

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9951

To direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide for collaboration between the Economic Development Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency to promote economic revitalization efforts of environmentally contaminated sites, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2024

Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. MRVAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Energy and Commerce, 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 direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide for collaboration between the Economic Development Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency to promote economic revitalization efforts of environmentally contaminated sites, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Revitalization Efforts
3 for Sustainable Transformation And Remediation for
4 Thriving Communities Act of 2024” or the “RESTART
5 Communities Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AND**
7 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RE-**
8 **VITALIZATION COORDINATION.**

9 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce, act-
10 ing through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Eco-
11 nomic Development (in this Act referred to as the “Assist-
12 ant Secretary”), and the Administrator of the Environ-
13 mental Protection Agency (in this Act referred to as the
14 “Administrator”) shall carry out interagency activities to
15 promote the economic revitalization of eligible sites before,
16 during, and after environmental remediation.

17 (b) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**—The As-
18 sistant Secretary and the Administrator may coordinate
19 the activities under subsection (a) through the establish-
20 ment of a memorandum of understanding, or other appro-
21 priate interagency agreement.

22 (c) **INTERAGENCY ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out the
23 activities under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary
24 and the Administrator may engage in any interagency ac-
25 tivity, including any of the following:

1 (1) Establish any interagency process to pro-
2 mote the economic revitalization of an eligible site,
3 including—

4 (A) any process that—

5 (i) promotes timely action by the As-
6 sistant Secretary or the Administrator in
7 supporting the economic revitalization ac-
8 tivities of an eligible site;

9 (ii) supports access by site stake-
10 holders to technical assistance resources
11 and services available at or through the
12 Economic Development Administration or
13 the Environmental Protection Agency;

14 (iii) subject to policies promoting fair
15 and open competition, supports access by
16 site stakeholders to relevant Federal grant
17 and loan programs, including such pro-
18 grams at or through the Economic Devel-
19 opment Administration or the Environ-
20 mental Protection Agency, to promote eco-
21 nomic revitalization after environmental re-
22 mediation activities; and

23 (iv) supports access by site stake-
24 holders to best practices, frameworks, and
25 other information, as appropriate, for the

1 development of economic revitalization
2 plans that focus on community engage-
3 ment, environmental justice, and the ben-
4 efit of economically distressed commu-
5 nities; and

6 (B) any other interagency process as deter-
7 mined necessary by the Assistant Secretary and
8 the Administrator.

9 (2) Support the collection of public input by
10 site stakeholders and surrounding communities of an
11 eligible site to promote community support for eco-
12 nomic revitalization activities at the Economic De-
13 velopment Administration or the Environmental Pro-
14 tection Agency.

15 (3) Support the development and dissemination
16 of best practices, frameworks, and other tools,
17 metrics, and resources to promote the success of eco-
18 nomic revitalization of an eligible site.

19 (4) Support data collection and data sharing
20 practices, as determined by the Assistant Secretary
21 and the Administrator, to monitor and report on the
22 success of economic revitalization at an eligible site.

23 (5) Support education, training, and workforce
24 development activities for site stakeholders to in-
25 crease the success of economic revitalization before,

1 during, and after environmental remediation at an
2 eligible site, including—

3 (A) internships, fellowships, and other
4 work-based learning opportunities at the Eco-
5 nomic Development Administration and the En-
6 vironmental Protection Agency, subject to the
7 availability of appropriations;

8 (B) development of postsecondary or cre-
9 dential curriculum, experiential learning, or
10 other project-based learning opportunities
11 through collaboration with stakeholders that
12 support the activities of this section; and

13 (C) professional development opportunities
14 for site stakeholders in professional fields rel-
15 evant to environmental remediation or economic
16 revitalization.

17 (d) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out the activities
18 under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary and the Ad-
19 ministrator are authorized to consult other Federal, State,
20 local, Tribal, or territorial governmental entities.

21 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
22 of enactment of this section, the Assistant Secretary and
23 the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congres-
24 sional committees a report detailing the following:

1 (1) Interagency activities between the Economic
2 Development Administration and Environmental
3 Protection Agency carried out under this section.

4 (2) Collaborative economic revitalization
5 achievements at eligible sites and supporting com-
6 munities as appropriate, including the engagement
7 of site stakeholders in supporting the activities car-
8 ried out under this section.

9 (3) Interagency education, training, and work-
10 force development activities for site stakeholders, in-
11 cluding the dissemination of best practices and en-
12 gagement of students to establish a robust future
13 workforce for economic revitalization and environ-
14 mental remediation.

15 (4) Potential opportunities to expand the inter-
16 agency activities of the Economic Development Ad-
17 ministration and Environmental Protection Agency.

18 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

19 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
20 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
21 mittees” means—

22 (A) the Committee on Environment and
23 Public Works of the Senate;

24 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
25 merce of the House of Representatives; and

1 (C) the Committee on Transportation and
2 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

3 (2) ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION.—The term
4 “economic revitalization” means any effort by a site
5 stakeholder, the Assistant Secretary, and the Admin-
6 istrator to establish favorable conditions for the cre-
7 ation of new, or retention of existing, long-term pri-
8 vate sector job opportunities in a community, includ-
9 ing the expansion or upgrade of existing physical in-
10 frastructure at an eligible site.

11 (3) ELIGIBLE SITE.—The term “eligible site”
12 means any site of current or former environmental
13 contamination, including any current or former man-
14 ufacturing facility, at which the Assistant Secretary
15 or the Administrator plans to do, currently is doing,
16 or has previously done any of the following:

17 (A) Engage with site stakeholders.

18 (B) Provide Federal funding or resources.

19 (C) Provide technical assistance.

20 (4) ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION.—The
21 term “environmental contamination” means any
22 hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that
23 harms public safety or the surrounding environment.

24 (5) SITE STAKEHOLDER.—The term “site
25 stakeholder” means any entity other than the De-

1 partment of Commerce or the Environmental Pro-
2 tection Agency that is engaged in the economic revi-
3 talization of an eligible site.

4 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
5 the several States, the District of Columbia, each
6 commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United
7 States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

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