

The Energy Innovation Act of 2015

Rising to the Challenge: Invest, Empower, Modernize, and Clean

Three decades ago, the average U.S. home used electricity to power a television, a couple large appliances, and a few small appliances. Today, Americans are connected to the Internet, using multiple televisions and appliances, while charging computers, tablets, and cellular phones. More are charging electric cars and generating their own power with solar panels. Nevertheless, many parts of the electricity system were built over the past 30 years. Upgrading legacy systems to new grid technologies can boost efficiency, improve reliability and security, and help curb pollution. Moreover, the United States must lead in reducing carbon emissions to address climate change. The energy decisions we make today will shape our children and grandchildren's economic and environmental future.

As a result of this new U.S. energy landscape, Senate Democrats have developed a new, national clean energy policy that responds to today's needs and rises to tomorrow's challenges. This bill repeals fossil fuel subsidies and invests in clean energy technologies, creates and supports at least 3.5 million jobs; saves taxpayers at least \$20 billion over the next 15 years; reduces greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing all of the passenger vehicles on the road last year, as well as the emissions from half of U.S. homes; and empowers American consumers with choices to use simpler, faster, and cheaper clean smart energy products.

Title I – Empowering and Protecting Consumers: As technology and innovation brings change to our energy sector, energy policies can empower consumers to make decisions in their own lives about the type of energy they use and how they use it. This title makes investments in securing and protecting our grid, as well as ensuring consumers can access energy market data.

Title II – Modernizing Infrastructure: We need to invest in research and development to build a safe, reliable, and resilient energy infrastructure for the future, not double down on the outdated systems of the past. A modern electricity grid needs to accommodate new and distributed generation and storage from renewable sources while providing reliable service to customers. In addition, we need to deploy advanced vehicles and manufacturing technologies that will lead the way in reducing emissions. Last, we must ensure we have a trained workforce ready to manage this infrastructure.

Title III – Cutting Pollution and Waste: A clean energy policy must address climate change by cutting pollution and encouraging renewable technology. We cannot continue to rely on the fossil fuels of the past. The Energy Innovation Act of 2015 would direct the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 2 percent per year. This legislation also establishes an energy efficiency resource standard and includes key energy efficiency provisions to help more manufacturers and utilities cut costs and reduce emissions, while putting money back in the pockets of consumers.

Title IV – Investing in Research and Development: Innovation spending must relate the size of our energy market and its importance in driving our economy. The Energy Innovation Act of 2015 would triple our current investment in basic energy research that will increase our competitiveness around the globe, while creating jobs and growing the economy here at home. This investment will put R&D closer to other technologically intensive sectors and brings U.S. investment in line with those of its trading partners and competitors.

Title V – Investing in Clean Energy: The United States needs to be a world leader in investing in clean energy. It is time to increase our investment in affordable renewable energy technology and the jobs it creates. To ensure American leadership in the global clean energy economy, we need to provide certainty to consumers and businesses with an energy tax code that creates jobs, promotes innovation, and encourages the development of new and efficient technologies.

Title VI – Conservation: The Land and Water Conservation Fund is our nation's most successful conservation program. This legislation permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as the Historic Preservation Fund. It also creates a new National Park Maintenance and Revitalization Fund, to address the maintenance backlog at some of our nation's most treasured public places.