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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. \_\_\_\_\_

To establish the Integrated Blue Economy and Blue Energy Technologies Program, and a Blue Economy Center of Excellence, to support research and development of blue energy technologies.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KILMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To establish the Integrated Blue Economy and Blue Energy Technologies Program, and a Blue Economy Center of Excellence, to support research and development of blue energy technologies.

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 “Blue Ocean Energy  
5 Innovation Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTEGRATED BLUE ECONOMY AND BLUE ENERGY**  
2 **TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall es-  
4 tablish and carry out a program, to be known as the “Inte-  
5 grated Blue Economy and Blue Energy Technologies Pro-  
6 gram”, under which the Secretary of Energy shall provide  
7 funding for research and development of blue energy tech-  
8 nologies for purposes of—

9 (1) decarbonizing activities that contribute to  
10 the blue economy, including—

11 (A) improving port and other maritime  
12 transportation infrastructure;

13 (B) producing algae for use as a biofuel,  
14 and for other applications; and

15 (C) operating ocean- and water-based tour-  
16 ism industries;

17 (2) increasing blue energy technology genera-  
18 tion capacity while reducing the cost to produce such  
19 energy;

20 (3) improving performance of blue energy tech-  
21 nologies;

22 (4) capturing, removing, and sequestering  
23 greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and  
24 methane;

25 (5) developing new blue energy technology mar-  
26 ket opportunities;

1           (6) promoting job creation in the blue economy  
2           and blue energy technology sectors;

3           (7) supporting the development of a skilled, di-  
4           verse, and inclusive blue economy workforce;

5           (8) remediating and improving coastal and  
6           aquatic ecosystems;

7           (9) addressing technical and development chal-  
8           lenges that are unique to operating in marine and  
9           freshwater environments, including by—

10           (A) developing tools, sensors, and models  
11           to advance scientific understanding of  
12           metocean, geotechnical, geophysical, and bio-  
13           logical conditions in marine and freshwater en-  
14           vironments applicable to blue energy tech-  
15           nologies;

16           (B) advancing social science related to  
17           community and industry engagement to inform  
18           future development;

19           (C) conducting feasibility analyses for en-  
20           ergy storage and microgrid deployments;

21           (D) planning for power transmission and  
22           distribution;

23           (E) advancing technologies for anchoring  
24           and mooring systems;

1 (F) addressing challenges of integrating  
2 with the bulk-power system, especially in deep  
3 water environments;

4 (G) deploying energy storage and charging  
5 infrastructure; and

6 (H) developing advanced materials capable  
7 of enduring harsh environmental conditions;  
8 and

9 (10) supporting any other activities as identi-  
10 fied by the Secretary.

11 (b) CROSSCUT BUDGET.—In carrying out the Inte-  
12 grated Blue Economy and Blue Energy Technologies Pro-  
13 gram, the Secretary of Energy shall prepare a crosscut  
14 budget based on the research and development activities  
15 conducted by relevant Department of Energy offices, in-  
16 cluding the following:

17 (1) The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renew-  
18 able Energy.

19 (2) The Office of Science.

20 (3) The Office of Electricity.

21 (4) The Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Secu-  
22 rity, and Emergency Response.

23 (5) The Advanced Research Projects Agency—  
24 Energy.

1           (6) The Office of Clean Energy Demonstra-  
2           tions.

3           (7) The Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon  
4           Management.

5           (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
7           appropriated such sums as may be necessary to  
8           carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2024  
9           through 2034.

10          (2) SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT.—The  
11          amounts authorized to be appropriated under this  
12          subsection shall supplement, and not supplant, any  
13          other amounts made available to the Department of  
14          Energy.

15   **SEC. 3. BLUE ECONOMY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.**

16          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy  
17          shall establish a Blue Economy Center of Excellence to  
18          support the Integrated Blue Economy and Blue Energy  
19          Technologies Program established in section 2.

20          (b) LOCATION.—The Blue Economy Center of Excel-  
21          lence shall be co-located at an existing National Labora-  
22          tory that—

23                  (1) is working to develop blue energy tech-  
24                  nologies;

1 (2) hosts a blue energy technology research and  
2 development program;

3 (3) is able to investigate and resolve environ-  
4 mental and policy-related questions associated with  
5 the generation of blue energy technology; and

6 (4) has direct access to natural ocean-based re-  
7 sources and test sites.

8 (c) FACILITIES.—The Secretary of Energy may con-  
9 struct new facilities or expand and upgrade existi-  
10 ng facilities to establish the Blue Economy Center of Excellence  
11 under subsection (a).

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
13 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-  
14 essary to carry out this section and such amount is au-  
15 thorized to remain available until expended.

16 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, REPORTING, AND**  
17 **OVERSIGHT.**

18 (a) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this Act, the  
19 Secretary of Energy shall coordinate with—

20 (1) other Federal agencies that share mission  
21 objectives with the Integrated Blue Economy and  
22 Blue Energy Technologies Program, including the  
23 Maritime Administration of the Department of  
24 Transportation, the National Science Foundation,  
25 the Economic Development Administration of the

1 Department of Commerce, the Bureau of Ocean En-  
2 ergy Management, the National Marine Fisheries  
3 Service, the United States Army Corps of Engineers,  
4 the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Oceanic  
5 and Atmospheric Administration, and the National  
6 Institute of Standards and Technology; and

7 (2) State and Tribal government agencies, insti-  
8 tutions of higher education, nonprofit research insti-  
9 tutions, and National Laboratories.

10 (b) ANNUAL BUDGET MATERIALS.—The Secretary of  
11 Energy shall include in the Department of Energy’s an-  
12 nual budget materials submitted to the Office of Manage-  
13 ment and Budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31,  
14 United States Code, a report on—

15 (1) with respect to the fiscal year preceding the  
16 fiscal year for which such budget materials are sub-  
17 mitted, the amount of funds obligated and expended  
18 for research and development of blue energy tech-  
19 nologies across all line offices and programs of the  
20 Department of Energy; and

21 (2) the projected expenditures necessary to fill  
22 any gaps in funding for research and development of  
23 blue energy technologies across all line offices and  
24 programs of the Department of Energy.

1 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **BLUE ECONOMY.**—The term “blue econ-  
4 omy” means the sustainable use of ocean and aquat-  
5 ic resources to grow the economy, improve liveli-  
6 hoods, and create jobs in a manner that preserves  
7 the health of ocean and aquatic ecosystems.

8 (2) **BLUE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.**—The term  
9 “blue energy technology” means any technology  
10 that—

11 (A)(i) derives or generates energy from a  
12 renewable energy resource; or

13 (ii) captures, removes, and sequesters  
14 greenhouse gases; and

15 (B) is located in an aquatic environment.

16 (3) **BULK-POWER SYSTEM.**—The term “bulk-  
17 power system” has the meaning given such term in  
18 section 215(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.  
19 824o(a)).

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

24 (5) **RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE.**—The  
25 term “renewable energy resource” has the meaning



1        given such term in section 403 of the Energy Secu-  
2        rity Act (42 U.S.C. 7372).