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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a tropospheric ozone research program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Ross introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To require the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a tropospheric ozone research 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 “Tropospheric Ozone
5 Research Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. TROPOSPHERIC OZONE RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
3 mental Protection Agency.

4 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
5 the grant program established under subsection (b).

6 (3) TROPOSPHERIC OZONE.—The term “tropo-
7 spheric ozone” means ozone found within the
8 Earth’s troposphere.

9 (4) TROPOSPHERIC OZONE PRECURSOR.—The
10 term “tropospheric ozone precursor” means any of
11 methane, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, non-
12 methane volatile organic compounds, and other com-
13 pounds that react to form tropospheric ozone.

14 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
15 the date on which amounts are appropriated to carry out
16 this Act, the Administrator shall establish a competitive
17 grant program to award grants to eligible entities to carry
18 out research with respect to the climate impacts of tropo-
19 spheric ozone.

20 (c) RESEARCH TOPICS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The research carried out
22 using grants under the program shall include re-
23 search with respect to—

1 (A) improving understanding of the impact
2 of tropospheric ozone concentrations and miti-
3 gation on global temperatures, including—

4 (i) the role of regional or localized tro-
5 pospheric ozone concentrations;

6 (ii) the role of emission or mitigation
7 of specific tropospheric ozone precursors;
8 and

9 (iii) interactions with other atmos-
10 pheric pollutants (such as particulate mat-
11 ter);

12 (B) improving understanding of the impact
13 of tropospheric ozone concentrations and miti-
14 gation on regional, localized, and seasonal tem-
15 peratures and heat stress, including—

16 (i) the role of regional or localized tro-
17 pospheric ozone concentrations;

18 (ii) the role of emission or mitigation
19 of specific tropospheric ozone precursors;
20 and

21 (iii) interactions with other atmos-
22 pheric pollutants (such as particulate mat-
23 ter);

24 (C) improving understanding of natural
25 interactions affecting tropospheric ozone con-

1 centrations and mitigation, such as non-
2 anthropogenic tropospheric ozone precursor
3 emissions, stratospheric ozone, and lightning;

4 (D) improving understanding of crop loss
5 impacts from elevated levels of tropospheric
6 ozone, including regional and local impacts and
7 potential measures to reduce crop loss impacts;

8 (E) improving understanding of forest and
9 ecosystem productivity impacts from elevated
10 levels of tropospheric ozone, including regional
11 and local impacts;

12 (F) developing or updating existing re-
13 gional and global climate models or other rel-
14 evant models to better incorporate the radiative
15 forcing and temperature impacts of tropo-
16 spheric ozone and the interactions between tro-
17 pospheric ozone and other greenhouse gases
18 and air pollutants; and

19 (G) subject to paragraph (3), strength-
20 ening and expanding tropospheric ozone and
21 tropospheric ozone precursor monitoring and
22 observational infrastructure, including—

23 (i) enhancement of ground-based mon-
24 itoring networks (with increased coverage

1 in rural, agricultural, and other under-
2 studied regions);

3 (ii) integration of surface observations
4 with satellite remote sensing and chemical
5 transport model outputs;

6 (iii) expanded vertical profiling
7 through ozonesondes and aircraft measure-
8 ments, particularly in understudied re-
9 gions; and

10 (iv) development of standardized data
11 assimilation frameworks to support climate
12 and air quality monitoring.

13 (2) CURRENT AND FUTURE MODELING.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—In seeking to carry out
15 the research described in subparagraphs (A)
16 through (F) of paragraph (1), the Adminis-
17 trator shall seek to include research that—

18 (i) assesses tropospheric ozone im-
19 pacts and interactions at concentrations
20 present on the date the program is estab-
21 lished; and

22 (ii) models future tropospheric ozone
23 concentrations, impacts, and interactions.

24 (B) FUTURE TROPOSPHERIC OZONE.—In
25 seeking to carry out research with respect to

1 the future tropospheric ozone concentrations,
2 impacts, and interactions described in subpara-
3 graph (A)(ii), the Administrator shall seek to
4 carry out research that—

5 (i) models a range of scenarios, in-
6 cluding scenarios that assume that trends
7 in emissions of tropospheric ozone precur-
8 sors, other atmospheric pollutants, and
9 greenhouse gases in effect on the date on
10 which the program is established continue
11 and scenarios that assume reductions in
12 such emissions; and

13 (ii) includes an assessment of how cli-
14 mate impacts (such as increased wildfires,
15 increased temperatures, altered atmos-
16 pheric circulation patterns, and changes in
17 humidity, stagnation frequency, and light-
18 ning frequency) or changes in other atmos-
19 pheric pollutants across the modeled range
20 of scenarios affect tropospheric ozone con-
21 centrations, and related impacts.

22 (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—The Ad-
23 ministrator shall ensure that any data collected pur-
24 suant to paragraph (1)(G) is made publicly avail-
25 able.

1 (d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-
2 ceive a grant under the program is—

3 (1) an institution of higher education;

4 (2) a National Laboratory (as defined in section
5 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
6 15801)); or

7 (3) any other nonprofit research entity with
8 demonstrated expertise in atmospheric chemistry,
9 weather modeling, climate modeling, or air quality
10 monitoring.

11 (e) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity seeking a
12 grant under the program shall submit to the Adminis-
13 trator an application at such time, in such manner, and
14 containing such information as the Administrator may re-
15 quire.

16 (f) TIMING.—The Administrator shall select recipi-
17 ents of grants under the program not later than 180 days
18 after the date on which the program is established.

19 (g) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out the program,
20 the Administrator shall collaborate with the international
21 scientific community on science, research, and data-shar-
22 ing with respect to the research topics described in sub-
23 section (c)(1), including through multilateral forums.

24 (h) REPORTS.—

25 (1) REPORTS TO ADMINISTRATOR.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a
2 grant under the program shall annually submit
3 to the Administrator a report describing the
4 findings of the recipient with respect to the re-
5 search for which the grant was provided.

6 (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—A report sub-
7 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall be made
8 publicly available.

9 (2) EPA REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after
10 the date on which the program is established, the
11 Administrator shall submit to the Committee on En-
12 vironment and Public Works of the Senate and the
13 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
14 House of Representatives and make publicly avail-
15 able a report that describes the findings and rec-
16 ommendations of the Administrator with respect to
17 the program and tropospheric ozone, which shall in-
18 clude—

19 (A) a description of the contributions of
20 tropospheric ozone at concentrations in effect
21 on the date the report is submitted to—

22 (i) global temperature rise;

23 (ii) regional, localized, and seasonal
24 warming and heat stress;

1 (iii) crop losses and forest and eco-
2 system productivity impacts; and

3 (iv) health effects;

4 (B) the forecasted future contributions,
5 under a range of scenarios, including scenarios
6 that assume trends in emissions of tropospheric
7 ozone precursors, other atmospheric pollutants,
8 and greenhouses gases in effect on the date the
9 report is submitted continue and scenarios that
10 assume reductions in such emissions, of tropo-
11 spheric ozone to—

12 (i) global temperature rise;

13 (ii) regional, localized, and seasonal
14 warming and heat stress;

15 (iii) crop losses and forest and eco-
16 system productivity impacts; and

17 (iv) health effects;

18 (C) a description of the national or, as ap-
19 propriate, regional, local, or seasonal options to
20 mitigate specific tropospheric ozone precur-
21 sors—

22 (i) to maximize global and localized
23 warming reductions;

24 (ii) to minimize adverse impacts to
25 health, forests, or ecosystems; and

1 (iii) to minimize crop loss impacts;

2 (D) a high-level assessment of the costs
3 and benefits of tropospheric ozone precursor
4 mitigation options identified under subpara-
5 graph (C); and

6 (E) policy recommendations for—

7 (i) mitigation strategies for specific
8 tropospheric precursors to minimize the
9 negative impacts of tropospheric ozone,
10 based on the findings described subpara-
11 graphs (C) and (D);

12 (ii) improvements in data collection
13 and reporting for tropospheric ozone and
14 tropospheric ozone precursors; and

15 (iii) further research needs.

16 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
18 appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the
19 program—

20 (A) \$10,500,000 for each of fiscal years
21 2027 through 2029; and

22 (B) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.

23 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Of the amounts made
24 available under paragraph (1)—

1 (A) with respect to the amounts made
2 available under subparagraph (A) of that para-
3 graph—

4 (i) \$10,000,000 shall be used to make
5 grants under the program; and

6 (ii) \$500,000 shall be used to imple-
7 ment and oversee the program; and

8 (B) the amounts made available under sub-
9 paragraph (B) of that paragraph shall be used
10 to prepare the report required under subsection
11 (h)(2).