AMENDMENT
TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115–72
OFFERED BY MR. HECK OF WASHINGTON

Add at the end of title I the following:

SEC. ___ . INNOVATIVE STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) CENTER.—The term center means a center of excellence for innovative stormwater control infrastructure established under section (b).

(3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible institution” means an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), or a research institution, that has demonstrated excellence in innovative stormwater control infrastructure by—
(i) conducting research on innovative stormwater control infrastructure to determine the means by which innovative infrastructure reduces stormwater runoff, enhances and protects drinking water sources, and improves water quality;

(ii) developing and disseminating information regarding the means by which an organization can use innovative stormwater control infrastructure;

(iii) providing technical assistance to an organization for an innovative stormwater control infrastructure project;

(iv) developing best practices standards for innovative stormwater control infrastructure;

(v) providing job training relating to innovative stormwater control infrastructure;

(vi) developing course curricula for—

(I) elementary schools (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)).
(II) secondary schools (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

(III) institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); or

(IV) vocational schools;

(vii) training students regarding innovative stormwater control infrastructure; or

(viii) providing information to the Federal Government or State, tribal, and local governments regarding the implementation of innovative stormwater control infrastructure.

(B) RESEARCH INSTITUTION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term “research institution” means an entity that is—

(i) described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(ii) exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and
(iii) organized and operated for research purposes.

(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 518(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1377(h)).

(5) STATE.—The term “State” means—

(A) each of the several States of the United States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) Guam;

(E) American Samoa;

(F) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(G) the Federated States of Micronesia;

(H) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

(I) the Republic of Palau; and

(J) the United States Virgin Islands.

(6) INNOVATIVE STORMWATER CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “innovative stormwater control infrastructure” means any green infrastructure stormwater management technique that—
(i) uses natural systems or engineered systems that mimic natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire, or capture stormwater; and

(ii) preserves, enhances, or mimics natural hydrology to protect or restore water quality.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “innovative stormwater control infrastructure” includes—

(i) methods that promote absorption, uptake, percolation, evapotranspiration, and filtration by soil and plant life; and

(ii) the preservation or restoration of—

(I) natural topography, including hills, plains, ravines, and shorelines;

(II) interconnected networks of natural land that protect essential ecological functions critical for water quality;

(III) ecological function, including forests, grasslands, and deserts;

(IV) bodies of water, including lakes, flood plains, headwaters, and wetlands; and
(V) native soil characteristics of composition, structure, and transmissivity.

(b) Centers of Excellence for Innovative Stormwater Control Infrastructure.—

(1) Establishment of Centers.—

(A) In general.—The Administrator shall provide grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible institutions to establish and maintain not less than three, and not more than five, centers of excellence for innovative stormwater control infrastructure, to be located in various regions throughout the United States.

(2) General operation.—Each center shall—

(A) conduct research on innovative stormwater control infrastructure that is relevant to the geographical region in which the center is located, including stormwater and sewer overflow reduction, other approaches to water resource enhancement, and other environmental, economic, and social benefits;

(B) develop manuals and establish industry standards on best management practices relating to State, Tribal, local, and commercial inno-
vative stormwater control infrastructure for use by State, Tribal, and local governments and the private sector;

(C) develop and administer testing and evaluation protocols to measure and verify the performance of stormwater infrastructure products and practices;

(D) provide information regarding research conducted under subparagraph (A), manuals developed under subparagraph (B), and testing and evaluation performed under subparagraph (C) to the national electronic clearinghouse center for publication on the Internet website established under paragraph (4) to provide to the Federal Government, State, Tribal, and local governments, and the private sector information regarding innovative stormwater control infrastructure;

(E) provide technical assistance to State, Tribal, and local governments to assist with the construction, operation, and maintenance of innovative stormwater control infrastructure projects;

(F) collaborate with institutions of higher education and private and public organizations
in the geographical region in which the center is located on innovative stormwater control infrastructure research and technical assistance projects;

(G) assist institutions of higher education, secondary schools, and vocational schools to develop innovative stormwater control infrastructure curricula;

(H) provide training regarding innovative stormwater control infrastructure to institutions of higher education and professional schools;

(I) evaluate regulatory and policy issues relating to innovative stormwater control infrastructure; and

(J) coordinate with the other centers to avoid duplication of efforts.

(3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible institution shall prepare and submit to the Administrator an application at such a time, in such form, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(4) NATIONAL ELECTRONIC CLEARINGHOUSE CENTER.—Of the centers established under subsection (b)(1), one shall—
(A) be designated as the “national electronic clearinghouse center”; and

(B) in addition to the other functions of that center—

(i) develop, operate, and maintain an Internet website and a public database that contain information relating to innovative stormwater control infrastructure; and

(ii) post to the website information from all centers.

(c) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY INNOVATIVE STORMWATER CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE PROMOTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall ensure that the Office of Water, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance, the Office of Research and Development, and the Office of Policy of the Environmental Protection Agency promote the use of innovative stormwater control infrastructure in and coordinate the integration of innovative stormwater control infrastructure into permitting programs, planning efforts, research, technical assistance, and funding guidance.
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(2) DUTIES.—The Administrator shall ensure
that the Office of Water—

(A) promotes the use of innovative
stormwater control infrastructure in the pro-
grams of the Environmental Protection Agency;
(B) supports establishing public-private
partnerships and other innovative financing
mechanisms in the implementation of innovative
stormwater control infrastructure; and
(C) coordinates efforts to increase the use
of innovative stormwater control infrastructure
with—
(i) other Federal departments and
agencies;
(ii) State, Tribal, and local govern-
ments; and
(iii) the private sector.

(3) REGIONAL INNOVATIVE STORMWATER CON-
TROL INFRASTRUCTURE PROMOTION.—The Adminis-
trator shall direct each regional office of the Envi-
ronmental Protection Agency, as appropriate based
on local factors, to promote and integrate the use of
innovative stormwater control infrastructure within
the region that includes—
(A) a plan for monitoring, financing, mapping, and designing the innovative stormwater control infrastructure;

(B) outreach and training regarding innovative stormwater control infrastructure implementation for State, Tribal, and local governments, Tribal communities, and the private sector; and

(C) the incorporation of innovative stormwater control infrastructure into permitting and other regulatory programs, codes, and ordinance development, including the requirements under consent decrees and settlement agreements in enforcement actions.

(4) INNOVATIVE STORMWATER CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION.—The Administrator shall promote innovative stormwater control infrastructure information-sharing, including through an Internet website, to share information with, and provide technical assistance to, State, Tribal, and local governments, Tribal communities, the private sector, and the public regarding innovative stormwater control infrastructure approaches for—

(A) reducing water pollution;

(B) protecting water resources;
(C) complying with regulatory requirements; and

(D) achieving other environmental, public health, and community goals.

(5) INNOVATIVE STORMWATER CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO STANDARD.—The Administrator, in collaboration with State, Tribal, and local water resource managers, shall establish voluntary measurable goals, to be known as the “innovative stormwater control infrastructure portfolio standard”, to increase the percentage of annual water managed by eligible entities that use innovative stormwater control infrastructure.

(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as are necessary for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023.