

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To direct the President to develop a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. JONES) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To direct the President to develop a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement, 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 “International Climate
3 Accountability Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) In Paris, on December 12, 2015, parties to
7 the United Nations Framework Convention on Cli-
8 mate Change (UNFCCC) reached a landmark agree-
9 ment to combat climate change and to accelerate
10 and intensify the actions and investments needed for
11 a sustainable low carbon future.

12 (2) The Paris Agreement’s central aim is to
13 strengthen—

14 (A) international cooperation among par-
15 ties on reducing global greenhouse gas emis-
16 sions to mitigate the threat of climate change
17 by keeping a global average temperature in-
18 crease below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-indus-
19 trial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the
20 temperature increase even further to 1.5 de-
21 grees Celsius; and

22 (B) ambition towards achieving global
23 greenhouse gas emission reductions sufficient to
24 reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement by
25 requiring parties to make their own nationally

1 determined contribution (NDC) of greenhouse
2 gas emission reductions.

3 (3) The Paris Agreement is the premier inter-
4 governmental forum and mechanism at the disposal
5 of the United States for protecting and advancing
6 United States strategic and economic interests in a
7 changing, low-carbon, global economy.

8 (4) The enhanced transparency and reporting
9 framework established under the Paris Agreement
10 will provide an effective means of holding other par-
11 ties accountable for their commitments.

12 (5) The United States is playing a leading role
13 in the development of procedures and guidelines to
14 implement the transparency framework under the
15 Paris Agreement.

16 (6) Since May 31, 2017, 407 United States
17 mayors have adopted the Paris Agreement goals for
18 their cities and 23 United States governors and the
19 governor of Puerto Rico have formed a bipartisan
20 workgroup to realize the Paris Agreement goals at
21 the State level.

22 (7) The Paris Agreement—

23 (A) notes the importance of “climate jus-
24 tice” when mitigating and adapting to climate
25 change; and

1 (B) recognizes “the need for an effective
2 and progressive response to the urgent threat of
3 climate change”.

4 (8) The cost of inaction on climate change will
5 have devastating impacts to the United States econ-
6 omy, costing billions of dollars in lost GDP.

7 (9) The Paris Agreement further requires each
8 party to update its nationally determined contribu-
9 tion every 5 years, and these NDC should reflect the
10 party’s highest possible ambition.

11 (10) The United States communicated its first
12 nationally determined contribution to achieve an
13 economy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas
14 emissions by 26 to 28 percent below its 2005 level
15 in 2025 and to make best efforts to reduce its emis-
16 sions by 28 percent.

17 (11) A number of existing laws, regulations,
18 and other mandatory measures in the United States
19 are relevant to achieving this target, including the
20 Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), the Energy
21 Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486), and the
22 Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007
23 (Public Law 110–140).

24 (12) On June 1, 2017, President Donald J.
25 Trump announced his intention to withdraw the

1 United States from the Paris Agreement, negotiate
2 our way back into Paris, or “negotiate a new deal”.

3 (13) Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement
4 would leave the United States as the only UNFCCC
5 member state that is not a signatory to the Paris
6 Agreement.

7 (14) Dozens of foreign heads of state have ex-
8 pressed support for the United States to remain a
9 party to the Paris Agreement.

10 (15) Leading companies across major economic
11 sectors believe that the participation of the United
12 States in the Paris Agreement strengthens United
13 States employment, growth, and competitiveness and
14 that withdrawal from the Agreement would put
15 United States companies at a competitive disadvan-
16 tage.

17 (16) Under the terms of the Paris Agreement,
18 the earliest possible effective withdrawal date by the
19 United States is November 4, 2020. However, the
20 United States is still obligated to maintain certain
21 commitments under the United Nations Framework
22 Convention on Climate Change, such as continuing
23 to report its emissions to the United Nations.

1 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO ADVANCE THE**
2 **WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM**
3 **THE PARIS AGREEMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
5 sion of law, no funds are authorized to be appropriated,
6 obligated, or expended to take any action to advance the
7 withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agree-
8 ment.

9 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subsection (a) shall
10 not be construed to constrain or prohibit the United States
11 Government from participating in the implementation and
12 execution of the Paris Agreement, including meeting cur-
13 rent obligations under the Paris Agreements and the
14 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
15 Change.

16 **SEC. 4. PLAN FOR THE UNITED STATES TO MEET ITS NA-**
17 **TIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION**
18 **UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall de-
21 velop and submit to the appropriate congressional commit-
22 tees and make available to the public a plan for the United
23 States to meet its nationally determined contribution
24 under the Paris Agreement. The plan shall describe—

25 (1) how the United States will achieve an econ-
26 omy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas

1 emissions by 26 to 28 percent below its 2005 level
2 by 2025; and

3 (2) how the United States will use the Paris
4 Agreement’s transparency provisions to confirm that
5 other parties to the Agreement with major econo-
6 mies are fulfilling their announced contributions to
7 the Agreement.

8 (b) UPDATES TO PLAN.—Not later than one year
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
10 thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate
11 congressional committees and make available to the public
12 an updated plan under subsection (a).

13 (c) SUCCESSIVE NATIONALLY DETERMINED CON-
14 TRIBUTIONS.—The updated plan developed pursuant to
15 subsection (c) may serve as the United States’ successive
16 NDC, in accordance with Article 4.3 of the Paris Agree-
17 ment, and may be communicated to the United Nations
18 Secretary-General in accordance with Article 4.9 of the
19 Paris Agreement.

20 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
21 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
22 gressional committees” means—

23 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
24 Committee on Environment and Public Works, the
25 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the

1 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry,
2 and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
3 and

4 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
5 Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Com-
6 mittee on Agriculture, and the Committee on Appro-
7 priations of the House of Representatives.

8 **SEC. 5. PARIS AGREEMENT DEFINED.**

9 In this Act, the term “Paris Agreement” means the
10 decision by the United Nations Framework Convention on
11 Climate Change’s 21st Conference of Parties in Paris,
12 France, adopted December 12, 2015.