

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9478

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a research initiative to develop technologies to remove methane from the atmosphere, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2026

Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Ms. SALINAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a research initiative to develop technologies to remove methane from the atmosphere, 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 “Methane Removal Re-
5 search and Innovation Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. METHANE REMOVAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
9 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-

mittees” means the Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology of the House of Representatives and
the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
the Senate.

(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
term “institution of higher education” has the
meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the
Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(3) METHANE REMOVAL APPROACH.—The term
“methane removal approach” means enhancing sinks
by breaking down methane in, or removing methane
from, the ambient atmosphere through a physical,
chemical, or biological method, or combination there-
of.

(4) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “Na-
tional Laboratory” has the meaning given such term
in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
U.S.C. 15801).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
the Secretary of Energy.

(b) METHANE REMOVAL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
Secretary shall establish a research initiative, to

1 be known as the “Methane Removal Research
2 Initiative” (in this section referred to as the
3 “Initiative”), to expand the scientific under-
4 standing of chemistry, geosciences, biosciences,
5 atmospheric sciences, earth and environmental
6 systems sciences, engineering, materials, social
7 sciences, and ethics useful for the practical de-
8 velopment of methane removal approaches.

9 (B) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out
10 the Initiative, the Secretary shall seek to the
11 greatest extent practicable to leverage expertise
12 and resources from the following:

13 (i) The Office of Science of the De-
14 partment of Energy, especially the Basic
15 Energy Sciences Program and the Biologi-
16 cal and Environmental Research Program
17 of such Office.

18 (ii) The Office of Fossil Energy of the
19 Department of Energy.

20 (iii) The Advanced Research Projects
21 Agency-Energy.

22 (iv) The National Science Foundation.

23 (v) The National Oceanic and Atmos-
24 pheric Administration.

1 (vi) The Environmental Protection
2 Agency.

3 (vii) The Department of Agriculture.

4 (viii) The United States Geological
5 Survey.

6 (ix) The Department of the Interior.

7 (x) The National Aeronautics and
8 Space Administration.

9 (xi) The National Institute of Stand-
10 ards and Technology.

11 (2) METHANE REMOVAL.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Through the Initiative,
13 the Secretary shall organize activities among
14 multidisciplinary teams, consisting of experts
15 from National Laboratories, institutions of
16 higher education, private sector entities, and
17 other appropriate entities to support research,
18 development, demonstration, and commercial
19 application activities examining the feasibility,
20 costs, potential scale, social barriers, and the
21 practical development of methane removal ap-
22 proaches.

23 (B) RESEARCH GOALS.—The activities de-
24 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include defin-

ing and satisfying milestone-driven research goals relating to examining the following:

(i) Existing mechanisms of atmospheric oxidation and atmospheric oxidative capacity.

(ii) Methanotrophy enhancement.

(iii) Biological methods involving plants.

(iv) Methane concentrators and breakdown reactors.

(v) Methane breakdown coatings and other new materials.

(vi) Other new and existing methane removal approaches.

(vii) Tools to assess atmospheric methane removal methods.

(viii) Science communication and public engagement materials.

(C) CONSISTENCY WITH NATIONAL ACADEMIES REPORT.—The research goals described in subparagraph (B) shall be informed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report entitled “A Research Agenda Toward Atmospheric Methane Removal”.

1 (D) ORGANIZATION.—The Secretary is au-
2 thorized to organize research activities under
3 this paragraph through single Principal Investi-
4 gator awards, small research groups, Energy
5 Frontier Research Centers, Energy Innovation
6 Hubs, or other organizational structures.

7 (E) RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall pro-
8 vide sufficient resources for the purpose of sat-
9 isfying the goals specified in subparagraph (B)
10 over a period of time to be determined by the
11 Secretary.

12 (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
13 three years after the date of the enactment of this
14 Act and every three years thereafter, the Secretary,
15 in consultation with the heads of other relevant De-
16 partment of Energy applied energy and commer-
17 cialization offices, the Administrator of the National
18 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Ad-
19 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,
20 and other relevant Federal officials at the Sec-
21 retary's discretion, shall submit to the appropriate
22 congressional committees a brief report detailing the
23 following:

24 (A) Research activities and goals under
25 paragraph (2).

1 (B) Progress toward meeting such goals.

2 (C) A summary of the state of scientific
3 knowledge on methane removal approaches, in-
4 cluding key knowledge gaps and proposed re-
5 search to fill such knowledge gaps.

6 (D) Resource limitations and needs.

7 (E) Recommendations for future activities
8 to advance methane removal technologies.

9 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
11 out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
12 through 2031.

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