To amend the America COMPETES Act to establish Department of Energy policy for Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy, 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 America COMPETES Act to establish Department of Energy policy for Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “ARPA–E Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2019”.

(Original Signature of Member)
SEC. 2. ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY–ENERGY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 5012(b) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(b)) is amended by striking “development of energy technologies” and inserting “development of transformative science and technology solutions to address energy, environmental, economic, and national security challenges”.

(b) GOALS.—Section 5012(c) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1)(A) and inserting the following:

“(A) to enhance the economic and energy security of the United States through the development of energy technologies that—

“(i) reduce imports of energy from foreign sources;

“(ii) reduce energy-related emissions, including greenhouse gases;

“(iii) improve the energy efficiency of all economic sectors;

“(iv) provide transformative solutions to improve the management, clean-up, and disposal of—

“(I) low-level radioactive waste;

“(II) spent nuclear fuel; and
“(III) high-level radioactive waste;
“(v) improve efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of all forms of energy production;
“(vi) improve the resiliency, reliability, and security of the electric grid; and
“(vii) address other challenges within the mission of the Department as determined by the Secretary; and”;

(2) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “energy technology projects” and inserting “advanced technology projects”.

(c) Responsibilities.—Section 5012(e)(3)(A) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(e)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “energy”.

(d) Reports and Roadmaps.—Section 5012(h) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(h)) is amended to read as follows:

“(h) Annual Report.—
“(1) In general.—As part of the annual budget request submitted for each fiscal year, the Director shall provide to the relevant authorizing
and appropriations committees of Congress a report
that—

“(A) describes projects supported by
ARPA–E during the previous fiscal year;

“(B) identifies and includes an analysis of
projects supported by ARPA–E during the pre-
vious fiscal year that demonstrate duplication of
other activities funded by the Department; and

“(C) describes current, proposed, and
planned projects to be carried out pursuant to
subsection (e)(3)(D).

“(2) STRATEGIC VISION ROADMAP.—Beginning
with the report submitted with respect to fiscal year
2020, and every 4 fiscal years thereafter, the report
required under paragraph (1) shall include a road-
map describing the strategic vision that ARPA–E
will use to guide the choices of ARPA–E for future
technology investments over the following 4 fiscal
years.”.

(e) COORDINATION AND NONDUPLICATION.—Section
5012(i)(1) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C.
16538(i)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent
practicable, the Director shall ensure that—
“(A) the activities of ARPA–E are coordinated with, and do not duplicate the efforts of, programs and laboratories within the Department and other relevant research agencies; and

“(B) ARPA–E does not provide funding for a project unless the prospective grantee demonstrates sufficient attempts to secure private financing or indicates that the project is not independently commercially viable.”.

(f) EVALUATION.—Section 5012(l) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(l)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) In general.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the ARPA–E Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2019, the Secretary is authorized to enter into a contract with a third party entity to conduct an evaluation of how well ARPA–E is achieving the goals and mission of ARPA–E.”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “shall” and inserting “may”; and
(B) by striking “the recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences” and inserting “a recommendation”.

(h) Authorization of Appropriations.—Paragraph (2) of section 5012(o) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(o)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) Authorization of Appropriations.—Subject to paragraph (4), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of ARPA–E—

“(A) $392,800,000 for fiscal year 2020;
“(B) $419,600,000 for fiscal year 2021;
“(C) $446,400,000 for fiscal year 2022;
“(D) $473,200,000 for fiscal year 2023;

and

“(E) $500,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.”.

(i) Technical Amendments.—Section 5012(g)(3)(A)(iii) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538(g)(3)(A)(iii)) is amended by striking “sub-part” each place it appears and inserting “subparagraph”.