

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5885

To establish an interagency task force to address the backlog of cargo ships at the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach and in the coastal waters of Orange County, California, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mrs. KIM of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To establish an interagency task force to address the backlog of cargo ships at the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach and in the coastal waters of Orange County, California, 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. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commandant of the
5 Coast Guard shall establish an interagency task force (in
6 this section referred to as the “task force”) to address
7 the vessel backlogs at the Port of Los Angeles and the

1 Port of Long Beach and in the coastal waters of Orange
2 County, California.

3 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 (1) CHAIR.—The Commandant of the Coast
5 Guard shall serve as the Chair of the task force.

6 (2) COMPOSITION.—The task force shall be
7 composed of at least 1 representative from the fol-
8 lowing agencies, to be appointed by the head of each
9 respective agency:

10 (A) The Environmental Protection Agency.

11 (B) The Department of Agriculture.

12 (C) The Department of Commerce.

13 (D) The Department of Defense.

14 (E) The Department of Energy.

15 (F) The Department of Health and
16 Human Services.

17 (G) The Department of the Interior.

18 (H) The Department of Justice.

19 (I) The Department of Labor.

20 (J) The Department of State.

21 (K) The Department of Transportation.

22 (L) The Federal Emergency Management
23 Agency.

24 (M) The Federal Maritime Commission.

25 (N) The General Services Administration.

1 (3) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Chair of the
2 task force may appoint a representative from any of
3 the following entities to serve on the task force:

4 (A) The government of Orange County,
5 California.

6 (B) The Port Authority of Los Angeles.

7 (C) The Port Authority of Long Beach.

8 (D) The State of California.

9 (c) DUTIES.—The task force shall—

10 (1) evaluate and quantify the impact of the ves-
11 sel backlogs at the Port of Los Angeles and the Port
12 of Long Beach;

13 (2) evaluate and quantify the costs incurred by
14 other Federal, State, and local governments due to
15 such vessel backlogs;

16 (3) evaluate the responses of Federal agencies
17 to such vessel backlogs and the extent to which ves-
18 sels are complying with the requirements of chapter
19 700 of title 46, United States Code;

20 (4) investigate the cause of the oil spill that oc-
21 curred in October 2021 in the coastal waters of Or-
22 ange County, California, including the impact of,
23 and events that led to, an oil pipeline being dragged
24 more than 100 feet in such coastal waters; and

1 (5) not later than 90 days after the date of en-
2 actment of this Act—

3 (A) develop a plan to solve the vessel back-
4 log and oil spill crises along the coast of south-
5 ern California, including a plan to address—

6 (i) safety concerns with ongoing idling
7 of waiting ships;

8 (ii) the environmental impacts of wait-
9 ing ships; and

10 (iii) delays withing the ports; and

11 (B) submit to Congress a report containing
12 such plan.

13 (d) AUTHORITY.—The task force may obtain from a
14 Federal agency any information the task force determines
15 is necessary to carry out this Act.

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