

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ESPAILLAT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

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 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

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 of
18 climate change across the globe are often in close
19 proximity to environmental stressors or sources of
20 pollution;

21 (5) the communities described in paragraph
22 (4)—

23 (A) are often the first exposed to the
24 causes and impacts of climate change; and

1 (B) have the fewest resources with which
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-
24 nerable situations and the right to development, as

1 well as gender equality, empowerment of women and
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
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
22 alternative forms of finance), for developing coun-
23 tries, a commitment reaffirmed in 2015 in Decision
24 1/CP.21 of the United Nations Framework Conven-

1 tion on Climate Change, Adoption of the Paris
2 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;

7 (17) Bloomberg New Energy Finance has esti-
8 mated that the transition to renewable energy
9 sources in developing countries will require hundreds
10 of billions of dollars annually;

11 (18) the United Nations Environment Pro-
12 gramme has estimated that adaptation needs relat-
13 ing to climate change in developing countries may be
14 as much as \$300,000,000,000 annually by 2030;

15 (19) the Green Climate Fund was created in
16 2010 by 194 countries to serve as a crucial financ-
17 ing mechanism to help developing countries limit or
18 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to cli-
19 mate change;

20 (20) in 2015, the United Nations Framework
21 Convention on Climate Change agreed that the
22 Green Climate Fund should serve the goals of the
23 Paris Agreement, which states that “developed coun-
24 try Parties shall provide financial resources to assist
25 developing country Parties with respect to both miti-

1 gation and adaptation in continuation of their exist-
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
2 Green Climate Fund, though only $\frac{1}{3}$ 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; and

6 (24) the Green Climate Fund is a fully oper-
7 ational and proven institution supporting well over
8 100 projects and programs in developing countries
9 around the world.

10 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

11 It is the policy of the United States to provide climate
12 financing—

13 (1) as an essential part of the global effort to
14 combat climate change; and

15 (2) that—

16 (A) upholds the principles of environmental
17 justice and climate justice;

18 (B) supports programs and projects devel-
19 oped by recipient countries and communities;

20 (C) is designed and implemented with the
21 free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous
22 peoples and other impacted communities;

23 (D) promotes gender equality as essential
24 in all of the projects and programs supported
25 by climate financing;

1 (E) includes best practices for environ-
2 mental and social safeguards to ensure that
3 projects and programs supported by climate fi-
4 nancing respect fundamental human rights; and

5 (F) addresses both mitigation and adapta-
6 tion as essential aspects of responding to cli-
7 mate change.

8 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
10 priated for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter
11 such sums as may be necessary for contributions to the
12 Green Climate Fund—

13 (1) to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions re-
14 ductions required to keep the planet at or below 1.5
15 degrees Celsius of global warming, consistent with
16 the goals of the Paris Agreement; and

17 (2) to exceed the commitment by developed
18 countries to jointly mobilize, starting in 2020,
19 \$100,000,000,000 for climate financing each year,
20 as committed to in the 2009 Copenhagen Accord
21 and reaffirmed in 2015 in Decision 1/CP.21 of the
22 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
23 Change, Adoption of the Paris Agreement.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that climate financing needs are significantly greater
3 than those described in subsection (a)(2).

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.