

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7101

To establish a task force to lower energy costs for the forest product industry and similar manufacturing operations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a task force to lower energy costs for the forest product industry and similar manufacturing operations, 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. PULP AND PAPER ENERGY SECURITY TASK**
4 **FORCE.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) The terms “Department” and “Secretary”
7 mean the Department of Energy and the Secretary
8 thereof, respectively.

9 (2) The term “task force” means the task force
10 established under subsection (b).

1 (b) ENERGY TASK FORCE.—

2 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
3 tablish a task force, to be known as the Pulp and
4 Paper Energy Security Task Force, to address the
5 energy needs of the forest product industry and
6 similar manufacturing operations.

7 (2) DUTIES.—The task force shall—

8 (A) identify—

9 (i) the energy needs of the forest
10 product industry and similar manufac-
11 turing operations;

12 (ii) the programs and services pro-
13 vided by the Federal Government, State
14 governments, and nongovernment organi-
15 zations that may serve to lower energy
16 costs, including through the introduction
17 or increased use of renewable fuels in pa-
18 permaking operations and allied industries;

19 (B) assess the extent to which the pro-
20 grams and services identified under subpara-
21 graph (A)(ii) serve the needs identified under
22 subparagraph (A)(i);

23 (C) make recommendations to the Sec-
24 retary on how to more effectively serve the

1 needs identified under subparagraph (A)(i)
2 through—

3 (i) programs and services identified
4 under subparagraph (A)(ii);

5 (ii) new programs and services pro-
6 moted by the task force; and

7 (iii) statutory changes.

8 (D) make recommendations on how the
9 Secretary may promote—

10 (i) new programs and services that
11 the task force recommends under subpara-
12 graph (C)(ii); and

13 (ii) programs and services identified
14 under subparagraph (A)(ii);

15 (E) make recommendations on how the
16 Secretary may inform and educate with respect
17 to—

18 (i) the needs identified under subpara-
19 graph (A)(i);

20 (ii) new programs and services that
21 the task force recommends under subpara-
22 graph (C)(ii); and

23 (iii) programs and services identified
24 under subparagraph (A)(ii);

1 (F) make recommendations on how the
2 Secretary may more effectively work with public
3 and private interests to address the energy
4 needs of the forest product industry and similar
5 manufacturing operations; and

6 (G) make recommendations on the creation
7 of a permanent advisory board that would make
8 recommendations to the Secretary on how to
9 address the energy needs of the forest product
10 industry and similar manufacturing operations.

11 (3) INTERNET WEBSITE RECOMMENDATIONS.—
12 The task force shall make recommendations to the
13 Secretary relating to the establishment of an Inter-
14 net website to be used by the Department to receive
15 and dispense information and resources with respect
16 to the needs identified under paragraph (2)(A)(i)
17 and the programs and services identified under para-
18 graph (2)(A)(ii). As part of the recommendations,
19 the task force shall identify the Internet sites of ap-
20 propriate programs, services, and organizations, both
21 public and private, to which the Internet website
22 should link.

23 (4) EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—The task force
24 shall make recommendations to the Secretary relat-
25 ing to developing additional education materials and

1 programs with respect to the needs identified under
2 paragraph (2)(A)(i).

3 (5) EXISTING MATERIALS.—The task force
4 shall organize and distribute existing materials that
5 inform and educate with respect to the needs identi-
6 fied under paragraph (2)(A)(i) and the programs
7 and services identified under paragraph (2)(A)(ii).

8 (6) COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
9 SECTOR.—In carrying out its responsibilities under
10 this section, the task force shall coordinate with, and
11 may accept materials and assistance as it determines
12 appropriate from—

13 (A) any subordinate officer of the Sec-
14 retary;

15 (B) other Federal agencies, their officers,
16 or employees; and

17 (C) any other organization, entity, or per-
18 son not described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

19 (7) CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.—The task force
20 shall have—

21 (A) a Chair, appointed by the Secretary;
22 and

23 (B) a Vice-Chair, appointed by the Sec-
24 retary, in consultation with appropriate non-

1 governmental organizations, entities, or per-
2 sons.

3 (8) MEMBERS.—

4 (A) CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.—The Chair
5 and the Vice-Chair shall serve as members of
6 the task force.

7 (B) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—The task force shall
9 have additional members, each of whom
10 shall be appointed by the Chair, with the
11 approval of the Secretary.

12 (ii) NUMBER OF MEMBERS.—The
13 number of additional members shall be de-
14 termined by the Chair, in consultation with
15 the Secretary, except that—

16 (I) the additional members shall
17 include, for each of the groups speci-
18 fied in subparagraph (C), at least 1
19 member appointed from within that
20 group; and

21 (II) the number of additional
22 members shall not exceed 13.

23 (C) GROUPS REPRESENTED.—The groups
24 specified in this subparagraph are—

25 (i) subject matter experts;

(ii) labor unions representing employees of the forest product industry and similar manufacturing operations;

(iii) vendors of energy technologies to the forest product industry and similar manufacturing operations;

(iv) academics with expertise in the use of energy technologies within the forest product industry and similar manufacturing operations;

(v) the forest product industry and similar manufacturing operations trade associations;

(vi) Federal, State, or local agencies engaged in energy improvements and cost reductions at within the forest product industry and similar manufacturing operations.

(9) MEETINGS.—

(A) FREQUENCY.—The task force shall meet at least 2 times per year, and more frequently if necessary to perform its duties.

(B) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum.

1 (C) LOCATION.—The Secretary shall des-
2 ignate, and make available to the task force, a
3 location at a facility under the control of the
4 Secretary for use by the task force for its meet-
5 ings.

6 (D) MINUTES.—

7 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90
8 days after each meeting, the task force
9 shall publish the minutes of the meeting
10 and shall submit to Secretary any findings
11 or recommendations approved at the meet-
12 ing.

13 (ii) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not
14 later than 60 days after the date that the
15 Secretary receives minutes under clause (i)
16 the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
17 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources
18 and the Committee on Small Business and
19 Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the
20 Committee on Energy and Commerce and
21 the Committee on Small Business of the
22 House of Representatives such minutes, to-
23 gether with any comments the Secretary
24 considers appropriate.

25 (E) FINDINGS.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the
2 date that the task force terminates under
3 paragraph (13) the task force shall submit
4 to the Secretary a final report on any find-
5 ings and recommendations of the task
6 force approved at a meeting of the task
7 force.

8 (ii) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not
9 later than 90 days after the date that the
10 Administrator receives the report under
11 clause (i), the Secretary shall submit to the
12 Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
13 sources and the Committee on Small Busi-
14 ness and Entrepreneurship of the Senate
15 and the Committee on Energy and Com-
16 merce and the Committee on Small Busi-
17 ness of the House of Representatives the
18 full text of the report submitted under
19 clause (i), together with any comments the
20 Secretary considers appropriate.

21 (10) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

22 (A) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each
23 member of the task force shall serve without
24 pay for their service on the task force.

1 (B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of
2 the task force shall receive travel expenses, in-
3 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-
4 cordance with applicable provisions under sub-
5 chapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States
6 Code.

7 (C) DETAIL OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
8 EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary may detail, with-
9 out reimbursement, any of the personnel of the
10 Department to the task force to assist it in car-
11 rying out its duties. Such a detail shall be with-
12 out interruption or loss of civil status or privi-
13 lege.

14 (D) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SUPPORT
15 OF THE TASK FORCE.—Upon the request of the
16 task force, the Secretary shall provide to the
17 task force the administrative support services
18 that the Secretary and the Chair jointly deter-
19 mine to be necessary for the task force to carry
20 out its duties.

21 (11) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—
22 The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
23 App.) shall not apply to the task force.

24 (12) STARTUP.—The initial appointment of the
25 members of the task force shall be completed not

1 later than 90 days after the date of enactment of
2 this section and the first meeting of the task force
3 shall be not later than 180 days after the date of en-
4 actment of this section.

5 (13) TERMINATION.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
7 subparagraph (B), the task force shall termi-
8 nate at the end of fiscal year 2012.

9 (B) EXCEPTION.—If, as of the termination
10 date under subparagraph (A), the task force
11 has not complied with paragraph (9)(D) with
12 respect to 1 or more meetings, then the task
13 force shall continue after the termination date
14 for the sole purpose of achieving compliance
15 with paragraph (9)(D) with respect to those
16 meetings.

17 (14) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING.—There are
18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
19 tion \$200,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through
20 2012.

○