

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10508

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to support the responsible development of offshore renewable energy projects, establish the Offshore Power Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Mr. TONKO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to support the responsible development of offshore renewable energy projects, establish the Offshore Power Administration, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Offshore Energy Modernization Act of 2024”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. National offshore wind permitting goals.
- Sec. 3. Responsible development of offshore renewable energy projects.
- Sec. 4. Offshore renewable energy compensation fund.
- Sec. 5. Improving environmental and cultural reviews to ensure timely permitting decisions.
- Sec. 6. Report on decommissioning of offshore renewable energy projects.
- Sec. 7. Offshore Power Administration.
- Sec. 8. Offshore transmission infrastructure studies and recommendations.
- Sec. 9. Interoperability of offshore electric transmission infrastructure.
- Sec. 10. Offshore wind shipbuilding.
- Sec. 11. Access to offshore renewable energy areas.
- Sec. 12. Definitions.

1 SEC. 2. NATIONAL OFFSHORE WIND PERMITTING GOALS.

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior
 3 shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and
 4 other relevant Federal agencies and State governments,
 5 establish and periodically update national goals for off-
 6 shore wind energy production on the outer Continental
 7 Shelf.

8 (b) MINIMUM PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR
 9 2030 AND 2035.—Through management of the outer Con-
 10 tinental Shelf and administration of the Outer Continental
 11 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), the Secretary
 12 of the Interior shall seek to issue permits that, in total,
 13 authorize production of electricity from offshore wind en-
 14 ergy projects of not less than—

15 (1) 30 gigawatts of electricity by not later than
 16 2030; and

17 (2) 50 gigawatts of electricity by not later than
 18 2035.

1 **SEC. 3. RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE RE-**
2 **NEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Outer Conti-
4 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331) is amended—

5 (1) in the definition for the term “State”, as
6 added by section 50251(b)(1)(A)(iv) of Public Law
7 117–169—

8 (A) by redesignating such definition as
9 subsection (t); and

10 (B) by inserting after the enumerator
11 “STATE.—”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(u) OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT.—
14 The term ‘offshore renewable energy project’ means a
15 project to carry out an activity described in section
16 8(p)(1)(C) related to wind, solar, wave, or tidal energy.”.

17 (b) NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE OUTER CONTI-
18 NENTAL SHELF.—Section 3 of the Outer Continental
19 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1332) is amended—

20 (1) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
21 lows:

22 “(3) the outer Continental Shelf is a vital na-
23 tional resource reserve held by the Federal Govern-
24 ment for the public, which should be made available
25 for expeditious and orderly development, subject to

1 environmental safeguards and coexistence with other
2 ocean users, in a manner which includes—

3 “(A) supporting the generation, trans-
4 mission, and storage of zero-emission electricity;
5 and

6 “(B) the maintenance of competition and
7 other national needs, including the need to
8 achieve State, Tribal, and Federal zero-emission
9 electricity or renewable energy mandates, tar-
10 gets, and goals;”;

11 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as
12 paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively; and

13 (3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(5) the identification, development, and pro-
16 duction of lease areas for offshore renewable energy
17 projects should be determined by a robust and trans-
18 parent stakeholder process that incorporates engage-
19 ment and input from a diverse group of ocean users
20 and other impacted stakeholders, as well as Federal,
21 State, Tribal, and local governments;”.

22 (c) LEASES, EASEMENTS, AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY ON
23 THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—Section 8(p) of the
24 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(p))
25 is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

3 (i) by striking “27” and inserting
4 “17”;

5 (ii) by striking “three” and inserting
6 “100”; and

7 (iii) by striking “15” and inserting
8 “100”; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(C) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION AND MITI-
11 GATION ACTIVITIES.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sec-
13 tion 9, the Secretary shall, without appropria-
14 tion or fiscal year limitation, use 10 percent of
15 the revenue received by the Federal Govern-
16 ment from royalties, fees, rents, bonuses, and
17 other payments from any lease, easement, or
18 right-of-way granted under this subsection to
19 provide grants to—

20 “(I) State, local, and Tribal govern-
21 ments, and regional partnerships thereof,
22 including regional ocean partnerships, re-
23 gional wildlife science collaboratives, and
24 similar organizations; and

25 “(II) nonprofit organizations.

1 “(ii) USE OF GRANTS.—Grants provided
2 under clause (i) shall be used for carrying out
3 activities related to marine and coastal habitat
4 protection and restoration, mitigation of dam-
5 age to natural and cultural resources and ma-
6 rine life resulting from activities authorized by
7 this subsection, relevant research and data
8 sharing initiatives, or increasing the organiza-
9 tional capacity of an entity described in sub-
10 clause (I) or (II) of clause (i) to increase the
11 effectiveness of entities that carry out such ac-
12 tivities.

13 “(D) OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY COM-
14 PENSATION FUND.—Notwithstanding section 9, the
15 Secretary shall, without appropriation or fiscal year
16 limitation, deposit 10 percent of the revenue received
17 by the Federal Government from royalties, fees,
18 rents, bonuses, and other payments from any lease,
19 easement, or right-of-way granted under this sub-
20 section into the Offshore Renewable Energy Com-
21 pensation Fund established under section 34.”;

22 (2) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
23 lows:

24 “(3) LEASING.—

1 “(A) COMPETITIVE OR NONCOMPETITIVE
2 BASIS.—The Secretary shall issue a lease, ease-
3 ment, or right-of-way under paragraph (1) on a
4 competitive basis unless the Secretary deter-
5 mines after public notice of a proposed lease,
6 easement, or right-of-way that there is no com-
7 petitive interest.

8 “(B) SCHEDULE OF OFFSHORE RENEW-
9 ABLE ENERGY LEASE SALES.—The Secretary
10 shall, after providing an opportunity for public
11 notice and comment, publish and periodically
12 update a schedule of areas that may be avail-
13 able for leasing in the future for offshore re-
14 newable energy projects, indicating, to the ex-
15 tent possible, the timing of site identification
16 activities, the timing of designation of any area
17 to be leased, the anticipated size of such areas,
18 the timing of lease sales, and the location of
19 leasing activities.

20 “(C) MULTI-FACTOR BIDDING.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
22 may consider non-monetary factors when
23 competitively awarding leases under para-
24 graph (1), which may include commitments
25 made by the bidder to—

1 “(I) support educational, train-
2 ing, and skills development, including
3 supporting or increasing access to reg-
4 istered apprenticeship programs, pre-
5 apprenticeship programs, and Tribal
6 apprenticeships programs that have
7 an articulation agreement with a reg-
8 istered apprenticeship program for
9 offshore renewable energy projects;

10 “(II) support development of do-
11 mestic supply chains for offshore re-
12 newable energy projects, including de-
13 velopment of ports and other energy
14 infrastructure necessary to facilitate
15 offshore renewable energy projects;

16 “(III) establish a community
17 benefit agreement with one or more
18 community or stakeholder groups that
19 may be impacted by the development
20 and operation of an offshore renew-
21 able project, which may include cov-
22 ered entities;

23 “(IV) make investments to evalu-
24 ate, monitor, improve, and mitigate
25 impacts to the health and biodiversity

1 of ecosystems and wildlife from the
2 development and operation of an off-
3 shore renewable energy project;

4 “(V) support the development
5 and use of shared transmission infra-
6 structure connecting to offshore re-
7 newable energy projects;

8 “(VI) make investments in the
9 preservation of Tribal cultural re-
10 sources and mitigate any impacts
11 from the development and operation
12 of an offshore renewable energy
13 project on such resources; and

14 “(VII) make other investments
15 determined appropriate by the Sec-
16 retary.

17 “(ii) CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS.—
18 When considering non-monetary factors
19 under this subparagraph, the Secretary
20 may—

21 “(I) evaluate the quality of com-
22 mitments made by the bidder; and

23 “(II) reward finalized binding
24 agreements above assurances for fu-
25 ture commitments.

1 “(iii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
2 graph:

3 “(I) COVERED ENTITY.—The
4 term ‘covered entity’ has the meaning
5 given such term in section 34(k).

6 “(II) REGISTERED APPRENTICE-
7 SHIP PROGRAM.—The term ‘registered
8 apprenticeship program’ means an ap-
9 prenticeship program registered under
10 the Act of August 16, 1937 (com-
11 monly known as the National Appren-
12 ticeship Act; 50 Stat. 664, chapter
13 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).”;

14 (3) by amending paragraph (4) to read as fol-
15 lows:

16 “(4) REQUIREMENTS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
18 ensure that any activity under this subsection is
19 carried out in a manner that provides for—

20 “(i) safety;

21 “(ii) protection of the environment,
22 which includes facilitation of the genera-
23 tion, transmission, and storage of zero-
24 emission electricity;

25 “(iii) prevention of waste;

1 “(iv) conservation of the natural re-
2 sources of the outer Continental Shelf;

3 “(v) conservation of Tribal cultural
4 resources of the outer Continental Shelf;

5 “(vi) coordination with relevant Fed-
6 eral agencies and State, Tribal, and local
7 governments;

8 “(vii) protection of national security
9 interests of the United States;

10 “(viii) protection of correlative rights
11 in the outer Continental Shelf;

12 “(ix) a fair return to the United
13 States for any lease, easement, or right-of-
14 way under this subsection;

15 “(x) accommodation of reasonable
16 uses (as determined by the Secretary) of
17 the exclusive economic zone, the high seas,
18 and the territorial seas;

19 “(xi) consideration of—

20 “(I) the location of, and any
21 schedule relating to, a lease, ease-
22 ment, or right-of-way for an area of
23 the outer Continental Shelf; and

24 “(II) any other use of the sea or
25 seabed, including use for a fishery, a

1 sealane, a potential site of a deep-
2 water port, or navigation;

3 “(xii) public notice and comment, and
4 Tribal consultation in accordance with
5 paragraph (7), on any proposal submitted
6 for a lease, easement, or right-of-way
7 under this subsection;

8 “(xiii) oversight, inspection, research,
9 monitoring, and enforcement relating to a
10 lease, easement, or right-of-way under this
11 subsection; and

12 “(xiv) satisfaction or partial satisfac-
13 tion of any applicable State and Federal
14 renewable and clean energy mandates, tar-
15 gets, and goals.

16 “(B) PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not
18 later than January 1, 2026, the Secretary
19 shall require, as a term or condition of
20 each lease, right-of-way, and easement, as
21 applicable, for an offshore renewable en-
22 ergy project, that the holder of the lease,
23 right-of-way, or easement, (and any suc-
24 cessor or assignee) and its agents, contrac-
25 tors, and subcontractors engaged in the

1 construction of any facilities for such off-
2 shore renewable energy project agree, for
3 purposes of such construction, to negotiate
4 and become a party to a project labor
5 agreement with one or more labor organi-
6 zations. A project labor agreement shall
7 bind all contractors and subcontractors on
8 the project through the inclusion of appro-
9 priate specifications in all relevant solicita-
10 tion provisions and contract documents.
11 The Secretary shall not approve a con-
12 struction and operations plan with respect
13 to any offshore renewable energy project
14 until being assured by the lessee that such
15 project labor agreement will be maintained
16 for the duration of the project.

17 “(ii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
18 graph:

19 “(I) CONSTRUCTION.—The term
20 ‘construction’ includes reconstruction,
21 rehabilitation, modernization, alter-
22 ation, conversion, extension, repair, or
23 improvement of any facility, structure,
24 or other real property (including any

1 onshore facilities) for an offshore re-
2 newable energy project.

3 “(II) LABOR ORGANIZATION.—

4 The term ‘labor organization’ means a
5 labor organization as defined in sec-
6 tion 2(5) of the National Labor Rela-
7 tions Act (29 U.S.C. 152(5))—

8 “(aa) of which building and
9 construction employees are mem-
10 bers; and

11 “(bb) that directly, or
12 through its affiliates, sponsors a
13 registered apprenticeship pro-
14 gram.

15 “(III) PROJECT LABOR AGREE-

16 MENT.—The term ‘project labor
17 agreement’ means a pre-hire collective
18 bargaining agreement with one or
19 more labor organizations that estab-
20 lishes the terms and conditions of em-
21 ployment for a specific construction
22 project and is an agreement described
23 in section 8(e) and (f) of the National
24 Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C.
25 158(f)).

1 “(IV) REGISTERED APPRENTICE-
2 SHIP PROGRAM.—The term ‘registered
3 apprenticeship program’ means an ap-
4 prenticeship program registered under
5 the Act of August 16, 1937 (com-
6 monly known as the National Appren-
7 ticeship Act; 50 Stat. 664, chapter
8 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

9 “(C) DOMESTIC CONTENT.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to
11 the construction of facilities for an offshore
12 renewable energy project that begins after
13 January 1, 2032, the Secretary shall re-
14 quire that—

15 “(I) all structural iron and steel
16 products that are (upon completion of
17 construction) components of such fa-
18 cilities shall be; and

19 “(II) not less than 65 percent of
20 the total costs of all manufactured
21 products that are (upon completion of
22 construction) components of such fa-
23 cilities shall be attributable to manu-
24 factured products which are mined,

1 produced, or manufactured in the
2 United States.

3 “(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may
4 waive the requirements of clause (i) in any
5 case or category of cases in which the Sec-
6 retary finds that—

7 “(I) applying clause (i) would be
8 inconsistent with the public interest;

9 “(II) such products are not pro-
10 duced in the United States in suffi-
11 cient and reasonably available quan-
12 tities and of a satisfactory quality; or

13 “(III) the use of such products
14 will increase the cost of the overall
15 project by more than 25 percent.

16 “(iii) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.—If the
17 Secretary receives a request for a waiver
18 under this subparagraph, the Secretary
19 shall make available to the public a copy of
20 the request and information available to
21 the Secretary concerning the request, and
22 shall allow for informal public input on the
23 request for at least 15 business days prior
24 to making a finding based on the request.
25 The Secretary shall make the request and

1 accompanying information available to the
2 public by electronic means, including on
3 the official public Internet site of the De-
4 partment of the Interior.

5 “(iv) INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—This paragraph shall be applied
6 in a manner consistent with United States
7 obligations under international agreements.

8 “(v) DEFINITION OF PRODUCED IN
9 THE UNITED STATES.—In this subpara-
10 graph, the term ‘produced in the United
11 States’ means, in the case of iron or steel
12 products, that all manufacturing processes,
13 from the initial melting stage through the
14 application of coatings, occurred in the
15 United States.”;

16 (4) by amending paragraph (7) to read as fol-
17 lows:

18 “(7) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—

19 “(A) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—

20 The Secretary shall provide for coordination
21 and consultation with the Governor of any
22 State or the executive of any local government
23 that may be affected by a lease, easement, or
24 right-of-way under this subsection.
25

1 “(B) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—

2 “(i) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary
3 shall conduct meaningful and timely con-
4 sultation with Indian Tribes (following the
5 procedures of Executive Order 13175 (25
6 U.S.C. 5301 note), the President’s Memo-
7 randum of Uniform Standards for Tribal
8 Consultation, issued on November 30,
9 2022, or any subsequent order) before un-
10 dertaking any activities under this sub-
11 section, including holding a lease sale, that
12 may have a direct, indirect, or cumulative
13 impact on—

14 “(I) the land, including allotted,
15 ceded, or traditional land, or interests
16 in such land of an Indian Tribe or
17 member of an Indian Tribe;

18 “(II) Tribal land, cultural prac-
19 tices, resources, or access to tradi-
20 tional areas of cultural or religious
21 importance;

22 “(III) any part of any Federal
23 land that shares a border with Indian
24 country, as such term is defined in

1 section 1151 of title 18, United States
2 Code;

3 “(IV) the protected rights of an
4 Indian Tribe, whether or not such
5 rights are enumerated in a treaty, in-
6 cluding water, hunting, gathering, and
7 fishing rights;

8 “(V) the ability of an Indian
9 Tribe to govern or provide services to
10 members of the Indian Tribe;

11 “(VI) the relationship between
12 the Federal Government and an In-
13 dian Tribe; or

14 “(VII) the trust responsibility of
15 the Federal Government to an Indian
16 Tribe.

17 “(ii) CONFIDENTIAL AND SENSITIVE
18 INFORMATION.—

19 “(I) CLOSED MEETING.—Not-
20 withstanding any other provision of
21 law, at the request of the applicable
22 Indian Tribe or Tribal government,
23 any Tribal consultation process con-
24 ducted for the purpose of carrying out

1 this subparagraph shall be closed to
2 the public.

3 “(II) TREATMENT OF DES-
4 IGNATED INFORMATION.—Notwith-
5 standing any other provision of law,
6 during a Tribal consultation process
7 conducted for the purpose of carrying
8 out this subparagraph, if the applica-
9 ble Indian Tribe or Tribal government
10 designates any information, such as
11 the location of a sacred site or other
12 detail of a cultural or religious prac-
13 tice, as sensitive, that information
14 shall be protected by law as confiden-
15 tial and withheld from any public dis-
16 closure or publication made as part of
17 such Tribal consultation process or in
18 any other process of carrying out this
19 Act.

20 “(III) ACCESS TO DESIGNATED
21 INFORMATION.—If information has
22 been designated as sensitive under
23 subclause (II), the Secretary shall de-
24 termine, in consultation with the ap-
25 plicable Indian Tribe or Tribal gov-

1 ernment, who may have access to the
2 information for the purposes of car-
3 rying out this Act.”;

4 (5) by amending paragraph (10) to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(10) APPLICABILITY.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection does
8 not apply to any area on the outer Continental
9 Shelf within the exterior boundaries of any unit
10 of the National Park System, National Wildlife
11 Refuge System, or National Marine Sanctuary
12 System, or any National Monument.

13 “(B) CERTAIN TRANSMISSION INFRA-
14 STRUCTURE.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
16 subparagraph (A), if otherwise authorized
17 pursuant to the National Marine Sanc-
18 tuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), the
19 Secretary may issue a lease, easement, or
20 right-of-way to enable the transmission of
21 electricity generated by an offshore renew-
22 able energy project.

23 “(ii) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In
24 issuing a lease, easement, or right-of-way
25 under clause (i), the Secretary may ap-

1 prove and regulate, as necessary, the con-
2 struction and operation of transmission fa-
3 cilities and related infrastructure for the
4 transmission of electricity generated by an
5 offshore renewable energy project in a
6 manner that minimizes environmental im-
7 pacts and harm to Tribal cultural re-
8 sources.

9 “(iii) COORDINATION.—In approving
10 and regulating the construction and oper-
11 ation of facilities under clause (ii), the Sec-
12 retary shall coordinate with the Secretary
13 of Commerce to ensure the duration of any
14 necessary authorizations of such facilities
15 under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act
16 aligns with the duration of the relevant
17 leases, easements, or rights-of-way issued
18 under clause (i).”; and

19 (6) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(11) PLANNING AREA IMPACT STUDIES.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning three years
22 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
23 before holding any lease sale pursuant to para-
24 graph (1) for an area, the Secretary shall con-
25 duct a study of such area, or the wider plan-

1 ning area that includes such area, in order to
2 establish information needed for assessment
3 and management of the environmental impacts
4 on the human, marine, and coastal environ-
5 ments, and the Tribal cultural resources, of the
6 outer Continental Shelf and the coastal areas
7 which may be affected by offshore renewable
8 energy projects in such area or planning area.

9 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—A study conducted
10 under subparagraph (A) shall—

11 “(i) incorporate the best available ex-
12 isting science and data, including Tribal
13 Traditional Ecological Knowledge;

14 “(ii) identify areas for which there is
15 insufficient science and data; and

16 “(iii) include consideration of the cu-
17 mulative impacts (including potential navi-
18 gational impacts) of offshore renewable en-
19 ergy projects on human, marine, and
20 coastal environments.

21 “(C) USE OF DATA AND ASSESSMENTS.—
22 The Secretary shall use the data and assess-
23 ments from studies conducted under this para-
24 graph, as appropriate, when deciding—

1 “(i) which portions of an area or re-
2 gion are most appropriate to make avail-
3 able for leasing; and

4 “(ii) whether to issue any permit or
5 other authorization that is necessary to
6 carry out an offshore renewable energy
7 project.

8 “(D) NEPA APPLICABILITY.—The Sec-
9 retary shall not consider a study conducted
10 under subparagraph (A) to be a major Federal
11 action under section 102(2)(C) of the National
12 Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

13 “(12) CAPACITY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY
14 ENGAGEMENT.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-
16 sultation with the Secretary of Commerce, may
17 award grants to entities to build organizational
18 capacity and enhance engagement opportunities
19 related to offshore renewable energy project de-
20 velopment, including environmental and cultural
21 reviews and permitting activities of such
22 projects.

23 “(B) PURPOSES.—Grants awarded under
24 subparagraph (A) shall be for—

1 “(i) enabling States, Indian Tribes,
2 affected ocean users, and nonprofit asso-
3 ciations that represent affected ocean users
4 to compile data, conduct analyses, educate
5 stakeholders, and complete other activities
6 relating to offshore renewable energy
7 project development;

8 “(ii) engaging in planning activities
9 related to the development of offshore re-
10 newable energy projects to—

11 “(I) determine potential eco-
12 nomic, social, public health, environ-
13 mental, and cultural benefits and im-
14 pacts resulting from offshore renew-
15 able energy projects; and

16 “(II) identify opportunities to
17 mitigate such impacts;

18 “(iii) facilitating siting of offshore re-
19 newable energy projects and associated
20 electric transmission infrastructure; and

21 “(iv) hiring and training of personnel,
22 and other activities designed to increase
23 the capacity of States, Indian Tribes, and
24 nonprofit associations, as applicable, to

1 carry out activities described in clauses (i)
2 through (iii).

3 “(C) PRIORITIZATION.—When awarding
4 grants under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
5 shall prioritize awarding grants that will be
6 used to build organizational capacity and en-
7 hance community engagement opportunities of
8 Indian Tribes.

9 “(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
10 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
11 priated to the Secretary to carry out this para-
12 graph \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years
13 2025 through 2029.”.

14 (d) RESERVATIONS.—Section 12(a) of the Outer
15 Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(a)) is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 “(a) WITHDRAWAL OF UNLEASED LANDS BY THE
18 PRESIDENT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President of the
20 United States may, from time to time, withdraw
21 from disposition any of the unleased lands of the
22 outer Continental Shelf.

23 “(2) MODIFICATION FOR CERTAIN OFFSHORE
24 RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.—With respect to a
25 withdrawal under paragraph (1) of unleased lands

1 from disposition, the President may modify such a
2 withdrawal only to allow for leasing under section
3 8(p)(1)(C) and only if the President determines that
4 environmental, Tribal, national security, or national
5 or regional energy conditions or demands have
6 changed such that a modification would be in the
7 public interest.”.

8 (e) CITIZEN SUITS, COURT JURISDICTION, AND JU-
9 DICIAL REVIEW.—Section 23(c)(2) of the Outer Conti-
10 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1349(c)(2)) is amend-
11 ed to read as follows:

12 “(2) Any action of the Secretary to approve, require
13 modification of, or disapprove any exploration plan or de-
14 velopment and production plan under this Act, or any
15 plan, final lease, easement, or right-of-way granted pursu-
16 ant to section (8)(p)(1) (and any related final Federal
17 agency actions), shall be subject to judicial review only in
18 a United States court of appeals for a circuit in which
19 an affected State or Indian Tribe is located.”.

20 **SEC. 4. OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPENSATION**
21 **FUND.**

22 The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
23 1331) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 34. OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPENSATION**
2 **FUND.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
4 Treasury of the United States the Offshore Renewable
5 Energy Compensation Fund, which shall be used by the
6 Secretary, or a third-party the Secretary enters into a con-
7 tract with, to provide to covered entities—

8 “(1) payments for claims—

9 “(A) described under subsection (f)(1); and

10 “(B) verified pursuant to subsection
11 (d)(1); and

12 “(2) grants to carry out mitigation activities de-
13 scribed in subsection (f)(2).

14 “(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUND.—The Fund shall be
15 available to the Secretary without fiscal year limitations
16 for the purpose of providing payments and grants under
17 subsection (a).

18 “(c) ACCOUNTS.—The Fund shall—

19 “(1) consist of the royalties, fees, rents, bo-
20 nuses, and other payments deposited under section
21 8(p)(2)(D); and

22 “(2) be divided into separate area accounts
23 from which payments and grants shall be provided
24 based on the area in which damages occur.

25 “(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish,
26 by regulation, a process to—

1 “(1) file, process, and verify claims for purposes
2 of providing payments under subsection (a)(1); and

3 “(2) apply for a grant provided under sub-
4 section (a)(2).

5 “(e) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—Payments provided under
6 subsection (a)(1) shall—

7 “(1) be based on the scope of the verified claim;

8 “(2) be fair and provided efficiently and in a
9 transparent manner; and

10 “(3) if the covered entity receiving the payment
11 has or will receive direct compensation for the
12 verified claim pursuant to a community benefit
13 agreement or other agreement between such covered
14 entity and a holder of a lease, easement, or right-
15 of-way, be reduced by an amount that is equal to the
16 amount of such direct compensation.

17 “(f) CLAIMS; MITIGATION GRANTS.—

18 “(1) CLAIMS.—A payment may be provided
19 under subsection (a)(1) for a verified claim to—

20 “(A) replace or repair gear that was lost or
21 damaged by the development, construction, op-
22 eration, or decommissioning of an offshore re-
23 newable energy project; or

24 “(B) replace income that was lost from the
25 development, construction, operation, or decom-

1 missioning of an offshore renewable energy
2 project.

3 “(2) MITIGATION GRANTS.—If the Secretary
4 determines that there are sufficient amounts in an
5 area account of the Fund to provide payments for
6 all verified claims at any given time, the Secretary
7 may use amounts in the Fund to provide grants to
8 covered entities, and other entities determined ap-
9 propriate by the Secretary, to mitigate the potential
10 effects of development, construction, operation, and
11 decommissioning of an offshore renewable energy
12 project, including by paying for gear changes, navi-
13 gation technology improvements, and other measures
14 to enhance the safety and resiliency of the covered
15 entities and such other entities.

16 “(g) ADVISORY GROUP.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
18 lish and regularly convene an advisory group that
19 shall provide recommendations on the development
20 and administration of this section.

21 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The advisory group
22 shall—

23 “(A) be comprised of individuals—

24 “(i) appointed by the Secretary; and

1 “(ii) representing the geographic di-
2 versity of areas impacted by the develop-
3 ment, construction, operation, or decom-
4 missioning of offshore renewable energy
5 projects; and

6 “(B) include representatives from—

7 “(i) recreational fishing interests;

8 “(ii) commercial fishing interests;

9 “(iii) Tribal interest;

10 “(iv) the National Marine Fisheries
11 Services;

12 “(v) the fisheries science community;

13 and

14 “(vi) other fields of expertise nec-
15 essary to effectively develop and administer
16 this section, as determined by the Sec-
17 retary.

18 “(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The Secretary may
19 provide amounts to any member of the advisory
20 group to pay for travel expenses, including per diem
21 in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an em-
22 ployee of an agency under section 5703 of title 5,
23 United States Code, while away from the home or
24 regular place of business of the member in the per-
25 formance of the duties of the advisory group.

1 “(h) INSUFFICIENT FUNDS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines
3 that an area account does not contain a sufficient
4 amount to provide payments under subsection
5 (a)(1), the Secretary may, not more than once each
6 calendar year, require any holder of an offshore re-
7 newable energy lease located within the area covered
8 by the area account to pay an amount specified by
9 the Secretary, which shall be deposited into such
10 area account.

11 “(2) AMOUNT.—No holder of an offshore re-
12 newable energy lease shall be required to pay an
13 amount under paragraph (1) in excess of \$3 per
14 acre of the leased land described in paragraph (1).

15 “(i) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Secretary
16 may use up to 15 percent of the amount deposited into
17 the Fund under section 8(p)(2)(D) during a fiscal year
18 for administrative expenses to carry out this section.

19 “(j) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit
20 to Congress, and make publicly available, an annual report
21 on activities carried out under this section, including a de-
22 scription of claims filed and the amount of payments and
23 grants provided.

24 “(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
2 tity’ means—

3 “(A) a community, stakeholder, or Tribal
4 interest—

5 “(i) that uses a geographic space of a
6 lease area, including for Tribal cultural
7 and religious uses, or uses resources har-
8 vested from a geographic space of a lease
9 area; and

10 “(ii) for which such use is directly and
11 adversely impacted by the development,
12 construction, operation, or decommis-
13 sioning of an offshore renewable energy
14 project located in such leased area; or

15 “(B) a regional association, cooperative,
16 non-profit organization, commission, or corpora-
17 tion that—

18 “(i) serves a community, stakeholder,
19 or Tribal interest described in subpara-
20 graph (A); and

21 “(ii) acts on behalf of such a commu-
22 nity, stakeholder, or Tribal interest for
23 purposes of this section, including by sub-
24 mitting a claim for a covered entity under
25 this section.

1 “(2) FUND.—The term ‘Fund’ means the Off-
2 shore Renewable Energy Compensation Fund estab-
3 lished under subsection (a).

4 “(3) LEASE AREA.—The term ‘lease area’
5 means an area covered by an offshore renewable en-
6 ergy lease.

7 “(4) OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY LEASE.—
8 The term ‘offshore renewable energy lease’ means a
9 lease, easement, or right-of-way granted under sec-
10 tion 8(p)(1)(C).”.

11 **SEC. 5. IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RE-**
12 **VIEWS TO ENSURE TIMELY PERMITTING DE-**
13 **CISIONS.**

14 (a) BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT.—In
15 addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appro-
16 priated to the Secretary of the Interior for fiscal year
17 2024, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise ap-
18 propriated, \$50,000,000 to remain available until ex-
19 pended, to provide for the hiring and training of personnel,
20 the development of programmatic environmental docu-
21 ments, the procurement of technical or scientific services
22 for environmental and cultural reviews, the development
23 of cultural competency for Tribal consultations, support
24 of regional ocean data portals, the development of environ-
25 mental data or information systems (including efforts to

1 standardize, establish a baseline for, publish, or otherwise
2 improve the consistency of environmental data), the devel-
3 opment of pre-application components, stakeholder and
4 community engagement, updates to the Marine Cadastre
5 for advancements in spatial data analysis and
6 deconfliction, the purchase of new equipment for environ-
7 mental analysis, and coordination (including through the
8 public tracking of Federal authorizations and reviews) to
9 facilitate timely, efficient, and responsible permitting and
10 review of offshore renewable energy projects.

11 (b) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN-
12 ISTRATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available,
13 there is appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for
14 fiscal year 2024, out of any money in the Treasury not
15 otherwise appropriated, \$45,000,000 to remain available
16 until expended, to provide for the hiring and training of
17 personnel, the development of programmatic environ-
18 mental documents, the procurement of technical or sci-
19 entific services for environmental and cultural reviews, the
20 development of cultural competency for Tribal consulta-
21 tions, support of regional ocean data portals, the develop-
22 ment of environmental data or information systems (in-
23 cluding efforts to standardize, baseline, publish, or other-
24 wise improve the consistency of environmental data),
25 stakeholder and community engagement, updates to the

1 Marine Cadastre for advancements in spatial data analysis
2 and deconfliction, adaptation of scientific and fisheries
3 surveys, and the purchase of new equipment for environ-
4 mental analysis to facilitate timely, efficient, and respon-
5 sible environmental reviews for the permitting of offshore
6 renewable energy projects.

7 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON DECOMMISSIONING OF OFFSHORE RE-**
8 **NEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.**

9 Not later than 10 years after the date of enactment
10 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to
11 Congress, and make publicly available, a report evaluating
12 decommissioning options for offshore renewable energy
13 projects (and associated electric transmission infrastruc-
14 ture), including an assessment of the potential for the
15 holder of a lease, easement, or right-of-way to keep facili-
16 ties in place or otherwise convert such facilities to artificial
17 reefs to support marine habitats, provided that such facili-
18 ties will not adversely impact navigation, national security,
19 the marine environment, Tribal uses, or other competing
20 uses of the outer Continental Shelf.

21 **SEC. 7. OFFSHORE POWER ADMINISTRATION.**

22 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy
24 shall establish the Offshore Power Administration.

25 (b) **AUTHORITIES.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Offshore Power Admin-
2 istration may, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3)—

3 (A) construct, finance, facilitate, plan, op-
4 erate, maintain, acquire, and study covered
5 transmission infrastructure; and

6 (B) support construction, financing, facili-
7 tation, planning, operation, maintenance, acqui-
8 sition, and study of covered transmission infra-
9 structure.

10 (2) LIMITATION ON CONSTRUCTION.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Offshore Power
12 Administration may not construct covered
13 transmission infrastructure in any region until
14 the Secretary of Energy has made a determina-
15 tion (in consultation with the Secretary of the
16 Interior) that the relevant State governments,
17 regional transmission organizations, offshore re-
18 newable energy project developers, and other
19 stakeholders in such region have failed to ade-
20 quately coordinate and cooperate on the devel-
21 opment and use of shared covered transmission
22 infrastructure.

23 (B) INITIAL DELAY.—The Secretary of
24 Energy may not make a determination under

1 this paragraph sooner than 3 years after the
2 date of enactment of this Act.

3 (3) LEASES, EASEMENTS, AND RIGHTS-OF
4 WAY.—In carrying out any activity under paragraph
5 (1), the Offshore Power Administration shall be sub-
6 ject to the requirements to obtain a lease, easement,
7 or right-of-way under section 8(p) of the Outer Con-
8 tinental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337).

9 (c) GOVERNANCE.—

10 (1) ORGANIZATION.—The Offshore Power Ad-
11 ministration shall be preserved as a separate and
12 distinct organizational entity within the Department
13 of Energy and shall be headed by an Administrator
14 appointed by the Secretary of Energy.

15 (2) REGIONAL OFFICES.—The Administrator
16 shall establish and maintain such regional offices as
17 necessary to facilitate the performance of the Off-
18 shore Power Administration.

19 (d) LOANS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
21 provision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury shall,
22 without appropriation and without fiscal year limita-
23 tion, make loans to the Offshore Power Administra-
24 tion that, in the judgment of the Administrator, are

1 required to carry out the activities listed in sub-
2 section (b)(1).

3 (2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
5 graphs (B) and (C), loans made by the Sec-
6 retary of the Treasury under paragraph (1)
7 shall include such terms and conditions that the
8 Administrator and Secretary of the Treasury
9 may agree to.

10 (B) INTEREST.—The rate of interest to be
11 charged in connection with any loan made
12 under paragraph (1) shall be fixed by the Sec-
13 retary of the Treasury, taking into consider-
14 ation market yields on outstanding marketable
15 obligations of the United States of comparable
16 maturities as of the date on which the loan is
17 made.

18 (C) LIMITATION.—Loans made by the Sec-
19 retary of the Treasury under paragraph (1)
20 may not result in, in the aggregate (including
21 deferred interest), \$10,000,000,000 in out-
22 standing repayable balances at any one time.

23 (3) REFINANCING.—The Administrator may re-
24 finance loans made pursuant to this section with the

1 Secretary of the Treasury in accordance with para-
2 graph (2).

3 (e) AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS.—The Admin-
4 istrator may enter into agreements and partnerships with
5 other entities to carry out any of the activities listed in
6 subsection (b)(1).

7 (f) DISPOSITION OF REVENUE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to covered
9 transmission infrastructure owned and operated by
10 the Offshore Power Administration pursuant to this
11 section, the Administrator shall use qualified rev-
12 enue to pay the principal and interest of the loan
13 made by Secretary of the Treasury with respect to
14 such covered transmission infrastructure.

15 (2) QUALIFIED REVENUE.—In this subsection,
16 the term “qualified revenue” means—

17 (A) all revenue received by the Offshore
18 Power Administration from the operation of the
19 covered transmission infrastructure; less

20 (B) the amount the Administrator deter-
21 mines necessary to—

22 (i) pay the costs of operating and
23 maintaining the covered transmission in-
24 frastructure, including expenses described
25 in subsection (g)(2); and

1 (ii) pay for any ancillary services that
2 are used by the Offshore Power Adminis-
3 tration.

4 (g) FORGIVENESS OF BALANCES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—If, at the end of the useful
6 life of any covered transmission infrastructure ac-
7 quired, constructed, maintained, or operated by the
8 Offshore Power Administration pursuant to this sec-
9 tion there is a remaining balance owed to the Treas-
10 ury for a loan made under this section for any such
11 purpose, such balance shall be forgiven.

12 (2) STUDIES.—A loan made under this section
13 for purposes of studying covered transmission infra-
14 structure that is not constructed shall be forgiven
15 upon notification under paragraph (3).

16 (3) NOTIFICATION.—The Administrator shall
17 notify the Secretary of the Treasury of such
18 amounts as are to be forgiven under this subsection.

19 (h) ADMINISTRATION.—

20 (1) ACCOUNTS AND AUDITS.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
22 shall keep complete and accurate accounts of
23 the operation of covered transmission infra-
24 structure owned and operated by the Offshore
25 Power Administration, including all funds ex-

1 pended and received in connection with trans-
2 mission of electric energy by the Offshore
3 Power Administration.

4 (B) AUDITS.—The Administrator shall,
5 after the close of each fiscal year, obtain an
6 independent commercial-type audit of such ac-
7 counts.

8 (2) EXPENSES.—The Administrator may make
9 such expenditures for offices, vehicles, furnishings,
10 equipment, supplies, books, travel for attendance at
11 meetings, and for such other facilities and services
12 as the Administrator determines necessary to carry
13 out this section.

14 (i) PREVAILING WAGE.—All laborers and mechanics
15 employed by contractors and subcontractors in the per-
16 formance of construction work carried out or funded by
17 in whole or in part by the Offshore Power Administration
18 shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing
19 on projects of a character similar in the locality as deter-
20 mined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with sub-
21 chapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code.
22 With respect to the labor standards in this subsection, the
23 Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions
24 set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950

1 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title
2 40, United States Code.

3 (j) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—

4 (1) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—The
5 Administrator shall provide for coordination and
6 consultation with the Governor of any State or the
7 executive of any local government that may be af-
8 fected by activities under this section.

9 (2) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
11 shall conduct meaningful and timely consulta-
12 tion with Indian Tribes (following the proce-
13 dures of Executive Order 13175 (25 U.S.C.
14 5301 note), the President’s Memorandum of
15 Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation,
16 issued on November 30, 2022, or any subse-
17 quent order) before undertaking any activities
18 under this section that may have a direct, indi-
19 rect, or cumulative impact on—

20 (i) the land, including allotted, ceded,
21 or traditional land, or interests in such
22 land of an Indian Tribe or member of an
23 Indian Tribe;

1 (ii) Tribal land, cultural practices, re-
2 sources, or access to traditional areas of
3 cultural or religious importance;

4 (iii) any part of any Federal land that
5 shares a border with Indian country, as
6 such term is defined in section 1151 of
7 title 18, United States Code;

8 (iv) the protected rights of an Indian
9 Tribe, whether or not such rights are enu-
10 merated in a treaty, including water, hunt-
11 ing, gathering, and fishing rights;

12 (v) the ability of an Indian Tribe to
13 govern or provide services to members of
14 the Indian Tribe;

15 (vi) the relationship between the Fed-
16 eral Government and an Indian Tribe; or

17 (vii) the trust responsibility of the
18 Federal Government to an Indian Tribe.

19 (B) CONFIDENTIAL AND SENSITIVE INFOR-
20 MATION.—

21 (i) CLOSED MEETING.—Notwith-
22 standing any other provision of law, at the
23 request of the applicable Indian Tribe or
24 Tribal government, any Tribal consultation
25 process conducted for the purpose of car-

1 rying out this subsection shall be closed to
2 the public.

3 (ii) TREATMENT OF DESIGNATED IN-
4 FORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other
5 provision of law, during a Tribal consulta-
6 tion process conducted for the purpose of
7 carrying out this subsection, if the applica-
8 ble Indian Tribe or Tribal government des-
9 ignates any information, such as the loca-
10 tion of a sacred site or other detail of a
11 cultural or religious practice, as sensitive,
12 that information shall be protected by law
13 as confidential and withheld from any pub-
14 lic disclosure or publication made as part
15 of such Tribal consultation process or in
16 any other process of carrying out this sec-
17 tion.

18 (iii) ACCESS TO DESIGNATED INFOR-
19 MATION.—If information has been des-
20 ignated as sensitive under clause (ii), the
21 Secretary shall determine, in consultation
22 with the applicable Indian Tribe or Tribal
23 government, who may have access to the
24 information for the purposes of carrying
25 out this section.

1 (k) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Beginning
2 January 1, 2026, and each year thereafter, not later than
3 180 days after the end of each year, the Administrator
4 shall submit to Congress a report for the previous year
5 that includes—

6 (1) a description of the activities of the Off-
7 shore Power Administration;

8 (2) an accounting of the use of loans made
9 under this section; and

10 (3) an assessment of the coordination and co-
11 operation by relevant State and Tribal governments,
12 regional transmission organizations, offshore renew-
13 able energy project developers, and other stake-
14 holders the Secretary of Energy determines are rel-
15 evant in each region to develop and use shared cov-
16 ered transmission infrastructure.

17 (l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
19 trator” means the Administrator of the Offshore
20 Power Administration.

21 (2) COVERED TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUC-
22 TURE.—The term “covered transmission infrastruc-
23 ture”—

24 (A) means electric power transmission in-
25 frastructure, and any related facilities thereof,

1 that serves at least one offshore renewable en-
2 ergy project; and

3 (B) includes onshore facilities that enable
4 the interconnection of offshore renewable en-
5 ergy projects.

6 **SEC. 8. OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE**
7 **STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

8 (a) STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Sec-
9 retary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of the
10 Interior, the interagency comprehensive digital mapping
11 initiative established under section 388(b) of the Energy
12 Policy Act of 2005, and other relevant Federal, State,
13 Tribal, and local agencies, shall periodically conduct stud-
14 ies and make recommendations available to the public on
15 the potential siting of offshore transmission infrastructure
16 in a manner that—

17 (1) achieves sufficient transmission capacity to
18 support offshore energy development to meet State,
19 Tribal, or Federal renewable or clean electricity
20 mandates, targets, or goals;

21 (2) promotes safety, national security, Tribal
22 sovereignty, and environmental protection while
23 minimizing impacts to cultural and living marine re-
24 sources, including Tribal cultural resources; and

1 (3) leads to efficient development of onshore
2 points of interconnection.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of En-
5 ergy to carry out this section \$10,000,000, to remain
6 available until expended.

7 **SEC. 9. INTEROPERABILITY OF OFFSHORE ELECTRIC**
8 **TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

9 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date
10 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall
11 complete and publish on the website of the Department
12 of Energy a study that assesses the need to, and chal-
13 lenges of, developing and standardizing interoperable elec-
14 tric grid components, systems, and technologies in support
15 of shared offshore transmission networks. Such study
16 shall include recommendations for Congress, State, Tribal,
17 and local governments, manufacturers of electric grid com-
18 ponents, systems, and technologies, regional transmission
19 organizations, offshore electricity generation project devel-
20 opers, and appropriate standards organizations to help en-
21 sure interoperability of electric grid components, systems,
22 and technologies across seams between offshore electricity
23 generation projects and shared offshore infrastructure
24 connecting to onshore transmission systems.

1 (b) INTEROPERABILITY STANDARD DEVELOPMENT
2 PROGRAM.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy
4 shall establish and implement a program to identify,
5 develop, support, document, and encourage the
6 adoption of a set of standards necessary to maximize
7 the interoperability of electric grid components, sys-
8 tems, and technologies to accelerate the implementa-
9 tion and delivery of electricity generated by offshore
10 electricity generation projects through shared trans-
11 mission infrastructure.

12 (2) GOALS.—The goals of establishing and im-
13 plementing the program under paragraph (1) shall
14 be—

15 (A) to harmonize and standardize func-
16 tional specifications of electric grid components,
17 systems, and technologies to maximize the
18 interoperability of electric grid components, sys-
19 tems, and technologies across technologies and
20 manufacturers;

21 (B) to hasten adoption of shared trans-
22 mission infrastructure for offshore electricity
23 generation by encouraging cooperation among
24 manufacturers of electric grid components, sys-
25 tems, or technologies in order to—

1 (i) maximize interoperability of such
2 manufacturers' electric grid components,
3 systems, and technologies;

4 (ii) reduce offshore electricity genera-
5 tion project delays and cost overruns;

6 (iii) manage power grid complexity;

7 and

8 (iv) enhance electric grid resilience,
9 reliability, and cybersecurity; and

10 (C) to identify common technical specifica-
11 tions to effectively and securely measure, mon-
12 itor, control, and protect offshore electricity
13 generation and transmission infrastructure
14 from the point of generation to load centers.

15 (3) GRANTS.—Under the program established
16 and implemented under paragraph (1), the Secretary
17 may provide grants to entities to—

18 (A) engage equipment manufacturers and
19 industry stakeholders in collaborative platforms,
20 including workshops and forums;

21 (B) identify current challenges and propose
22 solutions to improve interoperability of electric
23 grid components, systems, and technologies;
24 and

1 (C) develop a set of voluntary industry
2 standards to maximize interoperability of elec-
3 tric grid components, systems, and technologies
4 that meet the goals described in paragraph (2).

5 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of En-
7 ergy to carry out this section \$5,000,000, to remain avail-
8 able until expended.

9 **SEC. 10. OFFSHORE WIND SHIPBUILDING.**

10 (a) OFFSHORE WIND SHIPYARD GRANT PROGRAM.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy
12 shall establish a program to support the refurbish-
13 ment, retooling, expansion, modernization, and es-
14 tablishment of shipyards and other manufacturing
15 facilities by providing grants for the fabrication, re-
16 pair, and conversion of vessels needed for the pre-
17 construction assessment, construction, operation,
18 and maintenance of offshore wind energy projects.

19 (2) RECIPIENTS.—Under the program estab-
20 lished under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Energy
21 may provide grants to shipyard owners and opera-
22 tors, fabricators of the vessels described in para-
23 graph (1), and relevant component suppliers.

24 (3) PREVAILING WAGE.—The Secretary of En-
25 ergy shall take such action as may be necessary to

1 ensure all laborers and mechanics employed by con-
2 tractors or subcontractors during construction, alter-
3 ation, or repair that is supported, in whole or in
4 part, by grants provided under this section shall be
5 paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on
6 similar construction in the locality, as determined by
7 the Secretary of Labor in accordance with sub-
8 chapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States
9 Code. With respect to the labor standards in this
10 subsection, the Secretary of Labor shall have the au-
11 thority and functions set forth in Reorganization
12 Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5
13 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United
14 States Code.

15 (4) COST SHARE.—Section 988(c) of the En-
16 ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352(c)) shall
17 apply to a grant provided under this section as if
18 such grant were a demonstration or commercial ap-
19 plication activity described in section 988(a) of such
20 Act.

21 (5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
22 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
23 retary of Energy to carry out this section
24 \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended.

1 (b) LOAN GUARANTEES FOR WIND TURBINE IN-
2 STALLATION VESSELS.—Section 1703(b) of the Energy
3 Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513(b)) is amended by
4 adding at the end the following:

5 “(14) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1),
6 projects that increase the supply of domestically pro-
7 duced vessels needed for the pre-construction assess-
8 ment, construction, operation, and maintenance of
9 offshore wind energy projects, including wind tur-
10 bine installation vessels.”.

11 **SEC. 11. ACCESS TO OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY**
12 **AREAS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that fishing and boating
14 access, and Tribal cultural activities and lifeways, in and
15 around offshore renewable energy projects will be main-
16 tained with narrow exceptions for construction and main-
17 tenance activities.

18 **SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act, the terms “offshore renewable energy
20 project” and “outer Continental Shelf” have the meanings
21 given such terms in section 2 of the Outer Continental
22 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331).

○