

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5511

To require the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a premise plumbing research laboratory, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. TONKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To require the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a premise plumbing research laboratory, 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 “NIST Plumbing Re-
5 search Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. PREMISE PLUMBING RESEARCH.**

7 (a) PREMISE PLUMBING DEFINED.—In this Act, the
8 term “premise plumbing” means the water distribution
9 system located within the property lines of a property, in-

cluding all buildings and permanent structures on such property. Such term includes building supply and distribution pipes, fixtures, fittings, water heaters, water-treating and water-using equipment, and all respective joints, connections, devices, and appurtenances.

(b) RESEARCH.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in collaboration with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Energy, shall—

(1) establish or designate a laboratory to conduct research on premise plumbing in relation to water safety, security, efficiency, sustainability, and resilience;

(2) conduct an organizational review of all research and other activities related to premise plumbing conducted by Federal entities; and

(3) appoint one or more officers or employees of the Institute to liaise with non-Federal entities conducting research or other activities related to premise plumbing.

(c) QUADRENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every 4 years thereafter, the Director

1 shall submit to Congress a report on the progress made
2 by the Institute regarding—

3 (1) the status of the laboratory described in
4 subsection (b)(1), including any staff designated to
5 work in such laboratory;

6 (2) all projects of the Institute related to
7 premise plumbing, including completed projects,
8 projects in progress, and projects planned for the fu-
9 ture;

10 (3) updates to data relevant to premise plumb-
11 ing system structure, design, and construction; and

12 (4) any progress of private organizations in up-
13 dating premise plumbing standards.

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated to the National Institute
16 of Standards and Technology such sums as may be nec-
17 essary to carry out this section.

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