

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1389

To authorize the National Science Foundation to establish a Climate Change Education Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2007

Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BINGAMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To authorize the National Science Foundation to establish a Climate Change Education Program.

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 “Climate Change Edu-
5 cation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) greenhouse gases are accumulating in the
9 atmosphere, causing global temperatures to rise at a
10 rate that poses a significant threat to the economy

1 and security of the United States, to public health
2 and welfare, and to the global environment;

3 (2) there is scientific consensus that human ac-
4 tivities are the major cause of atmospheric green-
5 house gas accumulation;

6 (3) mandatory steps will be required to slow or
7 stop the accumulation of atmospheric greenhouse
8 gases;

9 (4) atmospheric greenhouse gases can be sig-
10 nificantly reduced through conservation, by shifting
11 to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind,
12 tidal, and geothermal, and by increasing the effi-
13 ciency of buildings, including domiciles, and trans-
14 portation, and by advances in technology;

15 (5) providing clear information about global
16 warming, in a variety of forms, can increase under-
17 standing and encourage individuals and communities
18 to take action;

19 (6) implementation of measures that promote
20 energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable en-
21 ergy will greatly reduce human impact on the envi-
22 ronment; and

23 (7) informing people of new technologies and
24 programs as they become available will ensure max-

1 imum understanding and maximum impact of those
2 measures.

3 **SEC. 3. CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the National
5 Science Foundation shall establish a Climate Change Edu-
6 cation Program to—

7 (1) broaden the understanding of climate
8 change, possible long and short-term consequences,
9 and potential solutions;

10 (2) apply the latest scientific and technological
11 discoveries to provide formal and informal learning
12 opportunities to people of all ages, including those of
13 diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds; and

14 (3) emphasize actionable information to help
15 people understand and to promote implementation of
16 new technologies, programs, and incentives related
17 to energy conservation, renewable energy, and green-
18 house gas reduction.

19 (b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The Climate Change
20 Education Program shall include—

21 (1) a national information campaign to dissemi-
22 nate information on and promote implementation of
23 the new technologies, programs, and incentives de-
24 scribed in subsection (a)(3); and

1 (2) a competitive grant program to provide
2 grants to States, local municipalities, educational in-
3 stitutions, and other organizations to—

4 (A) create informal education materials,
5 exhibits, and multimedia presentations relevant
6 to climate change and climate science;

7 (B) develop climate science kindergarten
8 through grade 12 curriculum and supple-
9 mentary educational materials; or

10 (C) publish climate change and climate
11 science information in print, electronic, and
12 audio-visual forms.

13 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
14 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
15 thereafter, the Director of the National Science Founda-
16 tion shall transmit to Congress a report that evaluates the
17 scientific merits, educational effectiveness, and broader
18 impacts of activities under this section.

19 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this Act, such sums as may be necessary.

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