

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1943

To establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2013

Mr. PETERS of California (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, 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 “Super Pollutant Emis-
5 sions Reduction Act of 2013” or the “SUPER Act of
6 2013”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
9 ings:

1 (1) Carbon dioxide is estimated to account for
2 55 to 60 percent of anthropogenic radiative forcing
3 (or manmade global warming), while the remainder
4 is driven by non-carbon dioxide climate pollutants,
5 primarily short-lived climate pollutants. These short-
6 lived climate pollutants, or “super pollutants”, have
7 shorter atmospheric lifespans than carbon dioxide
8 but cause much more warming per molecule, and in
9 many cases the emissions are growing much faster
10 than carbon dioxide.

11 (2) Several of the short-lived climate pollutants
12 are also potent air pollutants that harm human
13 health and reduce crop yields. Reducing these pollut-
14 ants can save thousands of lives every year in the
15 United States and millions globally, while also in-
16 creasing agricultural production.

17 (3) International efforts to address short-lived
18 climate pollutants are underway, including the Cli-
19 mate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived
20 Climate Pollutants, led by the Department of State
21 and the United Nations Environment Programme,
22 the Global Methane Initiative, and the negotiation of
23 amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances
24 that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

1 (4) Many of the technologies to reduce short-
2 lived climate pollutants already exist, but adoption
3 of such technologies has been slow.

4 (5) The Federal Government has a number of
5 programs and initiatives some of which aim to, or
6 the outcomes of which, reduce emissions of short-
7 lived climate pollutants, but these programs are
8 scattered across multiple agencies and there is insuf-
9 ficient coordination to maximize reductions of these
10 pollutants. In February 2012, the Government Ac-
11 countability Office published an annual report, “Op-
12 portunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and
13 Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Rev-
14 enue”, which examined the efficiency and efficacy of
15 government programs, including those that address
16 diesel emissions that contain black carbon, a short-
17 lived climate pollutant.

18 (6) Executive Order 13514 requires Federal
19 agencies to develop plans for reducing hydrofluoro-
20 carbons and methane, but few agencies have focused
21 on these compounds in their annual Strategic Sus-
22 tainability Performance Plans.

23 (7) Because of their short atmospheric life-
24 times, reducing global emissions of short-lived cli-
25 mate pollutants can quickly cut the rate of global

1 temperature rise in half, by 2050, and help stabilize
2 global temperatures below 2 °C above pre-industrial
3 temperatures by 2100, when combined with reduc-
4 tions of global emissions of carbon dioxide. Cutting
5 short-lived climate pollutants along with carbon diox-
6 ide can also reduce the rate of projected global sea-
7 level rise by half and total sea-level rise by a third.
8 Steps to reduce short-lived climate pollutants are
9 likely to have air quality and public health benefits
10 as well.

11 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to—

12 (1) coordinate and optimize the Federal Gov-
13 ernment's existing efforts to address short-lived cli-
14 mate pollutants;

15 (2) reduce overlap and duplication of such ef-
16 forts; and

17 (3) encourage Federal operations, programs,
18 policies, and initiatives to reduce short-lived climate
19 pollutants by—

20 (A) ensuring that the coordinated Federal
21 programs are effective and forward-looking in
22 their efforts to control short-lived climate pol-
23 lutants;

24 (B) ensuring coordination of such Federal
25 operations, programs, policies, and initiatives

1 with State, local, regional, tribal, and industry
2 efforts; and

3 (C) supporting such State, local, regional,
4 tribal, and industry efforts.

5 **SEC. 3. TASK FORCE ON SUPER POLLUTANTS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
8 establish the “Task Force on Super Pollutants” (referred
9 to in this section as the “Task Force”).

10 (b) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

11 (1) review existing and potential policies and
12 measures that promote reduction of short-lived cli-
13 mate pollutants, in part by identifying and evalu-
14 ating programs and activities of the Federal govern-
15 ment that contribute, or could contribute, to such
16 reduction;

17 (2) identify and recommend specific existing
18 Federal programs and activities evaluated under
19 paragraph (1) that are unnecessarily duplicative and
20 can be consolidated to achieve greater efficiency and
21 effectiveness;

22 (3) identify gaps where programs do not exist,
23 and recommend focused programs and activities to
24 fill these gaps to achieve reductions of short-lived cli-
25 mate pollutants, with an emphasis on industry

1 standards and public-private partnerships where pos-
2 sible;

3 (4) identify, compile, evaluate, and develop best
4 practices for reductions of short-lived climate pollut-
5 ants, including by—

6 (A) identifying and evaluating both domes-
7 tic and international best practices and stand-
8 ards practiced and set by governments, industry
9 in each sector listed in subsection (c)(5), stand-
10 ards bodies, and other relevant institutions; and

11 (B) identifying and evaluating cost-effec-
12 tive mitigation projects, strategies, and policies
13 at the State, local, and tribal level, with the
14 greatest potential for reduction of short-lived
15 climate pollutants; and

16 (5) not later than 18 months after the date of
17 enactment of this Act, submit to Congress a report
18 on the findings and recommendations developed
19 under paragraphs (1) through (4).

20 (c) MEMBERS.—The task force established under
21 subsection (a) shall include representatives of—

22 (1) all relevant Federal agencies, including—

23 (A) the Secretary of Energy;

24 (B) the Administrator of the Environ-
25 mental Protection Agency;

- 1 (C) the Secretary of the Interior;
- 2 (D) the Secretary of Transportation;
- 3 (E) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- 4 (F) the Secretary of State;
- 5 (G) the Secretary of Commerce; and
- 6 (H) the Secretary of Health and Human
- 7 Services;
- 8 (2) relevant offices and councils within the Ex-
- 9 ecutive Office of the President, including—
- 10 (A) the Office of Management and Budget;
- 11 (B) the Office of Science and Technology
- 12 Policy; and
- 13 (C) the Council on Environmental Quality;
- 14 (3) State, local, and tribal governments or asso-
- 15 ciations;
- 16 (4) academic and non-governmental organiza-
- 17 tions with expertise in short-lived climate pollutants;
- 18 and
- 19 (5) relevant industry organizations, rep-
- 20 resenting at least the following sectors:
- 21 (A) Energy supply and transmission, in-
- 22 cluding fossil fuels.
- 23 (B) Solid waste.
- 24 (C) Transportation.

1 (D) Chemical manufacturing and user in-
2 dustries.

3 (E) Agriculture.

4 (F) Wastewater.

5 (G) Buildings.

6 (H) Other sectors as determined appro-
7 priate by the President.

8 (d) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “short-lived
9 climate pollutant” means any of the following:

10 (1) Black carbon.

11 (2) Methane.

12 (3) Hydrofluorocarbons.

13 (4) Tropospheric ozone and its precursors.

14 (5) Emissions from banks of ozone-depleting
15 substances.

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