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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a clearinghouse for advanced transmission technology, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a clearinghouse for advanced transmission technology, 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 “Advanced Trans-  
5 mission Technology to Reduce Rates Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY.**

2 (a) CLEARINGHOUSE; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

3 Section 1223 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.  
4 16422) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(c) CLEARINGHOUSE; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

6 “(1) CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ADVANCED TRANS-  
7 MISSION TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after  
8 the date of enactment of this subsection, the Sec-  
9 retary shall establish and maintain a publicly avail-  
10 able clearinghouse that includes—

11 “(A) a list of projects, and activities, car-  
12 ried out or funded by the Department relating  
13 to advanced transmission technology;

14 “(B) a list of authorities relating to finan-  
15 cial assistance available for the development or  
16 deployment of advanced transmission tech-  
17 nology;

18 “(C) analyses of the effects of deploying  
19 advanced transmission technology on the effi-  
20 cient transmission of electricity, including anal-  
21 yses of any—

22 “(i) expanded transmission capacity;

23 “(ii) reduction of transmission conges-  
24 tion;

25 “(iii) optimized use of transmission  
26 infrastructure;

1           “(iv) improvement to the visibility of  
2           the electric grid and automation of key  
3           processes relating to the transmission of  
4           electricity; and

5           “(v) such effects due to the projects  
6           and activities described in subparagraph  
7           (A);

8           “(D) analyses of any costs and benefits ac-  
9           crued to electric utilities and ratepayers due to  
10          the deployment of advanced transmission tech-  
11          nology; and

12          “(E) analyses of how geography or weather  
13          affect the cost-effective deployment and utiliza-  
14          tion of advanced transmission technologies.

15          “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

16                 “(A) ELECTRIC UTILITIES.—Upon the re-  
17                 quest of an electric utility, the Secretary may  
18                 provide technical assistance to the electric util-  
19                 ity for the purpose of using the clearinghouse  
20                 established under paragraph (1) and accessing  
21                 financial assistance identified under subpara-  
22                 graph (B) of such paragraph.

23                 “(B) TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATIONS.—  
24                 Upon the request of a transmission organiza-  
25                 tion, the Secretary may provide technical assist-

1           ance to the transmission organization for the  
2           purpose of including advanced transmission  
3           technologies in the transmission planning prac-  
4           tices of the transmission organization.

5           “(C) STATE REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.—

6           Upon the request of a State regulatory author-  
7           ity, the Secretary may provide technical assist-  
8           ance to the State regulatory authority for the  
9           purpose of developing a regulatory framework  
10          for advanced transmission technologies in the  
11          applicable State and carrying out a cost-benefit  
12          analysis of the deployment and utilization of ad-  
13          vanced transmission technologies in the applica-  
14          ble State.

15          “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

16               “(A) ELECTRIC UTILITY.—The term ‘elec-  
17               tric utility’ has the meaning given such term in  
18               section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.  
19               796).

20               “(B) TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—The  
21               term ‘transmission organization’ has the mean-  
22               ing given such term in section 215(a) of the  
23               Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o(a)).

24               “(C) STATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

25               The term ‘State regulatory authority’ has the

1 meaning given such term in section 3 of the  
2 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978  
3 (16 U.S.C. 2602).

4 “(4) SAVINGS.—Nothing in this subsection pro-  
5 vides authority for the Secretary or the Federal En-  
6 ergy Regulatory Commission to require an electric  
7 utility to use any advanced transmission tech-  
8 nology.”.

9 (b) STATE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLANS.—Section  
10 362(d) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42  
11 U.S.C. 6322(d)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (17), by striking “and” at the  
13 end;

14 (2) in paragraph (18), by striking the period at  
15 the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(19) programs to facilitate the deployment of  
18 advanced transmission technology (as such term is  
19 defined in section 1223 of the Energy Policy Act of  
20 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16422)).”.

21 (c) EXEMPTION OF ACTIONS RELATING TO AD-  
22 VANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY FROM NEPA.—

23 (1) EXEMPTION.—A covered action may not be  
24 considered a major Federal action under section

1 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act  
2 of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

3 (2) COVERED ACTION DEFINED.—In this sec-  
4 tion, the term “covered action” means the provision  
5 of funding by the Secretary, including a loan or a  
6 grant, for the deployment of advanced transmission  
7 technology (as such term is defined in section  
8 1223(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42  
9 U.S.C. 16422(a))).

10 **SEC. 3. BEST PRACTICES FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy  
13 shall establish, within the Office of Electricity and in con-  
14 sultation with electric utilities, the electric reliability orga-  
15 nization, and transmission organizations, best practices  
16 that electric utilities may use to reduce the risk of wildfire  
17 ignition from the bulk-power system.

18 (b) REQUIRED INCLUSIONS.—The best practices es-  
19 tablished pursuant to subsection (a) shall include practices  
20 for—

21 (1) vegetation management and removal of for-  
22 est-hazardous fuels along transmission lines;

23 (2) improved engineering approaches to reduce  
24 the risk of wildfire ignition from the bulk-power sys-  
25 tem; and

1           (3) safer operational practices to reduce the  
2 risk of wildfire ignition from the bulk-power system.

3           (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4           (1) BULK-POWER SYSTEM.—The term “bulk-  
5 power system” has the meaning given such term in  
6 section 215(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.  
7 824o(a)).

8           (2) ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION.—  
9 The term “electric reliability organization” has the  
10 meaning given such term in section 215(a) of the  
11 Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o(a)).

12           (3) ELECTRIC UTILITY.—The term “electric  
13 utility” has the meaning given such term in section  
14 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

15           (4) TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—The term  
16 “transmission organization” has the meaning given  
17 such term in section 215(a) of the Federal Power  
18 Act (16 U.S.C. 824o(a)).

19           (d) SAVINGS.—Nothing in this section provides au-  
20 thority for the Secretary or the Federal Energy Regu-  
21 latory Commission to require an electric utility to use any  
22 best practice established pursuant to subsection (a).