

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8002

To establish the Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy Independence to examine whether the Russian Federation funded activities of nongovernmental organizations in Western countries which limited the ability of those countries to achieve energy independence and made them more reliant on energy exported from Russia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2022

Mr. CAWTHORN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy Independence to examine whether the Russian Federation funded activities of nongovernmental organizations in Western countries which limited the ability of those countries to achieve energy independence and made them more reliant on energy exported from Russia, 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 “Energy Independence
5 Task Force Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF TASK FORCE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the ex-
3 ecutive branch a task force to be known as the “Task
4 Force on Energy Independence” (referred to in this Act
5 as the “Task Force”).

6 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Task Force is to
7 examine whether the Russian Federation or any agent or
8 instrumentality of the Russian Federation funded activi-
9 ties of nongovernmental organizations in Western coun-
10 tries which limited the ability of those countries to achieve
11 energy independence and made them more reliant on en-
12 ergy exported from Russia.

13 **SEC. 3. COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE.**

14 (a) MEMBERS.—

15 (1) APPOINTMENT.—Subject to paragraph (3),
16 the Task Force shall be composed of 10 members,
17 of whom 2 shall be appointed not later than 30 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act by each
19 of the following:

20 (A) The Attorney General.

21 (B) The Secretary of Energy.

22 (C) The Secretary of the Treasury.

23 (D) The Director of the Central Intel-
24 ligence Agency.

25 (E) The Secretary of State.

1 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Task
2 Force shall be employees of offices of the executive
3 branch who have expertise in any of the issues de-
4 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 4.

5 (3) STATUS AS DETAILEES.—An individual
6 serving as a member of the Task Force shall be de-
7 tailed, without reimbursement, by the office in which
8 the individual serves as an employee, without inter-
9 ruption or loss of civil service status or privilege,
10 and the individual's appointment shall be subject to
11 the approval of the head of the office in which the
12 individual serves as an employee.

13 (4) CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND MEETINGS.—Not
14 later than 30 days after the date on which a simple
15 majority of the members of the Task Force are ap-
16 pointed under paragraph (1), such members shall
17 meet to elect a chair and vice chair from among
18 such members and shall determine a schedule of
19 Task Force meetings.

20 (5) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—
21 Amounts used for the salaries and expenses, includ-
22 ing expenses for official travel, of an individual serv-
23 ing as a member of the Task Force shall be paid out
24 of amounts appropriated for salaries and expenses of
25 the office in which the individual serves as an em-

1 ployee, and no additional amounts are authorized to
2 be appropriated for such salaries and expenses.

3 (b) INITIAL MEETING.—The Task Force shall meet
4 and begin the operations of the Task Force not later than
5 30 days after the appointment of a simple majority of
6 members of the Task Force.

7 (c) QUORUM AND VACANCY.—

8 (1) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the mem-
9 bers of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum,
10 but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

11 (2) VACANCY.—Any vacancy in the Task Force
12 shall not affect its powers and shall be filled in the
13 same manner in which the original appointment was
14 made not later than 30 days after the vacancy oc-
15 curs.

16 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE.**

17 The Task Force shall determine and analyze the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (1) The extent of efforts backed by the Russian
20 Federation or any agent or instrumentality of the
21 Russian Federation to financially support non-
22 governmental organizations in Western countries
23 that opposed nuclear energy and fracking.

1 (2) The success or failure of these efforts to
2 suppress investment by Western countries in diverse
3 energy portfolios.

4 (3) The extent to which the funding of these or-
5 ganizations has increased the reliance of Western
6 countries on energy exported from the Russian Fed-
7 eration.

8 (4) The assessment of the level of interdepend-
9 ence of Western countries with the Russian Federa-
10 tion, and the extent to which Western countries are
11 subject to coercion by the Russian Federation, be-
12 cause Western countries lack a diverse energy port-
13 folio.

14 (5) An assessment of the extent to which en-
15 ergy independence could affect the American econ-
16 omy and provide insulation for Western countries
17 against Russian intimidation.

18 (6) The extent to which the structure of energy
19 agreements between the Russian Federation and
20 other energy companies used the participation of
21 smaller, more discreet third-party companies to pro-
22 vide the Russian Federation with greater control
23 over the agreements, including an assessment of the
24 role of companies which were subsidiaries of Russian
25 energy companies or which were controlled overtly or

1 covertly by the Russian Federation or instruments of
2 the Russian Federation.

3 (7) An assessment of the Russian Federation's
4 control of and investment in energy companies of
5 Western nations, including companies involved in en-
6 ergy distribution, electric power generation, storage
7 of materials, pipeline maintenance, and similar ac-
8 tivities.

9 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF TASK FORCE.**

10 (a) HEARINGS.—The Task Force may hold such
11 hearings, meet and act at such times and places, and re-
12 ceive such evidence as may be necessary to carry out its
13 duties.

14 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
15 Attorney General and the Secretary of Energy shall work
16 with the heads of offices of the Federal Government to
17 ensure that the Task Force has access to such information
18 as the Task Force considers necessary to carry out its du-
19 ties.

20 (c) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

21 (1) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—On
22 request of the chair of the Task Force, the Adminis-
23 trator of General Services shall provide to the Task
24 Force, on a reimbursable basis, administrative sup-

1 port and other assistance necessary for the Task
2 Force to carry out its duties.

3 (2) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—In
4 addition to the assistance provided for under para-
5 graph (1), departments and agencies of the United
6 States may provide to the Task Force such assist-
7 ance as they may determine advisable and as author-
8 ized by law.

9 (d) SUBPOENA POWER.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may issue
11 subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of
12 witnesses and the production of any evidence relat-
13 ing to any matter which the Commission is empow-
14 ered to investigate by section 4. The attendance of
15 witnesses and the production of evidence may be re-
16 quired from any place within the United States at
17 any designated place of hearing within the United
18 States.

19 (2) FAILURE TO OBEY A SUBPOENA.—If a per-
20 son refuses to obey a subpoena issued under para-
21 graph (1), the Commission may apply to a United
22 States district court for an order requiring that per-
23 son to appear before the Commission to give testi-
24 mony, produce evidence, or both, relating to the
25 matter under investigation. The application may be

1 made within the judicial district where the hearing
2 is conducted or where that person is found, resides,
3 or transacts business. Any failure to obey the order
4 of the court may be punished by the court as civil
5 contempt.

6 (3) SERVICE OF SUBPOENAS.—The subpoenas
7 of the Commission shall be served in the manner
8 provided for subpoenas issued by a United States
9 district court under the Federal Rules of Civil Pro-
10 cedure for the United States district courts.

11 (4) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—All process of any
12 court to which application is made under paragraph
13 (2) may be served in the judicial district in which
14 the person required to be served resides or may be
15 found.

16 (e) CONTRACTING.—The Task Force may enter into
17 contracts to enable it to carry out its duties.

18 (f) DONATIONS.—The Task Force may accept, use,
19 and dispose of donations of services or property.

20 (g) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Task Force may use
21 the United States mails in the same manner and under
22 the same conditions as a department or agency of the
23 United States.

1 **SEC. 6. STAFF OF TASK FORCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The chair of the Task Force, in
3 consultation with the vice chair, in accordance with rules
4 agreed upon by the Task Force, may appoint and fix the
5 compensation of a staff director and such other personnel
6 as may be necessary to enable the Task Force to carry
7 out its functions, in accordance with the provisions of title
8 5, United States Code, except that no rate of pay fixed
9 under this subsection may exceed the equivalent of that
10 payable for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule
11 under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

12 (b) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
13 of the chair of the Task Force, the head of any executive
14 department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office,
15 independent establishment, or instrumentality of the Fed-
16 eral Government may detail, without reimbursement, any
17 of its personnel to the Task Force to assist it in carrying
18 out its duties under this Act. Any detail of an employee
19 shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status
20 or privilege.

21 (c) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—The Task Force is au-
22 thorized to procure the services of experts and consultants
23 in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States
24 Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a per-
25 son occupying a position at level IV of the Executive

1 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States
2 Code.

3 **SEC. 7. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICA-**
4 **BILITY.**

5 The provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee
6 Act shall apply to the Task Force, including the staff of
7 the Task Force.

8 **SEC. 8. REPORT; TERMINATION.**

9 (a) FINAL REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall, not
11 later than 1 year after the date of its first meeting,
12 submit to the individuals described in paragraph (2)
13 a final report containing specific findings, conclu-
14 sions, and recommendations required under this Act
15 as have been agreed to by a majority of Task Force
16 members.

17 (2) INDIVIDUALS.—The individuals described in
18 this paragraph are the President, the Attorney Gen-
19 eral, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the
20 Treasury, the Director of the Central Intelligence
21 Agency, the Speaker of the House of Representa-
22 tives, the minority leader of the House of Represent-
23 atives, the majority leader of the Senate, and the mi-
24 nority leader of the Senate.

1 (3) CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED MATE-
2 RIAL.—The report under this subsection shall be
3 prepared—

4 (A) in an unclassified version; and

5 (B) in a version which includes a classified
6 annex.

7 (b) TERMINATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force, and all the
9 authorities of this Act, shall terminate on the date
10 that is 30 days after the date of on which the Task
11 Force submits the final report required under sub-
12 section (a).

13 (2) RECORDS.—Not later than the date of ter-
14 mination of the Task Force under paragraph (1), all
15 records and papers of the Task Force shall be deliv-
16 ered to the Archivist of the United States for deposit
17 in the National Archives.

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