To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research, development, and demonstration program with respect to abandoned wells, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research, development, and demonstration program with respect to abandoned wells, 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”.

(Original Signature of Member)
SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Energy Policy Act of 2005 is amended—

(1) by adding at the end of subtitle F of title IX (42 U.S.C. 16291 et seq.) the following new section:

“SEC. 969E. ABANDONED WELLS RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Energy shall, in coordination with relevant Federal and state agencies and entities, establish a research, development, and demonstration program to improve—

“(1) data collection on the location of abandoned wells;

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

“(3) strategies to mitigate potential environmental impacts of documented and undocumented abandoned wells.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—The research, development, and demonstration under subsection (a) shall include activities to improve—

“(1) remote sensor capabilities, LiDAR capabilities, optical gas imaging, magnetic survey tech-
nology, and any other technologies relevant to the ef-
 efficient identification of abandoned wells;

“(2) understanding of how certain parameters
of abandoned wells affect methane emission rates of
such wells, including parameters such as well age,
well depth, geology, construction, case material, and
geographic region;

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

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

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

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

“(4) understanding of the impacts of aban-
donated wells on groundwater quality and contamina-
tion.

“(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program
established in (a), the Secretary shall ensure coordination
of these activities with institutions of higher education, the Department of Energy National Laboratories, and the private sector.

“(d) ABANDONED WELL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘abandoned well’ means a well originally drilled in connection with oil and gas operations that is not being used, has not been plugged, and has no anticipated use in oil and gas operations.

“(e) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section amounts authorized pursuant to section 10771 of subtitle O of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117–167), as follows:

“(1) For fiscal year 2024, $30,000,000.

“(2) For fiscal year 2025, $31,250,000.

“(3) For fiscal year 2026, $32,500,000.

“(4) For fiscal year 2027, $33,750,000.

“(5) For fiscal year 2028, $35,000,000.

“(f) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate five years after the date of the enactment of this section.”; and

(2) in the table of contents in section 1(b) (42 U.S.C. 15801 note), by inserting after the matter relating to section 969D the following new item:

“Sec. 969E. Abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration program.”.
(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (6) of section 10771 of subtitle O of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117–167) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2026” and inserting “2028”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “$600,000,000” and inserting “$507,500,000”;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(4) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking “$1,000,000,000” and inserting “$930,000,000”; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(5) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) $162,500,000 to carry out abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration activities under section 969E of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, in accordance with such section.”.