

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 40, United States Code, to establish an Appalachian regional energy hub initiative, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. McCONNELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 40, United States Code, to establish an Appalachian regional energy hub initiative, 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 “Appalachian Regional  
5 Energy Hub Initiative Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. APPALACHIAN REGIONAL ENERGY HUB.**

7 (a) APPALACHIAN REGIONAL ENERGY HUB INITIA-  
8 TIVE.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 145  
2           of subtitle IV of title 40, United States Code, is  
3           amended by adding at the end the following:

4    **“§ 14511. Appalachian regional energy hub initiative**

5           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Appalachian Regional Com-  
6           mission may provide technical assistance to, make grants  
7           to, enter into contracts with, or otherwise provide amounts  
8           to individuals or entities in the Appalachian region for  
9           projects and activities—

10           “(1) to conduct research and analysis regarding  
11           the economic impact of an ethane storage hub in the  
12           Appalachian region that supports a more-effective  
13           energy market performance due to the scale of the  
14           project, such as a project with the capacity to store  
15           and distribute more than 100,000 barrels per day of  
16           hydrocarbon feedstock with a minimum gross heat-  
17           ing value of 1,700 Btu per standard cubic foot;

18           “(2) with the potential to significantly con-  
19           tribute to the economic resilience of the area in  
20           which the project is located; and

21           “(3) that will help establish a regional energy  
22           hub in the Appalachian region for natural gas and  
23           natural gas liquids, including storage and associated  
24           pipelines.

1       “(b) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the  
2 cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this sec-  
3 tion—

4           “(1) not more than 50 percent may be provided  
5 from amounts made available to carry out this sec-  
6 tion;

7           “(2) in the case of a project to be carried out  
8 in a county for which a distressed county designa-  
9 tion is in effect under section 14526, not more than  
10 80 percent may be provided from amounts made  
11 available to carry out this section; and

12           “(3) in the case of a project to be carried out  
13 in a county for which an at-risk county designation  
14 is in effect under section 14526, not more than 70  
15 percent may be provided from amounts made avail-  
16 able to carry out this section.

17       “(c) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—Subject to sub-  
18 section (b), a grant provided under this section may be  
19 provided from amounts made available to carry out this  
20 section, in combination with amounts made available—

21           “(1) under any other Federal program; or

22           “(2) from any other source.

23       “(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any provi-  
24 sion of law limiting the Federal share under any other  
25 Federal program, amounts made available to carry out

1 this section may be used to increase that Federal share,  
2 as the Appalachian Regional Commission determines to be  
3 appropriate.”.

4 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for  
5 subchapter I of chapter 145 of title 40, United  
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item  
7 relating to section 14510 the following:

“14511. Appalachian regional energy hub initiative.”.

8 (b) AUTHORIZATIONS.—Section 14703 of title 40,  
9 United States Code, is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as  
11 subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

12 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
13 lowing:

14 “(d) APPALACHIAN REGIONAL ENERGY HUB INITIA-  
15 TIVE.—Of the amounts made available under subsection  
16 (a), \$5,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 14511  
17 for each fiscal year.”.