

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5437

To ensure the rural surface transportation grant program is accessible to rural areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. FINSTAD (for himself, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. VAN ORDEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To ensure the rural surface transportation grant program is accessible to rural areas, 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 “Protecting Infrastruc-
5 ture Investments for Rural America Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION GRANT PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 Section 173 of title 23, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2) by striking “over
2 200,000” and inserting “20,000 or less”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(3) SMALL COMMUNITY.—The term ‘small
5 community’ means an area that is outside an urban-
6 ized area and that has a population of 5,000 or
7 less.”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (B) by striking “and”
10 at the end;

11 (B) in subparagraph (C) by striking the
12 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

13 (C) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(D) to generate economic growth and de-
15 velopment in rural areas to improve the quality
16 of life for citizens in rural areas and small com-
17 munities.”;

18 (3) in subsection (e)(1)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (F) by striking “or”
20 at the end;

21 (B) in subparagraph (G) by striking the
22 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(H) a highway, road, bridge, or tunnel
25 project that would benefit the economic develop-

1 ment or quality of life for citizens of the com-
2 munity in which the project takes place.”;

3 (4) by striking subsection (i);

4 (5) by redesignating subsections (j), (k), (l),
5 (m), (n), and (o) as subsections (i), (j), (k), (l), (m),
6 and (n), respectively;

7 (6) in subsection (i) (as so redesignated)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “para-
9 graph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) or
10 (3)”;

11 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
12 paragraph (4); and

13 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
14 following:

15 “(3) FEDERAL SHARE FOR PROJECTS IN SMALL
16 COMMUNITIES.—The Federal share of the cost of a
17 project carried out in a small community with a
18 grant under the program may not exceed 90 per-
19 cent.”;

20 (7) in subsection (j) (as so redesignated) by
21 striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

22 “(1) PROJECTS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES.—The
23 Secretary shall use not less than 5 percent of the
24 amounts made available for the program for each

1 fiscal year to provide grants for eligible projects in
2 a small community.”; and

3 (8) in subsection (l) (as so redesignated) by
4 striking “subsection (l)(1)” and inserting “sub-
5 section (k)(1)”.

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