant programs.”.

8           **SEC. 206. NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION**

9                               **AREA.**

10           Section 15733 of title 40, United States Code, is  
11           amended—

12                       (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Lincoln,”  
13           after “Knox,”;

14                       (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting  
15           “Merrimack,” after “Grafton,”; and

16                       (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Wyoming,”  
17           after “Wayne,”.

18           **SEC. 207. SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION**

19                               **AREA.**

20           Section 15732 of title 40, United States Code, is  
21           amended—

22                       (1) in paragraph (3)—

23                               (A) by inserting “Bernalillo,” before  
24           “Catron,”;

1 (B) by inserting “Cibola, Curry, De Baca,”  
2 after “Chaves,”;

3 (C) by inserting “Guadalupe,” after  
4 “Grant,”;

5 (D) by inserting “Roosevelt,” after  
6 “Otero,”; and

7 (E) by striking “and Socorro” and insert-  
8 ing “Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia”; and  
9 (2) in paragraph (4)—

10 (A) by inserting “Guadalupe,” after  
11 “Glasscock,”; and

12 (B) by striking “Tom Green Upton,” and  
13 inserting “Tom Green, Upton,”.

14 **SEC. 208. GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY AREA.**

15 Section 15734 of title 40, United States Code, is  
16 amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by in-  
17 serting “the counties which contain, in part or in whole,  
18 the” after “consist of”.

19 **SEC. 209. ADDITIONAL REGIONAL COMMISSION PROGRAMS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle V of title 40, United  
21 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
22 lowing:

23 **“CHAPTER 159—ADDITIONAL REGIONAL**  
24 **COMMISSION PROGRAMS**

“Sec.

“15901. State capacity building grant program.

“15902. Demonstration health projects.

1 **“§ 15901. State capacity building grant program**

2 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 “(1) COMMISSION STATE.—The term ‘Commis-  
4 sion State’ means a State that contains 1 or more  
5 eligible counties.

6 “(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTY.—The term ‘eligible  
7 county’ means a county described in subchapter II  
8 of chapter 157.

9 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means a  
10 State capacity building grant program established by  
11 a Commission under subsection (b).

12 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each Commission shall es-  
13 tablish a State capacity building grant program to provide  
14 grants to Commission States in the area served by the  
15 Commission for the purposes described in subsection (c).

16 “(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a program are to  
17 support the efforts of the Commission—

18 “(1) to better support business retention and  
19 expansion in eligible counties;

20 “(2) to create programs to encourage job cre-  
21 ation and workforce development in eligible counties;

22 “(3) to partner with universities in distressed  
23 counties (as designated under section  
24 15702(a)(1))—

1           “(A) to strengthen the capacity to train  
2           new professionals in fields for which there is a  
3           shortage of workers;

4           “(B) to increase local capacity for project  
5           management, project execution, and financial  
6           management; and

7           “(C) to leverage funding sources;

8           “(4) to prepare economic and infrastructure  
9           plans for eligible counties;

10          “(5) to expand access to high-speed broadband  
11          in eligible counties;

12          “(6) to provide technical assistance that results  
13          in Commission investments in transportation, water,  
14          wastewater, and other critical infrastructure;

15          “(7) to promote workforce development to sup-  
16          port resilient infrastructure projects;

17          “(8) to develop initiatives to increase the effec-  
18          tiveness of local development districts in eligible  
19          counties;

20          “(9) to implement new or innovative economic  
21          development practices that will better position eligi-  
22          ble counties to compete in the global economy; and

23          “(10) to identify and address important re-  
24          gional impediments to prosperity and to leverage

1 unique regional advantages to create economic op-  
2 portunities for the region served by the Commission.

3 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds from a grant under  
5 a program may be used to support a project, pro-  
6 gram, or related expense of the Commission State in  
7 an eligible county.

8 “(2) LIMITATION.—Funds from a grant under  
9 a program shall not be used for—

10 “(A) the purchase of furniture, fixtures, or  
11 equipment;

12 “(B) the compensation of—

13 “(i) any State member of the Com-  
14 mission (as described in section  
15 15301(b)(1)(B)); or

16 “(ii) any State alternate member of  
17 the Commission (as described in section  
18 15301(b)(2)(B)); or

19 “(C) the cost of supplanting existing State  
20 programs.

21 “(e) ANNUAL WORK PLAN.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, before  
23 providing a grant under a program, each Commis-  
24 sion State shall provide to the Commission an an-

1 nual work plan that includes the proposed use of the  
2 grant.

3 “(2) APPROVAL.—No grant under a program  
4 shall be provided to a Commission State unless the  
5 Commission has approved the annual work plan of  
6 the State.

7 “(f) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant  
9 provided to a Commission State under a program  
10 for a fiscal year shall be based on the proportion  
11 that—

12 “(A) the amount paid by the Commission  
13 State (including any amounts paid on behalf of  
14 the Commission State by a nonprofit organiza-  
15 tion) for administrative expenses for the appli-  
16 cable fiscal year (as determined under section  
17 15304(c)); bears to

18 “(B) the amount paid by all Commission  
19 States served by the Commission (including any  
20 amounts paid on behalf of a Commission State  
21 by a nonprofit organization) for administrative  
22 expenses for that fiscal year (as determined  
23 under that section).

24 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to receive  
25 a grant under a program for a fiscal year, a Com-

1 mission State (or a nonprofit organization on behalf  
2 of the Commission State) shall pay the amount of  
3 administrative expenses of the Commission State for  
4 the applicable fiscal year (as determined under sec-  
5 tion 15304(c)).

6 “(3) APPROVAL.—For each fiscal year, a grant  
7 provided under a program shall be approved and  
8 made available as part of the approval of the annual  
9 budget of the Commission.

10 “(g) GRANT AVAILABILITY.—Funds from a grant  
11 under a program shall be available only during the fiscal  
12 year for which the grant is provided.

13 “(h) REPORT.—Each fiscal year, each Commission  
14 State shall submit to the relevant Commission and make  
15 publicly available a report that describes the use of the  
16 grant funds and the impact of the program in the Com-  
17 mission State.

18 “(i) CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM AUTHORITY FOR  
19 NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION.—With re-  
20 spect to the Northern Border Regional Commission, the  
21 program shall be a continuation of the program under sec-  
22 tion 6304(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018  
23 (40 U.S.C. 15501 note; Public Law 115–334) (as in effect  
24 on the day before the date of enactment of this section).



1 **“§ 15902. Demonstration health projects**

2       “(a) PURPOSE.—To demonstrate the value of ade-  
3 quate health facilities and services to the economic devel-  
4 opment of the region, a Commission may make grants for  
5 the planning, construction, equipment, and operation of  
6 demonstration health, nutrition, and child care projects  
7 (referred to in this section as a ‘demonstration health  
8 project’), including hospitals, regional health diagnostic  
9 and treatment centers, and other facilities and services  
10 necessary for the purposes of this section.

11       “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-  
12 ceive a grant under this section is—

13               “(1) an entity described in section 15501(a);

14               “(2) an institution of higher education (as de-  
15 fined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act  
16 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)));

17               “(3) a hospital (as defined in section 1861 of  
18 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x)); or

19               “(4) a critical access hospital (as defined in  
20 that section).

21       “(c) PLANNING GRANTS.—

22               “(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission may make  
23 grants for planning expenses necessary for the devel-  
24 opment and operation of demonstration health  
25 projects for the region served by the Commission.

1           “(2) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—  
2           The maximum Commission contribution for a dem-  
3           onstration health project that receives a grant under  
4           paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with sec-  
5           tion 15501(d).

6           “(3) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—A grant under  
7           paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from  
8           amounts made available to carry out this section or  
9           in combination with amounts provided under other  
10          Federal grant programs.

11          “(4) FEDERAL SHARE FOR GRANTS UNDER  
12          OTHER FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS.—Notwith-  
13          standing any provision of law limiting the Federal  
14          share in other Federal grant programs, amounts  
15          made available to carry out this subsection may be  
16          used to increase the Federal share of another Fed-  
17          eral grant up to the maximum contribution de-  
18          scribed in paragraph (2).

19          “(d) CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT GRANTS.—

20                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section  
21                 for construction or equipment of a demonstration  
22                 health project may be used for—

23                         “(A) costs of construction;

24                         “(B) the acquisition of privately owned fa-  
25                         cilities—

1 “(i) not operated for profit; or

2 “(ii) previously operated for profit if  
3 the Commission finds that health services  
4 would not otherwise be provided in the  
5 area served by the facility if the acquisition  
6 is not made; and

7 “(C) the acquisition of initial equipment.

8 “(2) STANDARDS FOR MAKING GRANTS.—A  
9 grant under paragraph (1)—

10 “(A) shall be approved in accordance with  
11 section 15503; and

12 “(B) shall not be incompatible with the ap-  
13 plicable provisions of title VI of the Public  
14 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 291 et seq.), the  
15 Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill  
16 of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et  
17 seq.), and other laws authorizing grants for the  
18 construction of health-related facilities, without  
19 regard to any provisions in those laws relating  
20 to appropriation authorization ceilings or to al-  
21 lotments among the States.

22 “(3) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—  
23 The maximum Commission contribution for a dem-  
24 onstration health project that receives a grant under

1 paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with sec-  
2 tion 15501(d).

3 “(4) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—A grant under  
4 paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from  
5 amounts made available to carry out this section or  
6 in combination with amounts provided under other  
7 Federal grant programs.

8 “(5) CONTRIBUTION TO INCREASED FEDERAL  
9 SHARE FOR OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS.—Notwith-  
10 standing any provision of law limiting the Federal  
11 share in another Federal grant program for the con-  
12 struction or equipment of a demonstration health  
13 project, amounts made available to carry out this  
14 subsection may be used to increase Federal grants  
15 for component facilities of a demonstration health  
16 project to a maximum of 90 percent of the cost of  
17 the facilities.

18 “(e) OPERATION GRANTS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section  
20 for the operation of a demonstration health project  
21 may be used for—

22 “(A) the costs of operation of the facility;

23 and

1           “(B) initial operating costs, including the  
2           costs of attracting, training, and retaining  
3           qualified personnel.

4           “(2) STANDARDS FOR MAKING GRANTS.—A  
5           grant for the operation of a demonstration health  
6           project shall not be made unless the facility funded  
7           by the grant is—

8                   “(A) publicly owned;

9                   “(B) owned by a public or private non-  
10           profit organization;

11                   “(C) a private hospital described in section  
12           501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
13           and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)  
14           of that Code; or

15                   “(D) a private hospital that provides a cer-  
16           tain amount of uncompensated care, as deter-  
17           mined by the Commission, and applies for the  
18           grant in partnership with a State, local govern-  
19           ment, or Indian Tribe.

20           “(3) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—  
21           The maximum Commission contribution for a dem-  
22           onstration health project that receives a grant under  
23           paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with sec-  
24           tion 15501(d).

1           “(4) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—A grant under  
2 paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from  
3 amounts made available to carry out this section or  
4 in combination with amounts provided under other  
5 Federal grant programs for the operation of health-  
6 related facilities or the provision of health and child  
7 development services, including parts A and B of  
8 title IV and title XX of the Social Security Act (42  
9 U.S.C. 601 et seq., 621 et seq., 1397 et seq.).

10           “(5) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any  
11 provision of law limiting the Federal share in the  
12 other Federal programs described in paragraph (4),  
13 amounts made available to carry out this subsection  
14 may be used to increase the Federal share of a grant  
15 under those programs up to the maximum contribu-  
16 tion described in paragraph (3).

17           “(f) PRIORITY HEALTH PROGRAMS.—If a Commis-  
18 sion elects to make grants under this section, the Commis-  
19 sion shall establish specific regional health priorities for  
20 such grants that address—

21           “(1) addiction treatment and access to re-  
22 sources helping individuals in recovery;

23           “(2) workforce shortages in the healthcare in-  
24 dustry; or

1           “(3) access to services for screening and diag-  
2           nosing chronic health issues.”.

3           (b) REPEAL.—Section 6304(c) of the Agriculture Im-  
4           provement Act of 2018 (40 U.S.C. 15501 note; Public  
5           Law 115–334) is repealed.

6           (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters  
7           for subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended  
8           by inserting after the item relating to chapter 157 the fol-  
9           lowing:

          “159. Additional Regional Commission Programs ..... 15901”.

10       **SEC. 210. TRIBAL AND COLONIA PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH-**  
11                               **WEST BORDER REGION.**

12           (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 155 of subtitle V of title  
13           40, United States Code (as amended by section 205(a)),  
14           is amended by adding at the end the following:

15       **“§ 15508. Waiver of matching requirement for Indian**  
16                               **tribes and colonias in Southwest Border**  
17                               **Regional Commission programs**

18           “(a) DEFINITION OF COLONIA.—

19                               “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term  
20           ‘colonia’ means a community—

21                                       “(A) that is located—

22   “(i) in the State of Arizona, Cali-  
23           fornia, New Mexico, or Texas;

1                   “(ii) not more than 150 miles from  
2                   the border between the United States and  
3                   Mexico; and

4                   “(iii) outside a standard metropolitan  
5                   statistical area that has a population ex-  
6                   ceeding 1,000,000;

7                   “(B) that—

8                   “(i) lacks a potable water supply;

9                   “(ii) lacks an adequate sewage sys-  
10                  tem; or

11                  “(iii) lacks decent, safe, and sanitary  
12                  housing; and

13                  “(C) that has been treated or designated  
14                  as a colonia by a Federal or State program.

15                  “(b) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision  
16 of law, in the case of assistance provided to a colonia or  
17 an Indian tribe under this subtitle by the Southwest Bor-  
18 der Regional Commission, the Federal share of the cost  
19 of the project carried out with that assistance may be up  
20 to 100 percent, as determined by the selection official, the  
21 State Cochairperson (or an alternate), and the Federal  
22 Cochairperson (or an alternate).”.

23                  (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-  
24 ter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code (as



1 amended by section 205(b)), is amended by inserting after  
 2 the item relating to section 15507 the following:

“15508. Waiver of matching requirement for Indian tribes and colonias in  
 Southwest Border Regional Commission programs.”.

3 **SEC. 211. ESTABLISHMENT OF MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL**  
 4 **COMMISSION.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 15301(a) of title 40,  
 6 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
 7 following:

8 “(5) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.”.

9 (b) DESIGNATION OF REGION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter  
 11 157 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by  
 12 adding at the end the following:

13 **“§ 15735. Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.**

14 “The region of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Commis-  
 15 sion shall include the following counties:

16 “(1) DELAWARE.—Each county in the State of  
 17 Delaware.

18 “(2) MARYLAND.—Each county in the State of  
 19 Maryland that is not already served by the Appa-  
 20 lachian Regional Commission.

21 “(3) PENNSYLVANIA.—Each county in the  
 22 State of Pennsylvania that is not already served by  
 23 the Appalachian Regional Commission.”.

1           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for  
 2           subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United  
 3           States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
 4           following:

“15735. Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.”.

5           (c) APPLICATION.—Section 15702(c) of title 40,  
 6           United States Code, is amended—

7           (1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-  
 8           graph (4); and

9           (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
 10          lowing:

11           “(3) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (2) shall not  
 12          apply to a county described in paragraph (2) or (3)  
 13          of section 15735.”.

14   **SEC. 212. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND**  
 15                           **REGIONAL COMMISSION.**

16          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 15301(a) of title 40,  
 17          United States Code (as amended by section 211(a)), is  
 18          amended by adding at the end the following:

19           “(6) The Southern New England Regional  
 20          Commission.”.

21          (b) DESIGNATION OF REGION.—

22           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter  
 23          157 of title 40, United States Code (as amended by  
 24          section 211(b)(1)), is amended by adding at the end  
 25          the following:

1 **“§ 15736. Southern New England Regional Commis-**  
 2 **sion**

3 “The region of the Southern New England Regional  
 4 Commission shall include the following counties:

5 “(1) RHODE ISLAND.—Each county in the  
 6 State of Rhode Island.

7 “(2) CONNECTICUT.—The counties of Hartford,  
 8 Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and  
 9 Windham in the State of Connecticut.

10 “(3) MASSACHUSETTS.—The counties of  
 11 Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Plymouth,  
 12 and Worcester in the State of Massachusetts.”.

13 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for  
 14 subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United  
 15 States Code (as amended by section 211(b)(2)), is  
 16 amended by adding at the end the following:

“15736. Southern New England Regional Commission.”.

17 (c) APPLICATION.—Section 15702(c)(3) of title 40,  
 18 United States Code (as amended by section 211(c)), is  
 19 amended—

20 (1) by striking the period at the end and insert-  
 21 ing “; or”;

22 (2) by striking “to a county” and inserting the  
 23 following: “to—

24 “(A) a county”; and

25 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1                   “(B) the Southern New England Regional  
2                   Commission.”.

3 **SEC. 213. DENALI COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION.**

4           (a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 312(a) of the  
5 Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note;  
6 Public Law 105–277) is amended by striking  
7 “\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021”  
8 and inserting “\$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
9 through 2029”.

10           (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—Section 303  
11 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121  
12 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended—

13                   (1) in subsection (b)—

14                           (A) in paragraph (1)—

15                                   (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
16                                   graph (A), by striking “who shall be ap-  
17                                   pointed by the Secretary of Commerce (re-  
18                                   ferred to in this title as the ‘Secretary’),”;

19                                   and

20                                   (ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking  
21                                   “who shall be selected in accordance with  
22                                   the requirements of paragraph (2)” and in-  
23                                   serting “appointed by the President, by  
24                                   and with the advice and consent of the  
25                                   Senate”;

1 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

2 (C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as  
3 paragraph (2);

4 (2) by striking subsection (c); and

5 (3) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g)  
6 as subsections (c) through (f), respectively.

7 (c) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—Section 304 of  
8 the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note;  
9 Public Law 105–277) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “to the  
11 Secretary, the Federal Cochairperson, and the Di-  
12 rector of the Office of Management and Budget,”  
13 and inserting “to the Federal Cochairperson and the  
14 Director of the Office of Management and Budget”;  
15 and

16 (2) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) by striking “the Secretary, acting  
18 through the Federal Cochairperson,” each place  
19 it appears and inserting “the Federal Cochair-  
20 person”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (3), in the matter pre-  
22 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the Sec-  
23 retary acting through the Federal Cochair-  
24 person,” and inserting “the Federal Cochair-  
25 person”.

1 (d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—Section 305 of  
2 the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note;  
3 Public Law 105–277) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by  
5 inserting “enter into leases (including the lease of  
6 office space for any term),” after “award grants,”;  
7 and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(e) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost  
10 of a construction project carried out with amounts pro-  
11 vided by the Commission shall be 80 percent.

12 “(f) USE OF FUNDS TOWARD NON-FEDERAL SHARE  
13 OF CERTAIN PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding any other pro-  
14 vision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share  
15 in connection with a grant-in-aid program, the Commis-  
16 sion may use amounts made available to the Commission  
17 for the payment of such a non-Federal share for programs  
18 undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Commis-  
19 sion.”.

20 (e) SPECIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.—Sec-  
21 tion 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C.  
22 4321 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended—

23 (1) by striking subsection (a);

24 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e)  
25 as subsections (a) through (d), respectively; and

1           (3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by in-  
2           serting “, including interagency transfers,” after  
3           “payments”.

4           (f) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 309(c)(1)  
5           of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 4321  
6           note; Public Law 105–277) is amended by inserting “of  
7           Transportation” after “Secretary”.

8           **SEC. 214. DENALI HOUSING FUND.**

9           (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10           (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
11           ty” means—

12                   (A) a nonprofit organization;

13                   (B) a limited dividend organization;

14                   (C) a cooperative organization;

15                   (D) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section  
16                   4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
17                   cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and

18                   (E) a public entity, such as a municipality,  
19                   county, district, authority, or other political  
20                   subdivision of a State.

21           (2) FEDERAL COCHAIR.—The term “Federal  
22           Cochair” means the Federal Cochairperson of the  
23           Denali Commission.

1           (3) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the  
2 Denali Housing Fund established under subsection  
3 (b)(1).

4           (4) LOW-INCOME.—The term “low-income”,  
5 with respect to a household means that the house-  
6 hold income is less than 150 percent of the Federal  
7 poverty level for the State of Alaska.

8           (5) MODERATE-INCOME.—The term “moderate-  
9 income”, with respect to a household, means that  
10 the household income is less than 250 percent of the  
11 Federal poverty level for the State of Alaska.

12           (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
13 the Secretary of Agriculture.

14 (b) DENALI HOUSING FUND.—

15           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be estab-  
16 lished in the Treasury of the United States the  
17 Denali Housing Fund, to be administered by the  
18 Federal Cochair.

19           (2) SOURCE AND USE OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.—

20           (A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts allocated to  
21 the Federal Cochair for the purpose of carrying  
22 out this section shall be deposited in the Fund.

23           (B) USES.—The Federal Cochair shall use  
24 the Fund as a revolving fund to carry out the  
25 purposes of this section.



1           (C) INVESTMENT.—The Federal Cochair  
2           may invest amounts in the Fund that are not  
3           necessary for operational expenses in bonds or  
4           other obligations, the principal and interest of  
5           which are guaranteed by the Federal Govern-  
6           ment.

7           (D) GENERAL EXPENSES.—The Federal  
8           Cochair may charge the general expenses of  
9           carrying out this section to the Fund.

10          (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
11          There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund  
12          \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through  
13          2029.

14          (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

15               (1) to encourage and facilitate the construction  
16               or rehabilitation of housing to meet the needs of low-  
17               income households and moderate-income households;  
18               and

19               (2) to provide housing for public employees.

20          (d) LOANS AND GRANTS.—

21               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair may  
22               provide grants and loans from the Fund to eligible  
23               entities under such terms and conditions the Federal  
24               Cochair may prescribe.

1           (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a grant or loan  
2           under paragraph (1) shall be for planning and ob-  
3           taining federally insured mortgage financing or  
4           other financial assistance for housing construction or  
5           rehabilitation projects for low-income and moderate-  
6           income households in rural Alaska villages.

7           (e) PROVIDING AMOUNTS TO STATES FOR GRANTS  
8           AND LOANS.—The Federal Cochair may provide amounts  
9           to the State of Alaska, or political subdivisions thereof,  
10          for making the grants and loans described in subsection  
11          (d).

12          (f) LOANS.—

13               (1) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—A  
14               loan under subsection (d) for the cost of planning  
15               and obtaining financing (including the cost of pre-  
16               liminary surveys and analyses of market needs, pre-  
17               liminary site engineering and architectural fees, site  
18               options, application and mortgage commitment fees,  
19               legal fees, and construction loan fees and discounts)  
20               of a project described in that subsection may be for  
21               not more than 90 percent of that cost.

22               (2) INTEREST.—A loan under subsection (d)  
23               shall be made without interest, except that a loan  
24               made to an eligible entity established for profit shall  
25               bear interest at the prevailing market rate author-

1        ized for an insured or guaranteed loan for that type  
2        of project.

3            (3) PAYMENT.—

4            (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair  
5        shall require payment of a loan made under this  
6        section under terms and conditions the Sec-  
7        retary may require by not later than the date  
8        of completion of the project.

9            (B) CANCELLATION.—For a loan other  
10       than a loan to an eligible entity established for  
11       profit, the Secretary may cancel any part of the  
12       debt with respect to a loan made under sub-  
13       section (d) if the Secretary determines that a  
14       permanent loan to finance the project cannot be  
15       obtained in an amount adequate for repayment  
16       of a loan made under subsection (d).

17        (g) GRANTS.—

18            (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section  
19       for expenses incidental to planning and obtaining fi-  
20       nancing for a project described in this section that  
21       the Federal Cochair considers unrecoverable from  
22       the proceeds of a permanent loan made to finance  
23       the project—

24            (A) may not be made to an eligible entity  
25       established for profit; and

1 (B) may not exceed 90 percent of those ex-  
2 penses.

3 (2) SITE DEVELOPMENT COSTS AND OFFSITE  
4 IMPROVEMENTS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair  
6 may make grants and commitments for grants  
7 under terms and conditions the Federal Cochair  
8 may require to eligible entities for reasonable  
9 site development costs and necessary offsite im-  
10 provements, such as sewer and water line exten-  
11 sions, if the grant or commitment—

12 (i) is essential to ensuring that hous-  
13 ing is constructed on the site in the future;  
14 and

15 (ii) otherwise meets the requirements  
16 for assistance under this section.

17 (B) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—The amount of  
18 a grant under this paragraph may not—

19 (i) with respect to the construction of  
20 housing, exceed 40 percent of the cost of  
21 the construction; and

22 (ii) with respect to the rehabilitation  
23 of housing, exceed 10 percent of the rea-  
24 sonable value of the rehabilitation, as de-  
25 termined by the Federal Cochair.

1 (h) INFORMATION, ADVICE, AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
2 ANCE.—The Federal Cochair may provide, or contract  
3 with public or private organizations to provide, informa-  
4 tion, advice, and technical assistance with respect to the  
5 construction, rehabilitation, and operation by nonprofit or-  
6 ganizations of housing for low-income or moderate-income  
7 households, or for public employees, in rural Alaska vil-  
8 lages under this section.

9 **SEC. 215. DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY REAUTHORIZA-**  
10 **TION.**

11 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
12 382M(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-  
13 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–12(a)) is amended by striking  
14 “\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023”  
15 and inserting “\$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
16 through 2029”.

17 (b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 382N of  
18 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7  
19 U.S.C. 2009aa–13) is repealed.

20 (c) FEES.—Section 382B(e) of the Consolidated  
21 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(e))  
22 is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (9)(C), by striking “and” at  
24 the end;

1           (2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at  
2           the end and inserting “; and”; and

3           (3) by adding at the end the following:

4           “(11) collect fees for the Delta Doctors pro-  
5           gram of the Authority and retain and expend those  
6           fees.”.

7           (d) SUCCESSION.—Section 382B(h)(5)(B) of the  
8           Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
9           2009aa–1(h)(5)(B)) is amended—

10           (1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

11           (2) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);

12           and

13           (3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

14                   “(iii) assuming the duties of the Fed-  
15                   eral cochairperson and the alternate Fed-  
16                   eral cochairperson for purposes of continu-  
17                   ation of normal operations in the event  
18                   that both positions are vacant; and”.

19           (e) INDIAN TRIBES.—Section 382C(a) of the Consoli-  
20           dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
21           2009aa–2(a)) is amended—

22           (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
23           inserting “, Indian Tribes,” after “States”; and

24           (2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, Tribal,”  
25           after “State”.

1 **SEC. 216. NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL AUTHOR-**  
2 **ITY REAUTHORIZATION.**

3 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section  
4 383N(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-  
5 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–12(a)) is amended by striking  
6 “\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2018”  
7 and inserting “\$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
8 through 2029”.

9 (b) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Section 383O of  
10 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7  
11 U.S.C. 2009bb–13) is repealed.

○