

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste,  
and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Sensible, Timely Relief  
5       for America’s Nuclear Districts’ Economic Development  
6       Act of 2019” or the “STRANDED Act of 2019”.

7       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8       Congress finds that—

9               (1) in 1982, Congress authorized the Secretary  
10       of Energy and the Chairman of the Nuclear Regu-

1 latory Commission to safely manage and dispose of  
2 the most highly radioactive nuclear waste of the  
3 United States, a responsibility that includes—

4 (A) removing spent nuclear fuel from com-  
5 mercial nuclear power plants for a fee; and

6 (B) transporting the spent fuel to—

7 (i) a permanent geological repository;

8 or

9 (ii) an interim storage facility before  
10 permanent disposal;

11 (2) for more than 30 years, nuclear power  
12 plants have operated in good faith that the Federal  
13 Government would establish a permanent geological  
14 repository;

15 (3) communities affected by stranded nuclear  
16 waste are in fact interim nuclear waste storage sites;

17 (4) the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42  
18 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.)—

19 (A) directed the Secretary to make annual  
20 impact assistance payments to States or appro-  
21 priate units of local government to mitigate the  
22 social and economic impacts of the establish-  
23 ment and operation of interim nuclear waste  
24 storage capacity within the jurisdictional bound-  
25 aries of an affected community; and

1 (B) established the rate for impact assist-  
2 ance payments at \$15 per kilogram of spent  
3 nuclear fuel;

4 (5) decommissioning a commercial nuclear  
5 power plant is often catastrophic for the host com-  
6 munity because nuclear power plants are major em-  
7 ployers and the primary source of local tax revenue;

8 (6) stranded nuclear waste is a profound obsta-  
9 cle to future economic growth, deterring potential  
10 employers and residents from considering the host  
11 community;

12 (7) stranded nuclear waste prevents economic  
13 development in communities in which the stranded  
14 nuclear waste is located; and

15 (8) it is critical to provide resources to commu-  
16 nities that—

17 (A) are challenged by stranded nuclear  
18 waste; or

19 (B) will be challenged by stranded nuclear  
20 waste during the 10-year period beginning on  
21 the date of enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) **ACADEMY.**—The term “Academy” means  
25 the National Academy of Sciences.

1           (2) AFFECTED COMMUNITY.—The term “af-  
2       fected community” means a unit of local govern-  
3       ment, including a county, city, town, village, school  
4       district, or special district, that contains stranded  
5       nuclear waste within the boundaries of the unit of  
6       local government, as determined by the Secretary.

7           (3) ELIGIBLE CIVILIAN NUCLEAR POWER  
8       PLANT.—The term “eligible civilian nuclear power  
9       plant” means a nuclear power plant that—

10               (A) has been decommissioned; or

11               (B) is in the process of being decommis-  
12       sioned.

13           (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
14       the Secretary of Energy.

15           (5) STRANDED NUCLEAR WASTE.—The term  
16       “stranded nuclear waste” means nuclear waste or  
17       spent nuclear fuel stored in dry casks or spent fuel  
18       pools at a decommissioned or decommissioning nu-  
19       clear facility.

20   **SEC. 4. INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS PRIZE COMPETITION.**

21       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
22       the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
23       tablish under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Tech-  
24       nology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) a com-  
25       petitive prize competition (referred to in this section as

1 the “prize competition”) to award prizes to proposals for  
2 affected communities to carry out alternatives to nuclear  
3 facilities, generating sites, and waste sites.

4 (b) PRIZE BOARD.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an  
6 advisory board (referred to in this section as the  
7 “Board”) to advise the Secretary on—

8 (A) the design and implementation of the  
9 prize competition; and

10 (B) the development of the pilot project  
11 under subsection (d).

12 (2) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be com-  
13 posed of not fewer than 9 members appointed by the  
14 Secretary—

15 (A) who shall provide expertise in—

16 (i) nuclear waste;

17 (ii) workforce issues;

18 (iii) technology development; and

19 (iv) economic development; and

20 (B) who may include representatives  
21 from—

22 (i) the National Laboratories;

23 (ii) nonprofit organizations; and

24 (iii) institutions of higher education.

1 (c) AWARD AMOUNT.—An award under the prize  
2 competition shall be in the amount of \$500,000.

3 (d) PILOT PROJECT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
5 tion with the Board, shall develop a pilot project  
6 based on the proposal of the winner of the prize  
7 competition.

8 (2) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available  
9 under section 7, the Secretary may use \$500,000 to  
10 carry out the pilot project under paragraph (1).

11 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date  
12 on which a prize is awarded under the prize competition,  
13 the Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of  
14 Congress a report that describes the winning proposal of  
15 the prize competition.

16 **SEC. 5. STRANDED NUCLEAR WASTE TASK FORCE.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
18 a task force, to be known as the “Stranded Nuclear Waste  
19 Task Force”—

20 (1) to conduct a study on existing public and  
21 private resources and funding for which affected  
22 communities may be eligible; and

23 (2) to develop immediate and long-term eco-  
24 nomic adjustment plans tailored to the needs of each  
25 affected community.

1 (b) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
2 of enactment of this Act, the Stranded Nuclear Waste  
3 Task Force shall complete and submit to Congress the  
4 study described in subsection (a).

5 **SEC. 6. ECONOMIC IMPACT GRANTS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
8 tablish and carry out a noncompetitive grant program to  
9 provide financial assistance to units of local government  
10 within the jurisdictional boundary of which an eligible ci-  
11 vilian nuclear power plant is located to offset the economic  
12 and social impacts of stranded nuclear waste in affected  
13 communities.

14 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—A unit of local government that is  
15 an affected community shall be eligible to receive a grant  
16 under this section for a fiscal year.

17 (c) AWARDS.—

18 (1) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant awarded  
19 under subsection (a) shall be equal to \$15 for each  
20 kilogram of spent nuclear fuel stored at the eligible  
21 civilian nuclear power plant in the affected commu-  
22 nity.

23 (2) NUMBER AND FREQUENCY.—With respect  
24 to each eligible civilian nuclear power plant, the Sec-  
25 retary may only award 1 grant under subsection (a)

1       to each eligible unit of local government for each fis-  
2       cal year.

3   **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
5       priated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to  
6       carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2020 through  
7       2026.

8       (b) NO OFFSET.—None of the funds made available  
9       under this section may be used to offset the funding for  
10      any other Federal program.