

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2661

To amend the Clean Air Act to establish a grant program for supporting local communities in detecting, preparing for, communicating about, or mitigating the environmental and public health impacts of wildfire smoke, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2021

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Clean Air Act to establish a grant program for supporting local communities in detecting, preparing for, communicating about, or mitigating the environmental and public health impacts of wildfire smoke, 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 “Smoke-Ready Commu-
5 nities Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. SMOKE-READY COMMUNITIES.**

2 Part A of title I of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401
3 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 **“SEC. 132. SMOKE-READY COMMUNITIES.**

5 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of
6 appropriations, the Administrator may make grants under
7 this section to air pollution control agencies to support air
8 pollution control agencies in developing and implementing
9 programs that support local communities in detecting,
10 preparing for, communicating with the public about, or
11 mitigating the environmental and public health aspects of
12 wildfire smoke.

13 “(b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out a pro-
14 gram described in subsection (a), an air pollution control
15 agency may use funds from a grant received under this
16 section for—

17 “(1) activities related to the monitoring of, the
18 interpretation of, and communicating with the public
19 about data related to ambient air quality conditions
20 that are caused by wildfire smoke;

21 “(2) conducting community outreach in areas
22 that are prone to poor air quality that is attributable
23 to elevated levels of particulate matter and other
24 harmful components of wildfire smoke;

25 “(3) the deployment of air quality monitoring
26 equipment in a manner that is sufficient to evaluate

1 an increased prevalence of poor air quality that is
2 attributable to elevated levels of particulate matter
3 and other harmful components of wildfire smoke;

4 “(4) equipping public buildings with air filtra-
5 tion systems that are capable of removing particu-
6 late matter and other harmful components of wild-
7 fire smoke from the air so that the public buildings
8 may serve as cleaner air spaces during wildfire
9 smoke events and other poor air quality events;

10 “(5) the purchase, storage, and distribution of
11 face masks and personal protective equipment, in-
12 cluding N-95 filtering facepiece respirators, portable
13 air filtration systems, and other masks and equip-
14 ment that are capable of removing particulate mat-
15 ter and other harmful components of wildfire smoke
16 from the air;

17 “(6) subgrants or providing other financing to
18 private or other public entities with demonstrated fi-
19 nancial need—

20 “(A) to acquire protective gear; or

21 “(B) to carry out weatherization measures
22 to mitigate air infiltration; and

23 “(7) such other activities that the Adminis-
24 trator determines to be necessary to carry out the
25 purposes of this section.

1 “(c) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
3 the Administrator shall establish a formula to dis-
4 tribute grants under this section among air pollution
5 control agencies.

6 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the
7 formula required under paragraph (1), the Adminis-
8 trator shall consider—

9 “(A) the vulnerability of communities with-
10 in a State to wildfire smoke; and

11 “(B) the degree to which a State is prone
12 to poor air quality that is attributable to ele-
13 vated levels of particulate matter from wildfire
14 smoke.

15 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
17 essary to carry out this section.”.

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