

*Strengthens accountability and transparency in the Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations by expanding reporting requirements.*

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## **Extended Summary:**

H.R. 1453, the Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act, requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to submit semi-annual reports to Congress on the status of all demonstration projects managed by DOE's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED).

Established in 2021 by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and further supported by the Inflation Reduction Act, the OCED received more than \$27 billion to accelerate clean energy development and manage demonstration projects.

The Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act would amend the IIJA to include the following provisions:

- Require the Secretary of Energy to submit a report to the appropriate House and Senate committees for each covered project, or other demonstration projects that are administered or supported by the program, within six months of enactment and at least semi-annually thereafter.
- A copy of any initial contracts or financial assistance agreements executed between the Department and an award recipient; a list of any material, technical, or financial milestones achieved or missed; and details of any significant changes to a project's scope, schedule, funding profile (including cost-share requirements), partners, participating entities, or budget.

## **Background:**

- The OCED oversees billions in taxpayer funds and has faced mismanagement issues in its demonstration projects. For example, according to GAO, DOE previously spent \$472 million on carbon capture and storage projects that were never constructed due to bypassed cost controls.
- Enhancing transparency in clean energy demonstration projects will help ensure accountability, prevent costly missteps, and guarantee the appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.