

117TH CONGRESS H. R. 2774

To authorize appropriations for climate financing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 22, 2021

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Lowenthal, Ms. Velázquez, Ms. Bush, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Cartwright, Ms. Barragán, Ms. Tlaib, Ms. Pingree, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Connolly, Ms. Norton, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Brownley, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Casten, Ms. Titus, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Case, and Mr. Jones) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for climate financing, 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 "Green Climate Fund
- 5 Authorization Act of 2021".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds that—

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| 1 | (1) climate change most severely impacts vul- |
| 2 | nerable and disadvantaged communities in the |
| 3 | United States and around the world; |
| 4 | (2) it is the responsibility of the United States |
| 5 | Government to work with its global partners to pro- |
| 6 | mote environmental justice and climate justice; |
| 7 | (3) the report of the United Nations Environ- |
| 8 | ment Programme entitled "Climate Change and the |
| 9 | Cost of Capital in Developing Countries", dated May |
| 10 | 2018, found that, in the 10 years prior to the publi- |
| 11 | cation of the report, climate vulnerability has cost |
| 12 | the 20 nations most affected by catastrophes rooted |
| 13 | in climate change an additional \$62,000,000,000 in |
| 14 | interest payments alone; |
| 15 | (4) individuals and families, particularly com- |
| 16 | munities of color, indigenous communities, and low- |
| 17 | income communities, that are on the frontlines or |
| 18 | climate change across the globe are often in close |
| 19 | proximity to environmental stressors or sources or |
| 20 | pollution; |
| 21 | (5) the communities described in paragraph |
| 22 | (4)— |
| 23 | (A) are often the first exposed to the |

causes and impacts of climate change; and

| 1 | (B) have the fewest resources with which |
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| 2 | to mitigate those impacts or to relocate; |
| 3 | (6) all efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate |
| 4 | change must include specific protections for and ac- |
| 5 | knowledgment of the harm of climate change to |
| 6 | communities of color, indigenous peoples, women, |
| 7 | and other frontline communities and marginalized |
| 8 | peoples around the world; |
| 9 | (7) in Paris, on December 12, 2015, the parties |
| 10 | to the United Nations Framework Convention on |
| 11 | Climate Change adopted the Paris Agreement, a |
| 12 | benchmark agreement— |
| 13 | (A) to combat climate change; and |
| 14 | (B) to accelerate and intensify the actions |
| 15 | and investments needed for a sustainable low |
| 16 | carbon future; |
| 17 | (8) the Paris Agreement, to which the United |
| 18 | States is a party, acknowledges, "Parties should, |
| 19 | when taking action to address climate change, re- |
| 20 | spect, promote and consider their respective obliga- |
| 21 | tions on human rights, the right to health, the rights |
| 22 | of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, |
| 23 | children, persons with disabilities and people in vul- |

nerable situations and the right to development, as

| 1 | well as gender equality, empowerment of women and |
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| 2 | intergenerational equity"; |
| 3 | (9) the Paris Agreement— |
| 4 | (A) notes the importance of "climate jus- |
| 5 | tice" when mitigating and adapting to climate |
| 6 | change; and |
| 7 | (B) recognizes "the need for an effective |
| 8 | and progressive response to the urgent threat of |
| 9 | climate change"; |
| 10 | (10) it is imperative for all countries to under- |
| 11 | take mitigation activities to rapidly meet the goal of |
| 12 | limiting global warming to not more than 1.5 de- |
| 13 | grees Celsius; |
| 14 | (11) developed countries have the greatest ca- |
| 15 | pacity to mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions, |
| 16 | while— |
| 17 | (A) developing countries have the least ca- |
| 18 | pacity to engage in mitigation activities; and |
| 19 | (B) the capacity of developing countries to |
| 20 | engage in mitigation activities is less than the |
| 21 | national mitigation potential of those developing |
| 22 | countries; |
| 23 | (12) the determination for the fair share of |
| 24 | mitigation and adaptation activities for each country |
| 25 | must take into account— |

| 1 | (A) the historic greenhouse gas emissions |
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| 2 | of each country; and |
| 3 | (B) the current capacity of each country to |
| 4 | both mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and |
| 5 | adapt to climate impacts; |
| 6 | (13) developed countries that have historically |
| 7 | emitted a disproportionately high share of green- |
| 8 | house gas emissions, and reaped the economic bene- |
| 9 | fits of those polluting activities, have a cor- |
| 10 | responding disproportionately greater responsibility |
| 11 | to engage in global mitigation and adaptation activi- |
| 12 | ties, as compared to less industrialized countries |
| 13 | that have historically polluted far less; |
| 14 | (14) the only realistic way for less industri- |
| 15 | alized countries to meet their full mitigation poten- |
| 16 | tial is through international climate financing by |
| 17 | more developed countries; |
| 18 | (15) in the 2009 Copenhagen Accord, developed |
| 19 | countries committed to jointly mobilize, starting in |
| 20 | 2020, \$100,000,000,000 per year in public climate |
| 21 | financing (as well as private investment and other |
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alternative forms of finance), for developing coun-

tries, a commitment reaffirmed in 2015 in Decision

1/CP.21 of the United Nations Framework Conven-

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- tion on Climate Change, Adoption of the Paris
 Agreement;
- 3 (16) the \$100,000,000,000 commitment de-4 scribed in paragraph (15) was a political com-5 promise that falls short of the actual financing needs 6 for climate action in developing countries;
 - (17) Bloomberg New Energy Finance has estimated that the transition to renewable energy sources in developing countries will require hundreds of billions of dollars annually;
 - (18) the United Nations Environment Programme has estimated that adaptation needs relating to climate change in developing countries may be as much as \$300,000,000,000 annually by 2030;
 - (19) the Green Climate Fund was created in 2010 by 194 countries to serve as a crucial financing mechanism to help developing countries limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change;
 - (20) in 2015, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change agreed that the Green Climate Fund should serve the goals of the Paris Agreement, which states that "developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both miti-

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| 1 | gation and adaptation in continuation of their exist- |
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| 2 | ing obligations under the Convention"; |
| 3 | (21) the Green Climate Fund is an essential in- |
| 4 | stitution for climate financing, as the Green Climate |
| 5 | Fund ensures— |
| 6 | (A) balanced governance between developed |
| 7 | and developing countries; |
| 8 | (B) stakeholder engagement and discourse; |
| 9 | (C) a balanced approach between mitiga- |
| 10 | tion and adaptation; |
| 11 | (D) fair and equal labor and working con- |
| 12 | ditions; |
| 13 | (E) conservation of biodiversity and critical |
| 14 | habitats; and |
| 15 | (F) strong environmental, social, and gen- |
| 16 | der protections; |
| 17 | (22) the Green Climate Fund— |
| 18 | (A) promotes and protects human rights |
| 19 | and the rights of marginalized groups, including |
| 20 | indigenous peoples, women, children, and people |
| 21 | with disabilities; and |
| 22 | (B) continues to take steps to strengthen |
| 23 | protection for marginalized groups; |
| 24 | (23) the United States committed |
| 25 | \$3.000.000.000 of the first \$10.000.000.000 raised |

| 1 | for the initial resource mobilization period of the |
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| 2 | Green Climate Fund, though only 1/3 of this pledge |
| 3 | was fulfilled, leaving the United States the only |
| 4 | country to fall substantially short of a commitment |
| 5 | of a country to the Green Climate Fund; |
| 6 | (24) pledges for the first replenishment period |
| 7 | of the Green Climate Fund ("GCF-1"), covering the |
| 8 | years 2020–2023, totaled \$9.9 billion, without any |
| 9 | participation from the United States; |
| 10 | (25) almost all major contributors doubled the |
| 11 | amount of their contribution from the initial re- |
| 12 | source mobilization phase for the GCF-1 replenish- |
| 13 | ment; and |
| 14 | (26) the Green Climate Fund is a fully oper- |
| 15 | ational and proven institution supporting nearly 200 |
| 16 | projects and programs in developing countries |
| 17 | around the world with a total value of \$30.2 billion |
| 18 | including co-financing. |
| 19 | SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY. |
| 20 | It is the policy of the United States to provide climate |
| 21 | financing— |
| 22 | (1) as an essential part of the global effort to |
| 23 | combat climate change; and |

(2) that—

| 1 | (A) upholds the principles of environmental |
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| 2 | justice and climate justice; |
| 3 | (B) supports programs and projects devel- |
| 4 | oped by recipient countries and communities; |
| 5 | (C) is designed and implemented with the |
| 6 | free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous |
| 7 | peoples and other impacted communities; |
| 8 | (D) promotes gender equality as essential |
| 9 | in all of the projects and programs supported |
| 10 | by climate financing; |
| 11 | (E) includes best practices for environ- |
| 12 | mental and social safeguards to ensure that |
| 13 | projects and programs supported by climate fi- |
| 14 | nancing respect fundamental human rights; and |
| 15 | (F) addresses both mitigation and adapta- |
| 16 | tion as essential aspects of responding to cli- |
| 17 | mate change. |
| 18 | SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. |
| 19 | (a) In General.—There are authorized to be appro- |
| 20 | priated for contributions to the Green Climate Fund |
| 21 | \$4,000,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022 and |
| 22 | 2023. |
| 23 | (b) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Con- |
| 24 | gress that the climate financing needs to achieve the |
| 25 | greenhouse gas emissions reductions required to keep the |

| 1 | planet at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming |
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| 2 | are significantly greater than the amount of funds author- |
| 3 | ized to be appropriated under subsection (a). |
| 4 | SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS. |
| 5 | In this Act: |
| 6 | (1) CLIMATE FINANCING.—The term "climate |
| 7 | financing" means the transfer of new and additional |
| 8 | public funds from developed countries to developing |
| 9 | countries for projects and programs that— |
| 10 | (A) reduce or eliminate greenhouse gas |
| 11 | emissions; |
| 12 | (B) enhance and restore natural carbon se- |
| 13 | questration; and |
| 14 | (C) promote adaptation to climate change. |
| 15 | (2) Green climate fund.—The term "Green |
| 16 | Climate Fund' means the independent, multilateral |
| 17 | fund— |
| 18 | (A) established by parties to the United |
| 19 | Nations Framework Convention on Climate |
| 20 | Change; and |
| 21 | (B) adopted by decision as part of the fi- |
| 22 | nancial mechanism of the United Nations |
| 23 | Framework Convention on Climate Change. |
| 24 | (3) Paris agreement.—The term "Paris |
| 25 | Agreement" means the annex to Decision 1/CP.21 |

- 1 adopted by the 21st Conference of Parties of the
- 2 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
- 3 Change in Paris, France, on December 12, 2015.

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