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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to establish a regional technology and innovation hub program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. WILD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to establish a regional technology and innovation hub program, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Regional Innovation Act of 2021”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Regional innovation capacity.

Sec. 3. Regional Clean Energy Innovation Program.

1 **SEC. 2. REGIONAL INNOVATION CAPACITY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Stevenson-Wydler Tech-
3 nology Innovation Act of 1980 (Public Law 96–480; 15
4 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating section 28 as section 29;

6 and

7 (2) by inserting after section 27 the following:

8 **“SEC. 28. REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION HUB**
9 **PROGRAM.**

10 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 “(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
12 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
13 gress’ means—

14 “(A) the Committee on Commerce,
15 Science, and Transportation, the Committee on
16 Environment and Public Works, and the Com-
17 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

18 “(B) the Committee on Science, Space,
19 and Technology and the Committee on Appro-
20 priations of the House of Representatives.

21 “(2) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICES.—

22 The term ‘cooperative extension services’ has the
23 meaning given the term in section 1404 of the Food
24 and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

1 “(3) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND
2 UNIVERSITIES.—The term ‘historically Black col-
3 leges and universities’ has the same meaning given
4 to the term in section 322 of the Higher Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061);

6 “(4) LABOR ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘labor
7 organization’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
8 tion 2(5) of the National Labor Relations Act (29
9 U.S.C. 152(5)), except that such term shall also in-
10 clude—

11 “(A) any organization composed of labor
12 organizations, such as a labor union federation
13 or a State or municipal labor body; and

14 “(B) any organization which would be in-
15 cluded in the definition for such term under
16 such section (5) but for the fact that the orga-
17 nization represents—

18 “(i) individuals employed by the
19 United States, any wholly owned Govern-
20 ment corporation, any Federal Reserve
21 Bank, or any State or political subdivision
22 thereof;

23 “(ii) individuals employed by persons
24 subject to the Railway Labor Act (45
25 U.S.C. 151 et seq.); or

1 “(iii) individuals employed as agricul-
2 tural laborers.

3 “(5) MANUFACTURING EXTENSION CENTER.—
4 The term ‘manufacturing extension center’ has the
5 meaning given the term ‘Center’ in section 25(a) of
6 the National Institute of Standards and Technology
7 Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(a)).

8 “(6) MANUFACTURING USA INSTITUTE.—The
9 term ‘Manufacturing USA institute’ means an Man-
10 ufacturing USA institute described in section 34(d)
11 of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
12 nology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s(d)).

13 “(7) MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
14 term ‘minority-serving institution’ means a His-
15 panic-serving institution, an Alaska Native-serving
16 institution, a Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, a
17 Predominantly Black Institution, an Asian American
18 and Native American Pacific Islander-serving insti-
19 tution, or a Native American-serving nontribal insti-
20 tution as described in section 371 of the Higher
21 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

22 “(8) SITE CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE.—
23 The term ‘site connectivity infrastructure’ means lo-
24 calized driveways and access roads to a facility as
25 well as hookups to the new facility for drinking

1 water, waste water, broadband, and other basic in-
2 frastructure services already present in the area.

3 “(9) STATE.—The term ‘state’ has the meaning
4 given such term in section 27(a) of the Stevenson-
5 Wydler Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722(a)).

6 “(10) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
7 term ‘Tribal College or University’ has the meaning
8 given such term in section 316 of the Higher Edu-
9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e).

10 “(11) VENTURE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZA-
11 TION.—The term ‘venture development organization’
12 has the meaning given such term in section 27(a) of
13 the Stevenson-Wydler Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C.
14 3722(a)).

15 “(b) REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION HUB
16 PROGRAM.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability
18 of appropriations, the Secretary shall carry out a
19 program—

20 “(A) to encourage new and constructive
21 collaboration among local, State, and Federal
22 government entities, institutions of higher edu-
23 cation, the private sector, economic development
24 organizations, labor organizations, nonprofit or-

1 ganizations, and community organizations to
2 promote inclusive regional innovation initiatives;

3 “(B) to support eligible consortia in the
4 development and implementation of regional in-
5 novation strategies;

6 “(C) to designate eligible consortia as re-
7 gional technology and innovation hubs and fa-
8 cilitate activities by consortia designated as re-
9 gional technology and innovation hubs in imple-
10 menting their regional innovation strategies, in
11 order—

12 “(i) to enable United States leader-
13 ship in technology and innovation sectors
14 critical to national and economic security;

15 “(ii) to support regional economic de-
16 velopment and resilience, including in
17 small cities and rural areas, and promote
18 increased geographic diversity of innova-
19 tion across the United States;

20 “(iii) to promote the benefits of tech-
21 nology development and innovation for all
22 Americans, including underserved commu-
23 nities and vulnerable communities;

24 “(iv) to support domestic job creation
25 and broad-based economic growth;

1 “(v) to improve the pace of market
2 readiness, industry maturation, and overall
3 commercialization of innovative research;
4 and

5 “(D) to ensure that the regional tech-
6 nology and innovation hubs address the inter-
7 section of emerging technologies and either re-
8 gional challenges or national challenges; and

9 “(E) to conduct ongoing research, evalua-
10 tion, analysis, and dissemination of best prac-
11 tices for regional development and competitive-
12 ness in technology and innovation.

13 “(2) AWARDS.—The Secretary shall carry out
14 the program required by paragraph (1) through the
15 award of the following:

16 “(A) Strategy development grants or coop-
17 erative agreements to eligible consortia under
18 subsection (e).

19 “(B) Strategy implementation grants or
20 cooperative agreements to regional technology
21 and innovation hubs under subsection (f).

22 “(c) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIA.—For purposes of this
23 section, an eligible consortium is a consortium that—

24 “(1) includes 1 or more of each of the fol-
25 lowing—

1 “(A) institutions of higher education,
2 which may include Historically Black Colleges
3 and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Univer-
4 sities, and Minority Serving Institutions;

5 “(B) State, local, or Tribal governments or
6 other political subdivisions of a State, including
7 State and local agencies, or a consortia thereof;

8 “(C) industry or firms in relevant tech-
9 nology or innovation sectors;

10 “(D) labor organizations or workforce
11 training organizations, which may include State
12 and local workforce development boards as es-
13 tablished under section 101 and 107 of the
14 Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (29
15 U.S.C. 3111; 3122); and

16 “(E) organizations that contribute to in-
17 creasing the participation of underserved popu-
18 lations in science, technology, innovation, and
19 entrepreneurship; and

20 “(2) may include 1 or more—

21 “(A) economic development entities with
22 relevant expertise, including a district organiza-
23 tion (as defined in section 300.3 of title 13,
24 Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regu-
25 lation);

1 “(B) economic development organizations
2 or similar entities that are focused primarily on
3 improving science, technology, innovation, en-
4 trepreneurship, or access to capital;

5 “(C) venture development organizations;

6 “(D) financial institutions and investment
7 funds;

8 “(E) primary and secondary educational
9 institutions, including career and technical edu-
10 cation schools;

11 “(F) National Laboratories (as defined in
12 section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
13 U.S.C. 15801));

14 “(G) Federal laboratories;

15 “(H) Manufacturing extension centers;

16 “(I) Manufacturing USA institutes;

17 “(J) transportation planning organizations;

18 “(K) a cooperative extension services; and

19 “(L) organizations that represent the per-
20 spectives of underserved communities in eco-
21 nomic development initiatives.

22 “(d) DESIGNATION OF REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND
23 INNOVATION HUBS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection
25 (b)(1)(C), the Secretary shall use a competitive,

1 merit-review process to designate not fewer than 10
2 eligible consortia as regional technology and innova-
3 tion hubs.

4 “(2) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In con-
5 ducting the competitive process under paragraph
6 (1), the Secretary shall ensure geographic distribu-
7 tion in the designation of regional technology and in-
8 novation hubs by—

9 “(A) focusing on localities that are not
10 leading technology centers;

11 “(B) ensuring that not fewer than one
12 third of eligible consortia designated as regional
13 technology and innovation hubs significantly
14 benefit a rural or other underserved community;

15 “(C) ensuring that at least one eligible
16 consortium designated as a regional technology
17 and innovation hub is headquartered in a State
18 that is eligible to receive funding from the Es-
19 tablished Program to Stimulate Competitive Re-
20 search of the National Science Foundation; and

21 “(D) ensuring that at least one eligible
22 consortium designated as a regional technology
23 and innovation hub is headquartered in a region
24 that has a high density of institutions of higher
25 education serving populations historically

1 underrepresented in STEM, including histori-
2 cally Black Colleges and Universities and mi-
3 nority serving institutions.

4 “(3) RELATION TO CERTAIN GRANT AWARDS.—

5 The Secretary shall not require an eligible consor-
6 tium to receive a grant or cooperative agreement
7 under subsection (e) in order to be designated as a
8 regional technology and innovation hub under para-
9 graph (1) of this subsection.

10 “(e) STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AND COOP-
11 ERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use a
13 competitive, merit-review process to award grants or
14 cooperative agreements to eligible consortia for the
15 development of regional innovation strategies.

16 “(2) NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary
17 shall award a grant or cooperative agreement under
18 paragraph (1) to not fewer than 20 eligible con-
19 sortia.

20 “(3) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AND REPRESENTATION.—

21
22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
23 carry out paragraph (1) in a manner that en-
24 sures geographic diversity and representation
25 from communities of differing populations.

1 “(B) AWARDS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES
2 AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.—In car-
3 rying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
4 award not fewer than one-half of the grants and
5 cooperative agreements under such paragraph
6 to eligible consortia that significantly benefit a
7 rural state, rural community, or other under-
8 served community.

9 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—The amount of a grant
10 or cooperative agreement awarded under paragraph
11 (1) shall be as follows:

12 “(A) To coordinate locally defined planning
13 processes, across jurisdictions and agencies, re-
14 lating to developing a comprehensive regional
15 technology strategy.

16 “(B) To identify regional partnerships for
17 developing and implementing a comprehensive
18 regional technology strategy.

19 “(C) To conduct or update assessments to
20 determine regional needs and capabilities.

21 “(D) To develop or update goals and strat-
22 egies to implement an existing comprehensive
23 regional plan.

24 “(E) To identify or implement planning
25 and local zoning and other code changes nec-

1 essary to implement a comprehensive regional
2 technology strategy.

3 “(F) To develop or update goals for ensur-
4 ing that any new regional technology strategy
5 mitigates and does not exacerbate economic or
6 social inequities in a region.

7 “(5) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
8 the cost of an effort carried out using a grant or co-
9 operative agreement awarded under this subsection
10 may not exceed 80 percent—

11 “(A) where in-kind contributions may be
12 used for all or part of the non-Federal share,
13 but Federal funding from other government
14 sources may not count towards the non-Federal
15 share;

16 “(B) except in the case of an eligible con-
17 sortium that represents all or part of a rural or
18 other underserved community, the Federal
19 share may be up to 90 percent of the total cost,
20 subject to subparagraph (A); and

21 “(C) except in the case of an eligible con-
22 sortium that is led by a Tribal government, the
23 Federal share may be up to 100 percent of the
24 total cost of the project.

1 “(f) STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS AND CO-
2 OPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use a
4 competitive, merit-review process to award grants or
5 cooperative agreements to regional technology and
6 innovation hubs for the implementation of regional
7 innovation strategies, including regional strategies
8 for infrastructure and site development, in support
9 of the regional innovation and technology and inno-
10 vation hub’s plans and programs. The Secretary
11 should determine the size and number of awards
12 based on appropriations available to ensure the suc-
13 cess of regional technology and innovation hubs as
14 outlined in subsection (h).

15 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Financial assistance
16 awarded under paragraph (1) to a regional tech-
17 nology and innovation hub may be used by the re-
18 gional technology and innovation hub to support any
19 of the following activities, consistent with the most
20 current regional innovation strategy of the regional
21 technology and innovation hub:

22 “(A) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVI-
23 TIES.—Workforce development activities, in-
24 cluding activities relating to the following:

1 “(i) The creation of partnerships be-
2 tween industry, workforce, nonprofit, and
3 educational institutions to create and align
4 technical training and educational pro-
5 grams.

6 “(ii) The design, development, and
7 updating of educational and training cur-
8 riculum tied to demonstrated regional
9 workforce needs.

10 “(iii) The procurement of facilities
11 and equipment, as required to train a tech-
12 nical workforce.

13 “(iv) The development and execution
14 of programs to rapidly award certificates
15 or credentials recognized by regional indus-
16 tries or other organizations.

17 “(v) The matching of regional employ-
18 ers with a potential new entrant, under-
19 employed, underrepresented, or incumbent
20 workforce.

21 “(vi) The expansion of successful
22 training programs at a scale required by
23 the region served by the regional tech-
24 nology and innovation hub, including
25 through the use of online education.

1 “(vii) The development and expansion
2 of programs with the goal of increasing the
3 participation of persons historically under-
4 represented in STEM in the workforce de-
5 velopment plans of the regional technology
6 and innovation hub.

7 “(B) BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEUR DE-
8 VELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—Business and entre-
9 preneur development activities, including activi-
10 ties relating to the following:

11 “(i) The development and growth of
12 regional businesses and the training of en-
13 trepreneurs.

14 “(ii) The support of technology com-
15 mercialization, including funding for activi-
16 ties relevant for advancing high growth po-
17 tential ventures such as acceleration, incu-
18 bation and other relevant programming.

19 “(iii) The development of capital net-
20 works and consortia to attract necessary
21 private funding to businesses and entre-
22 preneurs in the region.

23 “(iv) The development of networks for
24 business and entrepreneur mentorship.

1 “(C) TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND
2 MATURATION ACTIVITIES.—Technology matura-
3 tion activities, including activities relating to
4 the following:

5 “(i) The development and deployment
6 of technologies in sectors critical to the re-
7 gion served by the regional technology and
8 innovation hub or to national and economic
9 security, including industry-university re-
10 search cooperation, proof of concept, proto-
11 type development, and testing.

12 “(ii) The development of program-
13 ming to support the creation and transfer
14 of intellectual property into private use,
15 such as through startup creation.

16 “(iii) The provision of facilities for
17 technology maturation, including incuba-
18 tors for collaborative development of tech-
19 nologies by private sector, academic, non-
20 profit, and other entities.

21 “(iv) Activities to provide or ensure
22 access to capital for new business forma-
23 tion and business expansion, including by
24 attracting new private, public, and philan-

1 thropic investment and by establishing re-
2 gional venture and loan funds.

3 “(D) INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED ACTIVI-
4 TIES.—The building of facilities and site
5 connectivity infrastructure necessary to carry
6 out activities described in subparagraphs (A),
7 (B), and (C), including activities relating to the
8 following:

9 “(i) Establishing a center with re-
10 quired tools and instrumentation for work-
11 force development.

12 “(ii) Establishing a facility for tech-
13 nology development, demonstration, and
14 testing.

15 “(iii) Establishing collaborative incu-
16 bators to support technology commer-
17 cialization and entrepreneur training.

18 “(3) TERM.—

19 “(A) INITIAL PERFORMANCE PERIOD.—
20 The term of an initial grant or cooperative
21 agreement awarded under this subsection shall
22 be for a period that the Secretary deems appro-
23 priate for the proposed activities but not less
24 than 2 years.

1 “(B) SUBSEQUENT PERFORMANCE PE-
2 RIOD.—The Secretary may renew a grant or co-
3 operative agreement awarded to a regional tech-
4 nology and innovation hub under paragraph (1)
5 for such period as the Secretary considers ap-
6 propriate, if the Secretary determines that the
7 regional technology and innovation hub has
8 made satisfactory progress towards the metrics
9 agreed to under subparagraph (j).

10 “(C) FLEXIBLE APPROACH.—In renewing
11 a grant or cooperative agreement under sub-
12 paragraph (B), the Secretary and eligible con-
13 sortium may agree to new or additional uses of
14 funds in order to meet changes in the needs of
15 the region.

16 “(4) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF AWARDS.—

17 “(A) INITIAL PERFORMANCE PERIOD.—
18 The amount of an initial grant or cooperative
19 agreements awarded to a regional technology
20 and innovation hub under paragraph (3)(A)
21 shall be no more than \$150,000,000.

22 “(B) SUBSEQUENT PERFORMANCE PE-
23 RIOD.—Upon renewal of a grant or cooperative
24 agreement under paragraph (3)(B), the Sec-
25 retary may award funding in the amount that

1 the Secretary considers appropriate, ensuring
2 that no single regional technology and innova-
3 tion hub receives more than 15 percent of the
4 aggregate amount of the grants and cooperative
5 agreements awarded under this subsection.

6 “(5) MATCHING REQUIRED.—

7 “(A) INITIAL PERFORMANCE PERIOD.—Ex-
8 cept in the case of a regional technology and in-
9 novation hub described in subparagraph (C),
10 the total amount of all grants awarded to a re-
11 gional technology and innovation hub under this
12 subsection in phase one shall not exceed 90 per-
13 cent of the total operating costs of the regional
14 technology and innovation hub during the initial
15 performance period.

16 “(B) SUBSEQUENT PERFORMANCE PE-
17 RIOD.—Except in the case of a regional tech-
18 nology and innovation hub described in sub-
19 paragraph (C), the total amount of all grants
20 awarded to a regional technology and innova-
21 tion hub in subsequent performance periods
22 shall not exceed 75 percent of the total oper-
23 ating costs of the regional technology and inno-
24 vation hub in each year of the grant or coopera-
25 tive agreement.

1 “(C) RURAL COMMUNITIES OR UNDER-
2 SERVED COMMUNITIES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The total Federal
4 financial assistance awarded in a given
5 year to a regional technology and innova-
6 tion hub under this subsection shall not ex-
7 ceed amounts as follows:

8 “(I) In the case of a regional
9 technology and innovation hub that
10 primarily serves a rural community or
11 other underserved community, in a
12 fiscal year, 90 percent of the total
13 funding of the regional technology and
14 innovation hub in that fiscal year.

15 “(II) In the case of a regional
16 technology and innovation hub that is
17 led by a Tribal government, in a fiscal
18 year, 100 percent of the total funding
19 of the regional technology and innova-
20 tion hub in that fiscal year.

21 “(ii) MINIMUM THRESHOLD OF RURAL
22 REPRESENTATION.—For purposes of
23 clause (i)(I), the Secretary shall establish a
24 minimum threshold of rural representation
25 and other underserved community rep-

1 resentation in the regional technology and
2 innovation hub.

3 “(D) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—For pur-
4 poses of this paragraph, in-kind contributions
5 may be used for part of the non-Federal share
6 of the total funding of a regional technology
7 and innovation hub in a fiscal year.

8 “(6) GRANTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE.—Any
9 grant or cooperative agreement awarded under this
10 subsection to support the construction of facilities
11 and site connectivity infrastructure shall be awarded
12 pursuant to section 201 of the Public Works and
13 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.
14 3141) and subject to the provisions of such Act, ex-
15 cept that subsection (b) of such section and sections
16 204 and 301 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3144; 3161)
17 shall not apply.

18 “(7) RELATION TO CERTAIN GRANT AWARDS.—
19 The Secretary shall not require a regional tech-
20 nology and innovation hub to receive a grant or co-
21 operative agreement under subsection (e) in order to
22 receive a grant or cooperative agreement under this
23 subsection.

24 “(g) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible consortium seeking
25 designation as a regional technology and innovation hub

1 under subsection (d) or a grant or cooperative agreement
2 under subsection (e) or (f) shall submit to the Secretary
3 an application therefore at such time, in such manner, and
4 containing such information as the Secretary may specify.

5 “(h) CONSIDERATIONS FOR DESIGNATION AND
6 AWARD OF STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS AND
7 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In selecting an eligible
8 consortium that submitted an application under sub-
9 section (g) for designation under subsection (d) or for a
10 grant or cooperative agreement under subsection (f), the
11 Secretary shall consider the following:

12 “(1) The potential of the eligible consortium to
13 advance the research, development, deployment, and
14 domestic manufacturing of technologies in a tech-
15 nology or innovation sector critical to national and
16 economic security.

17 “(2) The likelihood of positive regional eco-
18 nomic effect, including increasing the number of
19 high wage domestic jobs, and creating new economic
20 opportunities for economically disadvantaged and
21 underrepresented populations.

22 “(3) How the eligible consortium plans to inte-
23 grate with and leverage the resources of 1 or more
24 federally funded research and development centers,
25 National Laboratories, Federal laboratories, Manu-

1 facturing USA institutes, Hollings Manufacturing
2 Extension Partnership centers, or other Federal en-
3 tities.

4 “(4) How the eligible consortium will engage
5 with the private sector, including small- and me-
6 dium-sized businesses to commercialize new tech-
7 nologies and improve the resiliency of domestic sup-
8 ply chains in a technology or innovation sector crit-
9 ical to national and economic security.

10 “(5) How the eligible consortium will carry out
11 workforce development and skills acquisition pro-
12 gramming, including through partnerships with enti-
13 ties that include State and local workforce develop-
14 ment boards, institutions of higher education, in-
15 cluding community colleges, historically Black col-
16 leges and universities, Tribal colleges and univer-
17 sities, and minority serving institutions, labor orga-
18 nizations, and workforce development programs, and
19 other related activities authorized by the Secretary,
20 to support the development of a skilled technical
21 workforce for the regional technology and innovation
22 hub.

23 “(6) How the eligible consortium will improve
24 or expand science, technology, engineering, and
25 mathematics education programs and opportunities

1 in the identified region in elementary and secondary
2 school and higher education institutions located in
3 the identified region.

4 “(7) How the eligible consortium plans to de-
5 velop partnerships with venture development organi-
6 zations and sources of private investment in support
7 of private sector activity, including launching new or
8 expanding existing companies.

9 “(8) How the eligible consortium plans to orga-
10 nize the activities of regional partners across sectors
11 in support of a regional technology and innovation
12 hub.

13 “(9) How the eligible consortium will ensure
14 that growth in technology and innovation sector pro-
15 duces opportunity across the identified region, in-
16 cluding for economically disadvantaged, minority,
17 and rural populations, including consideration of
18 how the eligible consortium takes into account the
19 relevant impact of regional status and plans for—

20 “(A) available housing stock and housing
21 policies;

22 “(B) local and regional transportation sys-
23 tems;

24 “(C) High speed internet access; and

25 “(D) primary and secondary education.

1 “(10) How much the regions educational insti-
2 tutions are committed to aligning their activities, in-
3 cluding research and education, as appropriate, to a
4 region’s economic strengths and areas of focus.

5 “(11) The likelihood efforts served by the con-
6 sortium will be sustained once Federal support ends.

7 “(i) COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION.—

8 “(1) COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL INNOVA-
9 TION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall ensure the ac-
10 tivities under this section do not duplicate activities
11 or efforts under section 27.

12 “(2) COORDINATION AMONG HUBS.—The Sec-
13 retary shall ensure eligible consortia that receive a
14 grant or cooperative agreement under this section
15 coordinate and share best practices for regional eco-
16 nomic development.

17 “(3) COORDINATION WITH PROGRAMS OF THE
18 NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECH-
19 NOLOGY.—The Secretary shall coordinate the activi-
20 ties of regional technology and innovation hubs des-
21 ignated under this section, the Hollings Manufac-
22 turing Extension Partnership, and the Manufac-
23 turing USA Program, as the Secretary considers ap-
24 propriate, to maintain the effectiveness of a manu-

1 facturing extension center or a Manufacturing USA
2 institute.

3 “(4) COORDINATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF
4 ENERGY PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall, in col-
5 laboration with the Secretary of Energy, coordinate
6 the activities and selection of regional technology
7 and innovation hubs designated under this section,
8 as the Secretaries consider appropriate, to maintain
9 the effectiveness of activities at the Department of
10 Energy and the National Laboratories.

11 “(5) INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION.—In des-
12 ignating regional technology and innovation hubs
13 under subsection (d) and awarding grants or cooper-
14 ative agreements under subsection (f), the Sec-
15 retary—

16 “(A) shall collaborate with Federal depart-
17 ments and agencies whose missions contribute
18 to the goals of the regional technology and in-
19 novation hub;

20 “(B) shall consult with the Director of the
21 National Science Foundation for the purpose of
22 ensuring that the regional technology and inno-
23 vation hubs are aligned with relevant science,
24 technology, and engineering expertise; and

1 “(C) may accept funds from other Federal
2 agencies to support grants, cooperative agree-
3 ments, and activities under this section.

4 “(j) PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT, TRANS-
5 PARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

6 “(1) METRICS, STANDARDS, AND ASSESS-
7 MENT.—For each grant and cooperative agreement
8 awarded under subsection (f) for a regional tech-
9 nology and innovation hub, the Secretary shall—

10 “(A) in consultation with the regional tech-
11 nology and innovation hub, develop metrics,
12 which may include metrics relating to domestic
13 job creation, patent awards, increases in re-
14 search funding, business formation and expan-
15 sion, and participation of individuals or commu-
16 nities historically underrepresented in STEM
17 in, to assess the effectiveness of the activities
18 funded in making progress toward the purposes
19 set forth under subsection (b)(1);

20 “(B) establish standards for the perform-
21 ance of the regional technology and innovation
22 hub that are based on the metrics developed
23 under subparagraph (A); and

24 “(C) prior to any award made under a
25 subsequent performance period in subsection (f)

1 and every 2 years thereafter until Federal fi-
2 nancial assistance under this section for the re-
3 gional technology and innovation hub is discon-
4 tinued, conduct an assessment of the regional
5 technology and innovation hub to confirm
6 whether the performance of the regional tech-
7 nology and innovation hub is meeting the stand-
8 ards for performance established under sub-
9 paragraph (B) of this paragraph.

10 “(2) FINAL REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS OF
11 STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS AND COOPER-
12 ATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
14 require each eligible consortium that receives a
15 grant or cooperative agreement under sub-
16 section (f) for activities of a regional technology
17 and innovation hub, as a condition of receipt of
18 such grant or cooperative agreement, to submit
19 to the Secretary, not later than 120 days after
20 the last day of the term of the grant or cooper-
21 ative agreement, a report on the activities of
22 the regional technology and innovation hub sup-
23 ported by the grant or cooperative agreement.

1 “(B) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report
2 submitted by an eligible consortium under sub-
3 paragraph (A) shall include the following:

4 “(i) A detailed description of the ac-
5 tivities carried out by the regional tech-
6 nology and innovation hub using the grant
7 or cooperative agreement described in sub-
8 paragraph (A), including the following:

9 “(I) A description of each project
10 the regional technology and innovation
11 hub completed using such grant or co-
12 operative agreement.

13 “(II) An explanation of how each
14 project described in subclause (I)
15 achieves a specific goal under this sec-
16 tion in the region of the regional tech-
17 nology and innovation hub with re-
18 spect to—

19 “(aa) the resiliency of a sup-
20 ply chain;

21 “(bb) research, development,
22 and deployment of a critical tech-
23 nology;

24 “(cc) workforce training and
25 development;

- 1 “(dd) domestic job creation;
2 “(ee) entrepreneurship and
3 company formation;
4 “(ff) commercialization;
5 “(gg) access to private cap-
6 ital; or
7 “(hh) participation of indi-
8 viduals or communities histori-
9 cally underrepresented in STEM.
10 “(ii) A discussion of any obstacles en-
11 countered by the regional technology and
12 innovation hub in the implementation of
13 the regional technology and innovation hub
14 and how the regional technology and inno-
15 vation hub overcame those obstacles.
16 “(iii) An evaluation of the success of
17 the projects of the regional technology and
18 innovation hub using the performance
19 standards and measures established under
20 paragraph (1), including an evaluation of
21 the planning process and how the project
22 contributes to carrying out the regional in-
23 novation strategy of the regional tech-
24 nology and innovation hub.

1 “(iv) The effectiveness of the regional
2 technology and innovation hub in ensuring
3 that, in the region of the regional tech-
4 nology and innovation hub, growth in tech-
5 nology and innovation sectors produces
6 broadly shared opportunity across the re-
7 gion, including for economic disadvantaged
8 and underrepresented populations and
9 rural areas.

10 “(v) Information regarding such other
11 matters as the Secretary may require.

12 “(3) INTERIM REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS OF
13 GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In addi-
14 tion to requiring submittal of final reports under
15 paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary may require a re-
16 gional technology and innovation hub described in
17 such paragraph to submit to the Secretary such in-
18 terim reports as the Secretary considers appropriate.

19 “(4) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not
20 less frequently than once each year, the Secretary
21 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
22 gress an annual report on the results of the assess-
23 ments conducted by the Secretary under paragraph
24 (1)(C) during the period covered by the report.

1 “(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary—

3 “(1) \$50,000,000 to award grants and coopera-
4 tive agreements under subsection (e) for the period
5 of fiscal years 2022 through 2026;

6 “(2) \$2,000,000,000 to award grants and coop-
7 erative agreements under subsection (f) for the pe-
8 riod of fiscal years 2022 and 2023; and

9 “(3) \$4,800,000,000 to award grants and coop-
10 erative agreements under subsection (f) for the pe-
11 riod of fiscal years 2024 through 2026.

12 “(l) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may use
13 funds made available to carry out this section for adminis-
14 trative costs under this section.”.

15 (b) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS AND AWARDS.—

16 (1) COMPETITION REQUIRED.—Not later than 1
17 year after the date of the enactment of this section,
18 subject to the availability of appropriations, the Sec-
19 retary of Commerce shall commence a competition
20 under subsection (d)(1) of section 28 of the Steven-
21 son-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15
22 U.S.C. 3723) as added by subsection (a).

23 (2) DESIGNATION AND AWARD.—Not later than
24 1 year after the date of the enactment of this sec-
25 tion, if the Secretary has received at least 1 applica-

1 tion under subsection (g) of section 28 of the Ste-
2 venson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980
3 (15 U.S.C. 3723) from an eligible consortium whom
4 the Secretary considers suitable for designation
5 under subsection (d)(1) of such section, the Sec-
6 retary shall—

7 (A) designate at least 1 regional tech-
8 nology and innovation hub under subsection
9 (d)(1) of such section; and

10 (B) award a grant or cooperative agree-
11 ment under subsection (f)(1) of such section to
12 each regional technology and innovation hub
13 designated pursuant to subparagraph (A) of
14 this paragraph.

15 **SEC. 3. REGIONAL CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION PROGRAM.**

16 Subtitle C of title IX of the Energy Independence and
17 Security Act of 2007 is amended by adding at the end
18 the following:

19 **“SEC. 936. REGIONAL CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION PRO-**
20 **GRAM.**

21 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) REGIONAL CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION
23 PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘regional clean energy in-
24 novation partnership’ means a group of one or more
25 persons, including a covered consortium, who per-

1 form a collection of activities that are coordinated by
2 such covered consortium to carry out the purposes
3 of the program under subsection (c) in a region of
4 the United States.

5 “(2) COVERED CONSORTIUM.—The term ‘cov-
6 ered consortium’ means an individual or group of in-
7 dividuals in partnership with a government entity,
8 including a State, local, or tribal government or unit
9 of such government, and at least 2 or more of the
10 following additional entities—

11 “(A) an institution of higher education or
12 a consortium of institutions of higher education;

13 “(B) a workforce training provider, includ-
14 ing vocational schools and community colleges;

15 “(C) a private sector entity;

16 “(D) a nonprofit organization;

17 “(E) a community group;

18 “(F) a labor group;

19 “(G) a National Laboratory;

20 “(H) a venture development organization;

21 “(I) an organization focused on clean en-
22 ergy technology innovation or entrepreneurship;

23 “(J) a business accelerator or incubator;

24 “(K) a private sector entity or group of en-
25 tities, including a trade or industry association;

1 “(L) an economic development organiza-
2 tion;

3 “(M) a manufacturing facility or organiza-
4 tion;

5 “(N) a clean energy incubator or accel-
6 erator;

7 “(O) a multi-institutional collaboration; or

8 “(P) any other entity that the Secretary
9 determines to be relevant.

10 “(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ‘Department’
11 means the Department of Energy.

12 “(4) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means
13 the Regional Clean Energy Innovation Program au-
14 thorized in subsection (b).

15 “(5) The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary
16 of the Department of Energy.

17 “(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
18 Regional Clean Energy Innovation Program, a research,
19 development, demonstration, and commercial application
20 program designed to enhance the economic, environ-
21 mental, and energy security of the United States and ac-
22 celerate the pace of innovation of diverse clean energy
23 technologies through the formation or support of regional
24 clean energy innovation partnerships that—

1 “(1) account for the diverse domestic energy re-
2 sources available throughout the United States;

3 “(2) are responsive to the needs of industry,
4 workforce, policy landscape, and clean energy inno-
5 vation capabilities of the region in which such part-
6 nership is located;

7 “(3) enhance and accelerate clean energy inno-
8 vation;

9 “(4) are located in diverse geographic regions of
10 the United States, including United States terri-
11 tories; and

12 “(5) maximize the opportunities for cooperation
13 between institutes of higher education, industry,
14 State and local governments, and nonprofit research
15 institutions with shared areas of energy expertise.

16 “(c) PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM.—The purposes of
17 the Program established under subsection (b) are to—

18 “(1) improve the competitiveness of United
19 States’ clean energy technology research, develop-
20 ment, demonstration, and commercial application;
21 and

22 “(2) support the development of tools and tech-
23 nologies best suited for use in diverse regions of the
24 United States, including in rural, tribal, and low-in-
25 come communities.

1 “(d) REGIONAL CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION PART-
2 NERSHIPS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall com-
4 petitively award grants to covered consortia to estab-
5 lish or support regional clean energy innovation
6 partnerships that achieve the purposes of the Pro-
7 gram in subsection (c).

8 “(2) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Grants award-
9 ed under this subsection shall be used for activities
10 determined appropriate by the Secretary to achieve
11 the purposes of the Program in subsection (c), in-
12 cluding—

13 “(A) facilitating the commercial applica-
14 tion of clean energy products, processes, and
15 services, including through research, develop-
16 ment, demonstration, or technology transfer;

17 “(B) planning among participants of a re-
18 gional clean energy innovation partnership to
19 improve the strategic and cost-effective coordi-
20 nation of the partnership;

21 “(C) improving stakeholder involvement in
22 the development of goals and activities of a re-
23 gional clean energy innovation partnership;

1 “(D) assessing different incentive mecha-
2 nisms for clean energy development and com-
3 mercial application in the region;

4 “(E) hosting events and conferences; and

5 “(F) establishing and updating roadmaps
6 to measure progress on relevant goals, such as
7 those relevant to metrics developed under sub-
8 section (g).

9 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—Each application sub-
10 mitted to the Secretary under paragraph (1) may in-
11 clude—

12 “(A) a list of members and roles of mem-
13 bers of the covered consortia, as well as any
14 other stakeholders supporting the activities of
15 the regional clean energy innovation partner-
16 ship;

17 “(B) a description of the proposed out-
18 comes of the regional clean energy innovation
19 partnership;

20 “(C) an assessment of the relevant clean
21 energy innovation assets needed in a region to
22 achieve proposed outcomes, such as education
23 and training programs, research facilities, infra-
24 structure or site development, access to capital,
25 manufacturing capabilities, or other assets;

1 “(D) a description of proposed activities
2 that the regional clean energy innovation part-
3 nership plans to undertake and how the pro-
4 posed activities will achieve the purposes de-
5 scribed in subsection (c) and the proposed out-
6 comes in subparagraph (B);

7 “(E) a description of the geographical re-
8 gion that will engage in the regional clean en-
9 ergy innovation partnership;

10 “(F) a plan for attracting additional funds
11 and identification of funding sources from non-
12 Federal sources to deliver the proposed out-
13 comes of the regional clean energy innovation
14 partnership;

15 “(G) a plan for sustaining activities of the
16 regional clean energy innovation partnership
17 after funds received under this program have
18 been expended; and

19 “(H) a proposed budget, including finan-
20 cial contributions from non-Federal sources.

21 “(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting covered
22 consortia for funding under the Program, the Sec-
23 retary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

1 “(A) give special consideration to applica-
2 tions from rural, tribal, and low-income commu-
3 nities; and

4 “(B) ensure that there is geographic diver-
5 sity among the covered consortia selected to re-
6 ceive funding.

7 “(5) AWARD AMOUNT.—Grants given out under
8 this Program shall be in an amount not greater than
9 \$10,000,000, with the total grant award in any year
10 less than that in the previous year.

11 “(6) COST SHARE.—For grants that are dis-
12 bursed over the course of three or more years, the
13 Secretary shall require, as a condition of receipt of
14 funds under this section, that a covered consortium
15 provide not less than 50 percent of the funding for
16 the activities of the regional clean energy partner-
17 ship under this section for years 3, 4, and 5.

18 “(7) DURATION.—Each grant under paragraph
19 shall be for a period of not longer than 5 years.

20 “(8) RENEWAL.—A grant awarded under this
21 section may be renewed for a period of not more
22 than 5 years, subject to a rigorous merit review
23 based on the progress of a regional clean energy in-
24 novation partnership towards achieving the purposes

1 of the program in subsection (e) and the metrics de-
2 veloped under subsection (g).

3 “(9) TERMINATION.—Consistent with the exist-
4 ing authorities of the Department, the Secretary
5 may terminate grant funding under this subsection
6 to covered consortia during the performance period
7 if the Secretary determines that the regional clean
8 energy innovation partnership is underperforming.

9 “(10) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary
10 may allow a covered consortium that receives funds
11 under this section to allocate a portion of the fund-
12 ing received to be used for administrative or indirect
13 costs.

14 “(11) FUNDING.—The Secretary may accept
15 funds from other Federal agencies to support fund-
16 ing and activities under this section.

17 “(e) PLANNING FUNDS.—The Secretary may com-
18 petitively award grants in an amount no greater than
19 \$2,000,000 for a period not longer than 2 years to an enti-
20 ty consisting of a government entity, including a State,
21 local, or tribal government or unit of such government or
22 any entity listed under subsection (a)(2) to plan a regional
23 clean energy innovation partnership or establish a covered
24 consortium for the purpose of applying for funds under
25 subsection (b).

1 “(f) INFORMATION SHARING.—As part of the pro-
2 gram, the Secretary shall support the gathering, analysis,
3 and dissemination of information on best practices for de-
4 veloping and operating successful regional clean energy in-
5 novation partnerships.

6 “(g) METRICS.—In evaluating a grant renewals
7 under subsection (d)(8), the Secretary shall work with pro-
8 gram evaluation experts to develop and make publicly
9 available metrics to assess the progress of a regional clean
10 energy innovation partnership towards achieving the pur-
11 poses of the program in subsection (c). Such metrics may
12 include—

13 “(1) the number and quality of—

14 “(A) new clean energy companies created
15 in the region as a result of activities carried out
16 under the regional clean energy innovation part-
17 nership;

18 “(B) new or expanded workforce develop-
19 ment or training programs; and

20 “(C) support services provided to clean en-
21 ergy technology developers in the region;

22 “(2) changes in clean energy employment in the
23 region as a result of activities carried out under the
24 regional clean energy innovation partnership; and

1 “(3) the amount of capital investment in clean
2 energy companies in the region as a result of activi-
3 ties carried out under the regional clean energy in-
4 novation partnership grant.

5 “(h) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program,
6 the Secretary shall coordinate with, and avoid unnecessary
7 duplication of, the activities carried out under this section
8 with the activities of—

9 “(1) other research entities of the Department,
10 including the National Laboratories, the Office of
11 Science, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-
12 Energy, the Office of Technology Transitions, En-
13 ergy Innovation Hubs, and Energy Frontier Re-
14 search Centers; and

15 “(2) relevant programs at other Federal agen-
16 cies, including—

17 “(A) the Office of Innovation and Entre-
18 preneurship under the Economic Development
19 Administration, including the Regional Innova-
20 tion Program under section 27 of the Steven-
21 son-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980
22 (15 U.S.C. 3722);

23 “(B) the Hollings Manufacturing Exten-
24 sion Partnership Program under section 25 of

1 the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
2 nology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k);

3 “(C) the Manufacturing USA Program
4 under section 34 of the National Institute of
5 Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C.
6 278s);

7 “(D) the Defense Manufacturing Commu-
8 nities Support Program under section 846 of
9 the John S. McCain National Defense Author-
10 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C.
11 2501 note); and

12 “(E) the Office of Economic Adjustment
13 at the Department of Defense.

14 “(i) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—In carrying out the
15 program, the Secretary shall maintain conflict of interest
16 procedures, consistent with the conflict of interest proce-
17 dures of the Department.

18 “(j) EVALUATION BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—
19 Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment
20 of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller
21 General shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space,
22 and Technology of the House of Representatives and the
23 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-
24 ate an evaluation on the operation of the program during
25 the most recent 3-year period, including—

1 “(1) an assessment of the progress made to-
2 wards achieving the purposes specified in subsection
3 (c) based on the metrics developed under subsection
4 (g);

5 “(2) the short-term and long-term metrics used
6 to determine the success of the program under sub-
7 section (g), and any changes recommended to the
8 metrics used;

9 “(3) the regional clean energy innovation part-
10 nerships established or supported by covered con-
11 sortia that have received grants under subsection
12 (d); and

13 “(4) any recommendations on how the program
14 may be improved.

15 “(k) NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—In supporting
16 technology transfer activities at the National Laboratories,
17 the Secretary shall encourage partnerships with entities
18 that are located in the same region or State as the Na-
19 tional Laboratory.

20 “(l) SECURITY.—In carrying out the activities under
21 this section, the Secretary shall ensure proper security
22 controls are in place to protect sensitive information, as
23 appropriate.

1 “(m) NO FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION.—No funds
2 provided to the Department of Energy under this section
3 shall be used for construction.

4 “(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
5 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
6 out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
7 through 2026.”.