AMENDMENT
TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–8
OFFERED BY MR. ESPAILLAT OF NEW YORK

At the end of title V of division B, add the following:

SEC. _____. REGIONAL INNOVATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Office of Transit-Supportive Communities, authorized by section 5328 of this title and in consultation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Economic Development Administration shall establish a regional innovation pilot program to implement carbon reduction initiatives through transportation, infill development, and water infrastructure investments.

(b) Goals.—The goals of the pilot program established under this section include—

(1) reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions;
(2) increasing economic development;
(3) increasing low-income and affordable housing;
(4) improving access to jobs and services;
(5) supporting underserved communities;
(6) increasing the share of non-motorized trips and shortening trip lengths; and

(7) prioritizing infill development to support multi-family and low-income housing.

(c) AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities in accordance with this section.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(e) ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS.—Grant amounts for an eligible project carried out under this section may be used for—

(1) development phase activities, including planning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting, environmental review, preliminary engineering and design work, and other preconstruction activities;

(2) construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, acquisition of real property (including land related to the project and improvements to such land), environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, acquisition of equipment, and operational improvements; and
(3) associated infrastructure improvements identified by a transit-oriented development plan as outlined by section 5328(b)(2).

(f) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Departments and agencies described in subsection (a) shall establish eligible projects or programs of projects necessary to support carbon reduction initiatives, including surface transportation, wastewater, drinking water, and broadband infrastructure.

(g) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—The following entities are eligible to receive a grant under this section:

(1) A unit of local government, including counties.

(2) A tribal government.

(3) A public transit agency or authority.

(4) A metropolitan planning organization.

(5) A multi-jurisdictional group applying through a single lead applicant.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of this section, the term “affordable housing” means housing affordable to households with incomes at or below 50 percent of area medium income for a period of no less than 20 years.

(i) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting projects, the Secretary shall—
(1) select projects that provide measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emission;

(2) evaluate the proposal’s ability to coordinate stakeholders across sectors to develop and execute the project;

(3) prioritize projects which are identified by a transit-oriented development plan or carbon emission reduction plan;

(4) prioritize projects that develop affordable housing with at least 20 percent of housing units reserved for, and affordable to, households with income at or below 30 percent of the area’s median income (AMI) or less than the Federal poverty limit, whichever is greater;

(5) prioritize projects that cannot be completed without Federal support; and

(6) evaluate the proposal’s ability to fulfill the goals described under subsection (b).

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a) $250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 to 2026.