

# H.R.4

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 12, 2024

Introduced by Mr. Nord of Pacifica, for himself.

## IN THE SENATE

Introduced by Mr. Sun of Olympia

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# A BILL

To invest in the research of breeder nuclear technology and nuclear fusion technology in order to produce clean, efficient, reliable, and cheap energy, and to further the efficient transition to clean energy sources.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Nuclear Research Investment Act of 2024”.

### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this act,

- (a) “Fission Breeder Reactor” (hereinafter referred to as “FBR”s) refers to any nuclear reactor that generates more fissile material than it consumes via the transmutation of fertile isotopes.
- (b) “Fusion Nuclear Reactor” (hereinafter referred to as “FNR”s) refers to any power plant which produces energy by fusing atomic nuclei (such as hydrogen) together.

- (c) “The Secretary” shall refer to the United States Secretary of Energy.
- (d) “The Department” shall refer to the United States Department of Energy.
- (e) “The Under Secretary ” shall refer to The Under Secretary for Science and Innovation in the United States Department of Energy.

### **SEC 3. RELEVANT PROVISIONS**

The Secretary, through the Under Secretary, is hereby authorized to —

- (1) enter into agreements or contracts with any Federal, State, or local agency or private organization, including private research institutions and universities, on behalf of the Department, for the purpose of furthering the development and research of FNRs or FBRs;
  - (i) including but not limited to agreements with agencies where clean energy is already part of their jurisdiction, or agencies with nuclear energy, development, and research as their focus; and that it is the sense of congress that the Secretary should engage in such agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (2) award grants not exceeding \$40,000,000 each to such federal, state, or local agencies, or research institutions, to further the development of FNRs or FBRs;
- (3) maintain communication with those agencies and institutions to avoid duplication of efforts, including and necessitating but not limited to bi-annual updates on research efforts and development; and that the Secretary, through the Under Secretary, shall review all updates before authorizing renewals for the grants provided for in Section 3(2).
- (4) use resources and personnel of The Department to conduct research and further the development of FNRs or FBRs.

### **SEC. 4. SEVERABILITY**

Should any portion of this Act be deemed invalid or unconstitutional for any reason in a court with relevant jurisdiction, the rest of the Act, and the application of the remaining provisions, shall not be affected.

### **SEC 5. APPROPRIATIONS**

- (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$200,000,000 for the fiscal year 2024 for the Department to carry out this Act; \$300,000,000 for fiscal years 2025 to 2028; and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years thereafter.
- (b) The Department shall reduce public research spending on other nuclear related projects by \$100,000,000 for the fiscal years 2024-2028 and this money shall be allocated to the research of FNRs and FBRs.

## **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

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