

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4447
OFFERED BY M . _____**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Access to
3 Sustainable Energy Act of 2019”.

4 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

6 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
7 ty” means—

8 (A) a rural electric cooperative; or

9 (B) a nonprofit organization working with
10 at least 6 rural electric cooperatives.

11 (2) ENERGY STORAGE.—The term “energy
12 storage” means the use of equipment or facilities re-
13 lating to the electric grid that are capable of absorb-
14 ing and converting energy, as applicable, storing the
15 energy for a period of time, and dispatching the en-
16 ergy, that—

17 (A) use mechanical, electrochemical, bio-
18 chemical, or thermal processes, to convert and

1 store energy that was generated at an earlier
2 time for use at a later time;

3 (B) use mechanical, electrochemical, bio-
4 chemical, or thermal processes to convert and
5 store energy generated from mechanical proc-
6 esses that would otherwise be wasted for deliv-
7 ery at a later time; or

8 (C) convert and store energy in an electric,
9 thermal, or gaseous state for direct use for
10 heating or cooling at a later time in a manner
11 that avoids the need to use electricity or other
12 fuel sources at that later time, as is offered by
13 grid-enabled water heaters.

14 (3) ISLAND.—The term “island mode” means a
15 mode in which a distributed generator or energy
16 storage device continues to power a location in the
17 absence of electric power from the primary source.

18 (4) MICROGRID.—The term “microgrid” means
19 an interconnected system of loads and distributed
20 energy resources, including generators and energy
21 storage devices, within clearly defined electrical
22 boundaries that—

23 (A) acts as a single controllable entity with
24 respect to the electric grid; and

1 (B) can connect to, and disconnect from,
2 the electric grid to operate in both grid-con-
3 nected mode and island mode.

4 (5) RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE.—The term
5 “renewable energy source” has the meaning given
6 the term in section 609(a) of the Public Utility Reg-
7 ulatory Policies Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 918c(a)).

8 (6) RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.—The term
9 “rural electric cooperative” means an electric coop-
10 erative (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Power
11 Act (16 U.S.C. 796)) that sells electric energy to
12 persons in rural areas.

13 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of Energy.

15 **SEC. 3. ENERGY STORAGE AND MICROGRID ASSISTANCE**
16 **PROGRAM.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish
19 a program under which the Secretary shall—

20 (1) provide grants to eligible entities under sub-
21 section (c);

22 (2) provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
23 ties under subsection (d); and

24 (3) disseminate information to eligible entities
25 on—

1 (A) the activities described in subsections
2 (c)(1) and (d); and

3 (B) potential and existing energy storage
4 and microgrid projects.

5 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Secretary may
6 enter into a cooperative agreement with an eligible entity
7 to carry out subsection (a).

8 (c) GRANTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
10 grants to eligible entities for identifying, evaluating,
11 designing, and demonstrating energy storage and
12 microgrid projects that utilize energy from renewable
13 energy sources.

14 (2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
15 grant under paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall
16 submit to the Secretary an application at such time,
17 in such manner, and containing such information as
18 the Secretary may require.

19 (3) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity that re-
20 ceives a grant under paragraph (1)—

21 (A) shall use the grant—

22 (i) to conduct feasibility studies to as-
23 sess the potential for implementation or
24 improvement of energy storage or
25 microgrid projects;

1 (ii) to analyze and implement strate-
2 gies to overcome barriers to energy storage
3 or microgrid project implementation, in-
4 cluding financial, contracting, siting, and
5 permitting barriers;

6 (iii) to conduct detailed engineering of
7 energy storage or microgrid projects;

8 (iv) to perform a cost-benefit analysis
9 with respect to an energy storage or
10 microgrid project;

11 (v) to plan for both the short- and
12 long-term inclusion of energy storage or
13 microgrid projects into the future develop-
14 ment plans of the eligible entity; or

15 (vi) to purchase and install necessary
16 equipment, materials, and supplies for
17 demonstration of emerging technologies;
18 and

19 (B) may use the grant to obtain technical
20 assistance from experts in carrying out the ac-
21 tivities described in subparagraph (A).

22 (4) CONDITION.—As a condition of receiving a
23 grant under paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall—

24 (A) implement a public awareness cam-
25 paign, in coordination with the Secretary, about

1 the project implemented under the grant in the
2 community in which the eligible entity is lo-
3 cated;

4 (B) submit to the Secretary, and make
5 available to the public, a report that de-
6 scribes—

7 (i) any energy cost savings and envi-
8 ronmental benefits achieved under the
9 project; and

10 (ii) the results of the project, includ-
11 ing quantitative assessments to the extent
12 practicable, associated with each activity
13 described in paragraph (3)(A); and

14 (C) create and disseminate tools and re-
15 sources that will benefit other rural electric co-
16 operatives, which may include cost calculators,
17 guidebooks, handbooks, templates, and training
18 courses.

19 (5) COST-SHARE.—Activities under this sub-
20 section shall be subject to the cost-sharing require-
21 ments of section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of
22 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352).

23 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program
25 established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall

1 provide eligible entities with technical assistance re-
2 lating to—

3 (A) identifying opportunities for energy
4 storage and microgrid projects;

5 (B) understanding the technical and eco-
6 nomic characteristics of energy storage or
7 microgrid projects;

8 (C) understanding financing alternatives;

9 (D) permitting and siting issues;

10 (E) obtaining case studies of similar and
11 successful energy storage or microgrid projects;

12 (F) reviewing and obtaining computer soft-
13 ware for assessment, design, and operation and
14 maintenance of energy storage or microgrid sys-
15 tems; and

16 (G) understanding and utilizing the reli-
17 ability and resiliency benefits of energy storage
18 and microgrid projects.

19 (2) EXTERNAL CONTRACTS.—In carrying out
20 paragraph (1), the Secretary may enter into con-
21 tracts with third-party experts, including engineer-
22 ing, finance, and insurance experts, to provide tech-
23 nical assistance to eligible entities relating to the ac-
24 tivities described in such paragraph, or other rel-
25 evant activities, as determined by the Secretary.

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
3 priated to carry out this Act \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal
4 years 2021 through 2025.

5 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 5 per-
6 cent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for
7 each fiscal year shall be used for administrative expenses.

