

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To help increase the development, distribution, and use of clean cookstoves and fuels to improve health, protect the climate and environment, empower women, create jobs, and help consumers save time and money.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To help increase the development, distribution, and use of clean cookstoves and fuels to improve health, protect the climate and environment, empower women, create jobs, and help consumers save time and money.

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 “Clean Cooking Support
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Almost 3,000,000,000 people, representing
2 more than one third of the global population, rely on
3 open fires or inefficient, polluting, and unsafe cook-
4 stoves using wood, charcoal, kerosene, agricultural
5 waste, animal dung, coal, or other fuels. The major-
6 ity of people using these types of cookstoves and
7 fuels are in developing countries in Asia, Africa, and
8 Latin America.

9 (2) Smoke from the use of traditional cook-
10 stoves and open fires contribute to household air pol-
11 lution that causes illnesses that disproportionately
12 affect women and young children. Such illnesses in-
13 clude low birth weight, pneumonia, cardiovascular
14 disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung
15 cancer, and other respiratory illnesses.

16 (3) The household air pollution caused by tradi-
17 tional cookstoves and open fires claims 4,000,000
18 premature deaths annually, including 400,000 chil-
19 dren younger than 5 years of age, most of whom live
20 in sub-Saharan Africa. Household air pollution does
21 not remain in the home and contributes to more
22 than 10 percent of global ambient air pollution. In
23 some countries, such as Nepal, household air pollu-
24 tion contributes to more than 30 percent of ambient
25 air pollution. In 2019, more than 600,000 deaths

1 were attributed to ambient air pollution stemming
2 from the household combustion of solid fuels.

3 (4) According to the World Health Organiza-
4 tion, the large-scale use of wood, charcoal, and ker-
5 osene for traditional cooking fuel accounts for 1.5–
6 3.0 percent of global CO₂ emissions, which is a sig-
7 nificant contributor to air pollution.

8 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

9 It is the policy of the United States to reduce the
10 adverse effects of household energy use in its foreign as-
11 sistance programs and activities, as appropriate, including
12 through—

13 (1) applied research and development to im-
14 prove design, lower costs, promote technology adop-
15 tion, conduct health research and evaluation, and de-
16 velop global industry standards and testing protocols
17 for cookstoves and fuels to help ensure minimum
18 standards for efficiency and emissions to lower
19 health and environmental impacts;

20 (2) diplomatic engagement to encourage a com-
21 mercial market for clean cookstoves and fuels, re-
22 duce trade barriers, promote consumer awareness,
23 improve access to large-scale carbon financing and
24 other investment, and foster women-owned busi-
25 nesses along the entire business value chain;

1 (3) international development projects to help
2 build commercial businesses to manufacture, market,
3 distribute, sell, and service clean cookstoves and
4 fuels;

5 (4) development efforts related to refugee
6 camps, disaster relief, and long-term humanitarian
7 and empowerment programs aimed at assisting
8 women, girls, and other vulnerable populations;

9 (5) financing or insurance to support projects
10 that provide access to clean, affordable energy and
11 energy savings through the manufacture, sale, and
12 purchase of clean cookstoves and fuels; and

13 (6) dissemination of cookstove standards to
14 lower environmental and health impacts associated
15 with cook stoves through the International Organiza-
16 tion for Standardization process for household, insti-
17 tutional, or commercial use; and

18 (7) political engagement with low-to-middle-in-
19 come countries to include cookstove and household
20 energy emission reduction goals in their Nationally
21 Determined Contributions (NDCs), guidance on im-
22 plementation of the NDCs, and monitoring and
23 verification frameworks.

1 **SEC. 4. CLEAN COOKING INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
4 State and the Administrator of the United States Agency
5 for International Development shall jointly establish the
6 Clean Cooking Interagency Working Group (referred to in
7 this section as the “Working Group”), consisting of rep-
8 resentatives from the Department of Energy, the National
9 Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and
10 Prevention, the Environmental Protection Agency, and
11 any other Federal agency that the Secretary and the Ad-
12 ministrator may designate to assist with overseeing the
13 planning, management, and coordination of initiatives to
14 increase the number of clean cookstoves and fuels world-
15 wide.

16 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Working Group shall—

17 (1) establish goals and priorities for increasing
18 the number of clean cookstoves and fuels worldwide;
19 and

20 (2) provide for interagency coordination, includ-
21 ing budget coordination, of activities under this Act.

22 (c) GOVERNANCE.—The Secretary of State and the
23 Administrator of United States Agency for International
24 Development, or their designees, shall serve as co-chairs
25 of the Working Group.

1 (d) MEETINGS.—Members of the Working Group
2 shall meet not later than 90 days after the Working Group
3 is established pursuant to subsection (a), and quarterly
4 thereafter, to carry out the responsibilities described in
5 subsection (b).

6 **SEC. 5. CLEAN COOKING PROGRAM.**

7 (a) DEPARTMENT OF STATE; UNITED STATES AGEN-
8 CY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary
9 of State and the Administrator of the United States Agen-
10 cy for International Development shall work with the
11 Clean Cooking Alliance, founded in 2010—

12 (1) to engage in a wide range of diplomatic ac-
13 tivities, including with countries across the globe and
14 with United States embassies abroad, to support ac-
15 tivities of the Clean Cooking Alliance and the clean
16 cookstoves and fuels sector;

17 (2) to continue the clean cooking initiatives
18 supported by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition,
19 an intergovernmental organization formed in 2012,
20 to reduce emissions of climate pollutants;

21 (3) to advance programs that support the adop-
22 tion of affordable cookstoves that require less fuel to
23 meet household energy needs and release fewer pol-
24 lutants, as a means to improve health, reduce envi-

1 ronmental degradation, mitigate climate change, fos-
2 ter economic growth, and empower women; and

3 (4) to carry out other activities authorized
4 under this Act.

5 (b) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.—The Secretary of
6 Energy shall work with the Clean Cooking Alliance—

7 (1) to conduct research to spur development of
8 low-cost, low-emission, high-efficiency cookstoves
9 through research in areas such as combustion, heat
10 transfer, and materials development;

11 (2) to conduct research to spur development of
12 low-emission, high-efficiency energy sources;

13 (3) to support innovative small businesses in
14 the United States that are developing advanced
15 cookstoves and improved cookstove assessment de-
16 vices; and

17 (4) to carry out other activities authorized
18 under this Act.

19 (c) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—The Direc-
20 tor of the National Institutes of Health shall work with
21 the Clean Cooking Alliance—

22 (1) to support health research and training to
23 improve the health and lives of those at risk from
24 household burning of solid fuels, including—

1 (A) dedicated resources for research on
2 household air pollution to ensure adoption of
3 life-saving interventions and policy formulation;
4 and

5 (B) regional network research and training
6 hubs in global environmental health and occu-
7 pational health with a household air pollution
8 focus; and

9 (2) to carry out other activities authorized
10 under this Act.

11 (d) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVEN-
12 TION.—The Director of the Centers for Disease Control
13 and Prevention shall work with the Clean Cooking Alli-
14 ance—

15 (1) to evaluate cookstove and fuel programs to
16 better understand their public health benefits and
17 key determinants of adoption;

18 (2) to promote a better understanding of the re-
19 lationship between human exposures and health out-
20 comes from the use of rudimentary cookstoves and
21 open fires; and

22 (3) to carry out other activities authorized
23 under this Act.

1 (e) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.—The
2 Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
3 shall work with the Clean Cooking Alliance—

4 (1) to conduct cookstove and fuel testing and
5 evaluation in the lab and in the field, including by—

6 (A) evaluating energy efficiency and air
7 pollutant emissions that impact human health
8 and the environment;

9 (B) building the capacity of regional stove
10 testing and knowledge centers around the
11 world; and

12 (C) developing international standards re-
13 garding fuel use, emissions, and safety of cook-
14 stoves and fuels;

15 (2) to conduct climate, health, and air quality
16 research, including with United States institutions of
17 higher education, regarding the air quality and cli-
18 matic benefits of interventions for cookstoves and
19 residential burning, and to continue the clean cook-
20 ing initiatives supported by the Climate and Clean
21 Air Coalition to reduce emissions of climate pollut-
22 ants;

23 (3) to provide technical and policy expertise and
24 to help the Clean Cooking Alliance align with ongo-
25 ing international efforts in the field; and

1 (4) to carry out other activities authorized
2 under this Act.

3 (f) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Other Federal
4 agencies may engage with the Clean Cooking Alliance or
5 other agencies, as appropriate, to further the policy de-
6 scribed in section 3.

7 **SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

8 (a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “ap-
9 propriate congressional committees” means—

10 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
11 Senate;

12 (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the
13 Senate;

14 (3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
15 House of Representatives; and

16 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the
17 House of Representatives.

18 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
19 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
20 after, the President shall submit a report to the appro-
21 priate congressional committees that describes the
22 progress made to further the policy described in section
23 3.

24 (c) INFORMATION INCLUDED IN REPORTS.—Each re-
25 port submitted pursuant to subsection (b) shall include—

1 (1) the indicators used by the Department of
2 State and each Federal agency participating in the
3 interagency working group established pursuant to
4 section 4(a) to monitor and evaluate the progress
5 made by each such agency to further the policy de-
6 scribed in section 3;

7 (2) data pertaining to populations served in
8 United States Government-funded cookstoves and
9 fuels programming;

10 (3) information regarding United States Gov-
11 ernment investments in clean cookstoves and fuels
12 programming, including funding that has been
13 planned, appropriated, obligated, or expended during
14 the most recently concluded fiscal year and cumula-
15 tively for the 5 most recently concluded fiscal years;
16 and

17 (4) information regarding the progress made to-
18 ward increasing collaboration among Federal agen-
19 cies to further the policy described in section 3, in-
20 cluding interagency research efforts and collabora-
21 tion with international research partners.

22 (d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The President shall
23 make the report required under subsection (b) available
24 to the public.

1 SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

2 There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal
3 years 2022 through 2027 such sums as may be necessary
4 to carry out this Act.