AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–63
OFFERED BY MRS. LEE OF NEVADA

Amend subtitle C of title II to read as follows:

Subtitle C—Distributed Renewable Energy

SEC. 2301. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) Authority having jurisdiction.—The term “authority having jurisdiction” means any State, county, local, or Tribal office or official with jurisdiction—

(A) to issue permits;

(B) to conduct inspections to enforce the requirements of a relevant code or standard; or

(C) to approve the installation of, or the equipment and materials used in the installation of, qualifying distributed energy systems.

(2) Distributed energy system installer.—The term “distributed energy system installer” means an entity or individual—

(A) with knowledge and skills relating to—
(i) the construction and operation of
the equipment used in qualifying distrib-
uted energy systems; and

(ii) the installation of qualifying dis-
tributed energy systems; and

(B) that has employed safety training to
recognize and avoid the hazards involved in con-
structing, operating, and installing qualifying
distributed energy systems.

(3) QUALIFYING DISTRIBUTED ENERGY SYS-
TEM.—The term “qualifying distributed energy sys-
tem” means any equipment or materials installed in,
on, or near a residential, commercial, or industrial
building to support onsite or local energy use, in-
cluding—

(A) to generate electricity from distributed
renewable energy sources, including from—

(i) solar photovoltaic modules or simi-
lar solar energy technologies;

(ii) wind power systems; and

(iii) hydrogen electrolysis and fuel cell
systems;

(B) to store and discharge electricity from
batteries with a capacity of at least 2 kilowatt
hours;
(C) to charge a plug-in electric drive vehicle at a power rate of at least 2 kilowatts;

(D) to refuel a fuel cell electric vehicle; or

(E) to generate electricity from fuel cell systems with a capacity of at least 2 kilowatt hours.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 2302. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM TO FACILITATE VOLUNTARY STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR LOCAL PERMITTING OF QUALIFYING DISTRIBUTED ENERGY SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with trade associations and other entities representing distributed energy system installers and organizations representing State, local, and Tribal governments engaged in permitting, shall establish and carry out a program to establish a voluntary streamlined permitting process for local permitting and inspection of qualifying distributed energy systems, in concert with relevant national consensus-based codes and specifications and standards referenced therein.
(b) ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) facilitate the development and maintenance of a streamlined permitting process that includes a national online permitting platform for expediting, standardizing, and streamlining permitting, that authorities having jurisdiction may use to receive, review, and approve permit applications relating to qualifying distributed energy systems;

(2) establish a model expedited permit-to-build protocol for qualifying distributed energy systems;

(3) provide technical assistance to authorities having jurisdiction on using and adopting—

(A) the streamlined permitting process described in paragraph (1); and

(B) the model expedited permit-to-build protocol described in paragraph (2);

(4) develop and maintain a voluntary national inspection protocol integrated with the national online permitting system described in paragraphs (1) and (2) and related tools to expedite, standardize, and streamline the inspection of qualifying distributed energy systems, including—
(A) by investigating the potential for using remote inspections; and

(B) by investigating the potential for sample-based inspection for distributed energy system installers with a demonstrated track record of high-quality work; and

(5) take any other action to expedite, standardize, streamline, or improve the process for permitting, inspecting, or interconnecting qualifying distributed energy systems.

(c) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Secretary shall—

(1) provide technical assistance to authorities having jurisdiction, any administrator of a national online permitting platform, government software providers, and any other entity determined appropriate by the Secretary in carrying out the activities described in subsection (b); and

(2) provide such financial assistance as the Secretary determines appropriate from any funds appropriated to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 2303. DISTRIBUTED ENERGY OPPORTUNITY COMMUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall recognize and certify certain communities as “Distributed Energy Opportunity Communities”.
(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Secretary may certify a State, local community, or Tribe as a “Distributed Energy Opportunity Community” if that State, local community, or Tribe has adopted and implemented the model expedited permit-to-build protocol established under the program established under section 2302.

(c) PROCESS.—The Secretary may confer a certification under subsection (a) through existing programs of the Department of Energy.

(d) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award competitive grants, using funds appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subtitle, to encourage communities to adopt the model expedited permit-to-build protocol and the standardized inspection process established under the program established under section 2302.

SEC. 2304. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subtitle $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.