

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 1  
OFFERED BY MS. STANSBURY OF NEW MEXICO**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Lower Energy Costs  
3 Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—On March 20, 2023, the IPCC re-  
6 leased the Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report stating  
7 that global carbon emissions are likely to reach a major  
8 tipping point in the period of 2030 through 2039 if urgent  
9 action is not immediately taken.

10 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
11 gress that—

12 (1) Congress acknowledges the Synthesis Re-  
13 port released by the IPCC on March 20, 2023; and

14 (2) the Federal Government should implement  
15 coordinated actions to tackle the climate emergency  
16 and transition to a renewable energy future.

1 **SEC. 3. JUST TRANSITION AND CLIMATE ACTION IMPLE-**  
2 **MENTATION TASK FORCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established, within the  
4 Council on Environmental Quality, a task force, to be  
5 named the “Just Transition and Climate Action Imple-  
6 mentation Task Force” (in this section referred to as the  
7 “task force”), to foster the rapid implementation and de-  
8 ployment of climate action solutions across the United  
9 States in accordance with this section.

10 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—In addition to the Council on En-  
11 vironmental Quality, membership of the task force shall  
12 consist of the heads of the following offices:

- 13 (1) The Domestic Policy Council.
- 14 (2) The Office of Management and Budget.
- 15 (3) The Department of the Interior.
- 16 (4) The Environmental Protection Agency.
- 17 (5) The Department of Energy.

18 (c) CHAIRPERSONS.—The Secretary of the Interior,  
19 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agen-  
20 cy, and the Secretary of Energy shall serve as co-chair-  
21 persons of the task force.

22 (d) GRANT.—The Council on Environmental Quality  
23 is authorized to provide grants to State, Tribal, and local  
24 entities to conduct planning activities for clean energy  
25 transitions.

1 (e) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not later than one year  
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the task force shall  
3 establish regional offices across the United States to—

4 (1) conduct outreach and provide technical as-  
5 sistance on the grants provided under subsection (d);  
6 and

7 (2) support State, Tribal, and local entities in  
8 implementing—

9 (A) the applicable provisions of Public Law  
10 117–169 (136 Stat. 1818) and the Infrastruc-  
11 ture Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law  
12 117–58; 135 Stat. 429); and

13 (B) climate action solutions.

14 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15 are authorized to be appropriated to the applicable Fed-  
16 eral agencies such sums as are necessary to carry out this  
17 section.

18 **SEC. 4. STREAMLINING AND IMPROVING PERMITTING AND**  
19 **REGULATORY PROGRAMS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the task  
21 force established under section 3 shall expedite climate  
22 and clean energy solutions by streamlining and improving  
23 permitting and regulatory programs within the Federal  
24 Government, including by—

1           (1) increasing staffing and expanding hiring au-  
2           thorities of applicable Federal agencies to hire addi-  
3           tional technical staff;

4           (2) in consultation with Indian Tribes (as de-  
5           fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination  
6           and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304))  
7           supporting mapping and assessment activities to  
8           identify and designate low-sensitivity areas for re-  
9           newable energy infrastructure, taking into consider-  
10          ation any applicable environmental laws and any en-  
11          vironmental justice issues;

12          (3) directing Federal agencies with permitting  
13          authorities to conduct permit reviews concurrently, if  
14          possible;

15          (4) increasing permitting transparency by pub-  
16          licly posting available timelines and documents;

17          (5) directing the Federal Permitting Improve-  
18          ment Steering Council to put a timeline on dispute  
19          resolutions, with appropriate considerations of any  
20          effects on the environment and the applicable com-  
21          munity.

22          (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
23          are authorized to be appropriated to the applicable Fed-  
24          eral agencies such sums as are necessary to carry out this  
25          section.

1 (c) OFFICE OF TRANSMISSION.—

2 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In addition to the ac-  
3 tivities carried out under subsection (a), the Sec-  
4 retary of Energy shall establish the Office of Trans-  
5 mission (in this section referred to as the “Office”)  
6 within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
7 (in this section referred to as the “Commission”) to  
8 be led by the Secretary of Energy.

9 (2) PURPOSE AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.—

10 The Office is established to—

11 (A) implement good governance reforms at  
12 the Commission;

13 (B) improve regional transmission plan-  
14 ning;

15 (C) provide resources for grid moderniza-  
16 tion and integration; and

17 (D) improve the permitting and stake-  
18 holder consultation at the Commission.

