

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2887

To provide for certain Department of State actions relating to global climate change, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2021

Mr. KEATING (for himself and Ms. KAPTUR) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for certain Department of State actions relating
to global climate change, 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 “Global Climate Change
5 Diplomacy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIONS RELATING TO**

7 **GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE.**

8 (a) CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICERS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall
10 establish and staff Climate Change Officer positions.

1 Such Officers shall serve under the supervision of
2 the appropriate chief of mission or the Under Sec-
3 retary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Envi-
4 ronment of the Department of State, as the case
5 may be. The Secretary shall ensure each embassy,
6 consulate, and diplomatic mission to which such Of-
7 ficers are assigned pursuant to paragraph (2) has
8 sufficient additional and appropriate staff to support
9 such Officers.

10 (2) ASSIGNMENT.—Climate Change Officers
11 shall be assigned to the following posts:

12 (A) United States embassies, or, if appro-
13 priate, consulates.

14 (B) United States diplomatic missions to,
15 or liaisons with, regional and multilateral orga-
16 nizations, including the United States diplo-
17 matic missions to the European Union, African
18 Union, Organization of American States, Arctic
19 Council, and any other appropriate regional or-
20 ganization, and the United Nations and its rel-
21 evant specialized agencies.

22 (C) Other posts as designated by the Sec-
23 retary.

24 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each Climate Change
25 Officer shall—

1 (A) provide expertise on effective ap-
2 proaches to—

3 (i) mitigate the emission of gases
4 which contribute to global climate change
5 and formulate national and global plans
6 for reducing such gross and net emissions;
7 and

8 (ii) reduce the detrimental impacts at-
9 tributable to global climate change, and
10 adapt to such impacts;

11 (B) engage and convene, in a manner that
12 is equitable, inclusive, and just, with individuals
13 and organizations which represent a govern-
14 ment office, a nongovernmental organization, a
15 social or political movement, a private sector
16 entity, an educational or scientific institution,
17 or any other entity concerned with—

18 (i) global climate change; the emission
19 of gases which contribute to global climate
20 change; or

21 (ii) reducing the detrimental impacts
22 attributable to global climate change;

23 (C) facilitate engagement by United States
24 entities in bilateral and multilateral cooperation
25 on climate change; and

1 (D) carry out such other responsibilities as
2 the Secretary may assign.

3 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SECRETARY.—The
4 Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the
5 Environment of the Department of State shall, including
6 by acting through the Bureau of Oceans and International
7 Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the Department
8 of State—

9 (1) provide policy guidance to Climate Change
10 Officers established under subsection (a);

11 (2) develop relations with, consult with, and
12 provide assistance to relevant individuals and organi-
13 zations concerned with studying, mitigating, and
14 adapting to global climate change, or reducing the
15 emission of gases which contribute to global climate
16 change; and

17 (3) assist officers and employees of regional bu-
18 reaus of the Department of State to develop strate-
19 gies and programs to promote studying, mitigating,
20 and adapting to global climate change, or reducing
21 the emission of gases which contribute to global cli-
22 mate change.

23 (c) ACTIONS BY CHIEFS OF MISSION.—Each chief of
24 mission in a foreign country shall—

1 (1) develop, as part of annual joint strategic
2 plans or equivalent program and policy planning, a
3 strategy to promote actions to improve and increase
4 studying, mitigating, and adapting to global climate
5 change, or reducing the emission of gases which con-
6 tribute to global climate change by—

7 (A) consulting and coordinating with and
8 providing support to relevant individuals and
9 organizations, including experts and other pro-
10 fessionals and stakeholders on issues related to
11 climate change; and

12 (B) holding periodic meetings with such
13 relevant individuals and organizations relating
14 to such strategy;

15 (2) hold ongoing discussions with the officials
16 and leaders of such country regarding progress to
17 improve and increase studying, mitigating, and
18 adapting to global climate change, or reducing the
19 emission of gases which contribute to global climate
20 change in a manner that is equitable, inclusive, and
21 just in such country; and

22 (3) certify annually to the Secretary of State
23 that to the maximum extent practicable, consider-
24 ations related to climate change adaptation and
25 mitigation, sustainability, and the environment were

1 incorporated in activities, management, and oper-
2 ations of the United States embassy or other diplo-
3 matic post under the director of the chief of mission.

4 (d) TRAINING.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
6 shall establish curriculum at the Department of State’s
7 Foreign Service Institute that supplements political and
8 economic reporting tradecraft courses in order to provide
9 employees of the Department with specialized training
10 with respect to studying, mitigating, and adapting to glob-
11 al climate change, or reducing the emission of gases which
12 contribute to global climate change. Such training shall
13 include the following:

14 (1) Awareness of the full range of national and
15 subnational agencies, offices, personnel, statutory
16 authorities, funds, and programs involved in the
17 international commitments of the United States re-
18 garding global climate change and the emission of
19 gases which contribute to global climate change, the
20 science of global climate change, and methods for
21 mitigating and adapting to global climate change.

22 (2) Awareness of methods for mitigating and
23 adapting to global climate change and reducing the
24 emission of gases which contribute to global climate
25 change that are equitable, inclusive, and just.

1 (3) Familiarity with United States agencies,
2 multilateral agencies, international financial institu-
3 tions, and the network of donors providing assist-
4 ance to mitigate and adapt to global climate change.

5 (4) Awareness of the most frequently an-
6 nounced goals and methods of the entities specified
7 in subsection (a)(3)(B).

8 (e) CONTRACTING.—Contracting and agreements of-
9 ficers of the Department of State, and other United States
10 embassy personnel responsible for contracts, grants, or ac-
11 quisitions, shall receive training on evaluating proposals,
12 solicitations, and bids, for considerations related to sus-
13 tainability and adapting to or mitigating impacts from cli-
14 mate change.

15 (f) REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter,
17 the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on
18 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on
19 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
20 that includes a detailed breakdown of posts at which staff
21 are assigned the role of Climate Change Officer, the re-
22 sponsibilities to which they have been assigned, and the
23 strategies developed by the chief of mission, as applicable.

24 (g) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
25 gress that climate diplomacy tools, including the establish-

1 ment of Climate Change Officers and supporting staff
2 under this section, are critical for demonstrating the com-
3 mitment to include climate changes issues as core tenets
4 of foreign policy priorities, as well as preserving the
5 United States role as a global leader on climate change
6 action.

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