

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize methane leak detection and mitigation research activities by
the Department of Energy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. VEASEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize methane leak detection and mitigation research
activities by the Department of Energy.

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 “Methane Emissions
5 Mitigation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) methane is a valuable, energy-dense fuel
9 source composing the majority of natural gas;

1 (2) in 2014, the United States lost more than
2 9.8 million metric tons of natural gas, worth almost
3 \$2 billion, through methane leaks and intentional re-
4 leases throughout the oil and gas system;

5 (3) the comparative impact of methane on cli-
6 mate change is more than 25 times greater than
7 carbon dioxide over a 100-year period, and more
8 than 80 time greater over a 20 year period; and

9 (4) identifying and eliminating leaks is a nec-
10 essary step in fighting climate change, and addi-
11 tional research is necessary to further commercialize
12 leak detection and mitigation technologies.

13 **SEC. 3. METHANE LEAK DETECTION AND MITIGATION RE-**
14 **SEARCH.**

15 (a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Energy shall
16 carry out a program of research and development in meth-
17 ane leak detection and mitigation.

18 (b) PROGRAM GOAL.—The Secretary shall set a goal
19 of developing a variety of technologies that—

20 (1) enable United States natural gas operations
21 to eliminate methane leaks by fiscal year 2025; and

22 (2) cost less to purchase and operate than the
23 market value of the gas that would have leaked but
24 for such technologies.

1 **SEC. 4. TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION PRIZE COMPETI-**
2 **TION.**

3 The Secretary of Energy shall carry out a methane
4 leak detection and mitigation technology demonstration
5 prize competition under section 24 of the Stevenson-
6 Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C.
7 3719).

8 **SEC. 5. TECHNOLOGY CLEARINGHOUSE PROGRAM.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
10 of Energy shall establish and promote a program to en-
11 courage technological innovation in development and com-
12 mercialization of methane leak detection and mitigation
13 technology.

14 (b) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—The program de-
15 scribed in subsection (a) shall include—

16 (1) the establishment of a centralized Federal
17 clearinghouse for public access to information relat-
18 ing to technologies and best practices for methane
19 leak detection and mitigation;

20 (2) the issuance of announcements seeking
21 unique and innovative technologies to advance the
22 mission of the Department under this Act; and

23 (3) the provision of information for persons
24 seeking guidance on how to pursue proposals to de-
25 velop or deploy technologies that would reduce meth-

1 ane emissions, including information relating to in-
2 dustry technology acquisition practices.

3 (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the
4 Secretary’s designated officers shall coordinate with the
5 Department of Energy’s Office of Technology Transitions.

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

7 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
8 retary of Energy for carrying out this Act \$25,000,000
9 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2025.