

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9367

To authorize the National Science Foundation to award a monetary prize
for achievement in electricity storage.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Mr. GOHMERT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To authorize the National Science Foundation to award a
monetary prize for achievement in electricity storage.

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 “Keep Earth’s Energy
5 Prepared and Stored Act” or the “KEEPS Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Dramatic advances have been made in the
9 manner and means of acquiring oil, natural gas,
10 coal, and other forms of carbon-based energy fuel.

1 (2) Dramatic advances have been made in the
2 manner and means of producing new sources of en-
3 ergy.

4 (3) Dramatic advances have been made in the
5 manner and means of producing electricity from var-
6 ious forms of fuel.

7 (4) No dramatic advances have been made in
8 the manner and means of storing electricity, so elec-
9 tricity, when produced, must flow and be used
10 promptly or lost.

11 (5) If the technology and the ability to store
12 electricity for even weeks or months were developed,
13 the energy needs of our Nation could be met
14 through completely clean and environmentally
15 friendly means.

16 (6) The value to the United States of being able
17 to efficiently store electricity for 30 days or more is
18 incalculable and would free the Nation from reliance
19 on any foreign energy or environmentally destructive
20 sources.

21 (7) Though \$500,000,000 is a sizable cash
22 prize, if such a prize produced the technology and
23 the ability to store electricity, it would save every
24 American incalculable amounts of money.

1 **SEC. 3. PRIZE AUTHORITY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
3 Science Foundation (in this Act referred to as the “Direc-
4 tor”) shall carry out a competition to award a cash prize
5 to the first participant to develop the ability to store multi-
6 megawatt electricity for 30 consecutive days with less than
7 a 10 percent decrease in the electricity stored.

8 (b) ADMINISTERING THE COMPETITION.—The Direc-
9 tor shall—

10 (1) widely advertise the prize competition; and

11 (2) develop any additional criteria and defini-
12 tions necessary to award the prize authorized under
13 this Act, with the intention of this Act to be able to
14 immediately, after the award of the prize, be capable
15 of building facilities that will store electricity for
16 wide scale grid usage.

17 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY.**

18 To be eligible to win the prize under this Act, an indi-
19 vidual or entity—

20 (1) in the case of a private entity, shall be in-
21 corporated in and maintain a primary place of busi-
22 ness in the United States, and in the case of an in-
23 dividual, whether participating singly or in a group,
24 shall be a citizen of, or an alien lawfully admitted
25 for permanent residence in, the United States; and

1 (2) shall not be a Federal entity, a Federal em-
2 ployee acting within the scope of his employment, or
3 an employee of a national laboratory acting within
4 the scope of his employment.

5 **SEC. 5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.**

6 The Federal Government shall not, by virtue of offer-
7 ing or awarding the prize under this Act, be entitled to
8 any intellectual property rights derived as a consequence
9 of the participation by a participant in the prize competi-
10 tion authorized by this Act. This section shall not be con-
11 strued to prevent the Federal Government from negoti-
12 ating a license for the use of intellectual property devel-
13 oped for the prize competition under this Act.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 to carry out
17 this Act.

18 (b) CARRYOVER OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated to
19 carry out this Act shall remain available until expended.

20 **SEC. 7. NONSUBSTITUTION.**

21 The prize competition authorized under this Act shall
22 not be considered a substitute for Federal research and
23 development programs.

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