

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1713

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 5, 2023

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To provide for Department of Energy and Department of
Agriculture joint research and development activities, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “DOE and USDA Inter-
3 agency Research Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF**
5 **AGRICULTURE JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVEL-**
6 **OPMENT ACTIVITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy and the
8 Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the
9 “Secretaries”) shall carry out cross-cutting and collabo-
10 rative research and development activities focused on the
11 joint advancement of Department of Energy and Depart-
12 ment of Agriculture mission requirements and priorities.

13 (b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Sec-
14 retaries shall carry out and coordinate the activities under
15 subsection (a) through the establishment of a memo-
16 randum of understanding, or other appropriate inter-
17 agency agreement. Such memorandum or agreement shall
18 require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process,
19 which considers applications from Federal agencies, Na-
20 tional Laboratories, institutions of higher education, non-
21 profit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

22 (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities
23 under subsection (a), the Secretaries may—

24 (1) conduct collaborative research over a variety
25 of focus areas, such as—

1 (A) modeling and simulation, machine
2 learning, artificial intelligence, data assimila-
3 tion, large scale data analytics, and predictive
4 analysis in order to optimize algorithms for
5 purposes related to agriculture and energy,
6 such as life cycle analysis of agricultural or en-
7 ergy systems;

8 (B) fundamental agricultural, biological,
9 computational, and environmental science and
10 engineering, including advanced crop science,
11 crop protection, breeding, and biological pest
12 control, in collaboration with the program au-
13 thorized under section 306 of the Department
14 of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42
15 U.S.C. 18644);

16 (C) integrated natural resources and the
17 energy-water nexus, including in collaboration
18 with the program authorized under section
19 1010 of the Energy Act of 2020 (enacted as di-
20 vision Z of the Consolidated Appropriations
21 Act, 2021 (42 U.S.C. 16183));

22 (D) advanced biomass, biobased products,
23 and biofuels, including in collaboration with the
24 activities authorized under section 9008(b) of

1 the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of
2 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(b));

3 (E) diverse feedstocks for economically and
4 environmentally sustainable fuels, including
5 aviation and naval fuels;

6 (F) colocation of agricultural resources and
7 activities and ecosystem services with diverse
8 energy technologies and resources, such as geo-
9 thermal energy, nuclear energy, solar energy,
10 wind energy, natural gas, hydropower, and en-
11 ergy storage;

12 (G) colocation of agricultural resources
13 and activities with carbon storage and utiliza-
14 tion technologies;

15 (H) invasive species management to fur-
16 ther the work done by the Federal Interagency
17 Committee for the Management of Noxious and
18 Exotic Weeds;

19 (I) long-term and high-risk technological
20 barriers in the development of transformative
21 science and technology solutions in the agri-
22 culture and energy sectors, including in collabo-
23 ration with the program authorized under sec-
24 tion 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (42
25 U.S.C. 16538);

1 (J) grid modernization and grid security;

2 (K) rural technology development, includ-
3 ing manufacturing, precision agriculture tech-
4 nologies, and mechanization and automation
5 technologies; and

6 (L) wildfire risks and prevention, including
7 the power sector's role in fire prevention and
8 mitigation and wildfire impacts on energy infra-
9 structure;

10 (2) develop methods to accommodate large vol-
11 untary standardized and integrated data sets on ag-
12 ricultural, environmental, supply chain, and eco-
13 nomic information with variable accuracy and scale;

14 (3) promote collaboration, open community-
15 based development, and data and information shar-
16 ing between Federal agencies, National Labora-
17 tories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit in-
18 stitutions, industry partners, and other appropriate
19 entities by providing reliable access to secure data
20 and information that are in compliance with Federal
21 rules and regulations;

22 (4) support research infrastructure and work-
23 force development as the Secretaries determine nec-
24 essary; and

1 (5) conduct collaborative research, development,
2 and demonstration of methods and technologies to—

3 (A) improve the efficiency of agriculture
4 operations and processing of agricultural prod-
5 ucts; and

6 (B) reduce greenhouse gas emissions asso-
7 ciated with such operations and such proc-
8 essing.

9 (d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities
10 under subsection (a), the Secretaries are authorized to—

11 (1) carry out reimbursable agreements between
12 the Department of Energy, the Department of Agri-
13 culture, and other entities in order to maximize the
14 effectiveness of research and development; and

15 (2) collaborate with other Federal agencies as
16 appropriate.

17 (e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit
19 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and
20 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
21 tives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
22 sources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
23 Forestry of the Senate, a report detailing the following:

(2) Potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture.

8 (4) Areas of future mutually beneficial suc-
9 cesses.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture.

(f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

Passed the House of Representatives December 4,
2023.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.