

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 429

To amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. MULLIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration program, 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 “Abandoned Well Reme-
5 diation Research and Development Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ABANDONED WELL REMEDIATION RESEARCH AND**
2 **DEVELOPMENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of division D of the In-
4 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–
5 58; 135 Stat. 1080) is amended by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 **“SEC. 40602. ABANDONED WELLS RESEARCH, DEVELOP-**
8 **MENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) DEFINITION OF ABANDONED WELL.—In this
10 section, the term ‘abandoned well’ means a well originally
11 drilled in connection with oil and gas operations that—

12 “(1) is not being used;

13 “(2) has not been plugged; and

14 “(3) has no anticipated use in oil and gas oper-
15 ations.

16 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days
17 after the date of enactment of the Abandoned Well Reme-
18 diation Research and Development Act, the Secretary, in
19 coordination with relevant Federal and State agencies and
20 entities, shall establish a research, development, and dem-
21 onstration program to improve—

22 “(1) data collection on the location of aban-
23 doned wells;

24 “(2) the plugging, remediation, reclamation,
25 and repurposing of abandoned wells; and

1 “(3) strategies to mitigate potential environ-
2 mental impacts of documented and undocumented
3 abandoned wells.

4 “(c) ACTIVITIES.—Research, development, and dem-
5 onstration activities carried out under the program estab-
6 lished under subsection (b) shall include activities to im-
7 prove—

8 “(1) remote sensor capabilities, light detection
9 and ranging (referred to in this section as ‘LiDAR’)
10 capabilities, optical gas imaging, magnetic survey
11 technology, and any other technologies relevant to
12 the efficient identification of abandoned wells;

13 “(2) understanding of how certain parameters
14 of abandoned wells affect methane emission rates of
15 the wells, including parameters such as well age, well
16 depth, geology, construction, case material, and geo-
17 graphic region;

18 “(3) the efficiency and cost-efficacy of processes
19 for plugging, remediating, reclaiming, and
20 repurposing abandoned wells, including—

21 “(A) improvement of processes and tech-
22 nologies for the unique challenges associated
23 with plugging remote abandoned wells;

1 “(B) use of low carbon, lightweight cement
2 or use of alternative materials and additives for
3 plugging purposes; and

4 “(C) repurposing of abandoned wells for
5 alternative uses, including geothermal power
6 production or carbon capture, utilization, and
7 storage; and

8 “(4) understanding of the impacts of aban-
9 doned wells on groundwater quality and contamina-
10 tion.

11 “(d) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program
12 established under subsection (b), the Secretary shall en-
13 sure coordination of activities carried out under the pro-
14 gram with—

15 “(1) institutions of higher education;

16 “(2) the National Laboratories; and

17 “(3) the private sector.

18 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
20 tion—

21 “(1) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

22 “(2) \$31,250,000 for fiscal year 2024;

23 “(3) \$32,500,000 for fiscal year 2025;

24 “(4) \$33,750,000 for fiscal year 2026; and

25 “(5) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
2 for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public
3 Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 437) is amended by inserting after
4 the item relating to section 40601 the following:

“Sec. 40602. Abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration pro-
gram.”.

○