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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish
an excess urban heat mitigation grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. ANSARI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
to establish an excess urban heat mitigation grant pro-
gram, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Excess Urban Heat
5 Mitigation Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Heat stress is a leading weather-related
2 cause of death in the United States, with more than
3 600 people killed in the United States by extreme
4 heat every year, and many more experiencing res-
5 piratory problems and heat-related illness.

6 (2) Urban areas are likely to experience higher
7 temperatures than surrounding areas due to design-
8 related attributes of the built environment, including
9 manmade factors such as low solar reflectance, low
10 vegetation and tree cover, high building density, high
11 impervious surface cover, and waste heat emissions.

12 (3) Underserved communities are disproportion-
13 ately impacted by extreme heat. In the United
14 States, low-income census blocks have 15.2 percent
15 less tree cover and an average land surface tempera-
16 ture that is 1.5 degrees Celsius hotter than high-in-
17 come blocks.

18 (4) Studies show that in 97 percent of the larg-
19 est urbanized areas in the United States, people of
20 color live in census tracts with higher surface urban
21 heat intensity than non-Hispanic Whites, indicating
22 that heat exposure is unequally distributed by race.

23 (5) Urban heat is not only a public health
24 threat but also an economic one, as rising heat leads
25 to increased roadway maintenance costs, higher resi-

1 dential and commercial summer energy costs, and
2 lost labor productivity, as well as the cost to patients
3 and health care infrastructure for heat-related hos-
4 pitalizations and emergency department visits.

5 (6) Excess urban heat causes increased energy
6 consumption, elevated emission of air pollutants and
7 greenhouse gases, and impaired water quality.

8 (7) Heat waves are expected to not only occur
9 more frequently in the United States but also be of
10 longer duration, lasting 10 to 20 days longer by the
11 end of the century.

12 (8) Solutions exist that communities can imple-
13 ment now to mitigate the challenge of urban heat.
14 One example is the planting of urban trees to offset
15 or reverse the urban heat island effect. Studies in
16 multiple cities in the United States have shown that
17 urban trees can offset projected increases in heat-re-
18 lated mortality in 2050 by 40 to 99 percent.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) COVERED CENSUS TRACT.—The term “cov-
22 ered census tract” means a census tract with a pov-
23 erty rate of not less than 20 percent, as measured
24 by the 5-year data series available from the Amer-
25 ican Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census

1 for the period of 2019 through 2023, including such
2 a census tract that includes an area that was des-
3 ignated as “hazardous” or “definitely declining” in
4 maps drawn by the Home Owners’ Loan Corpora-
5 tion.

6 (2) COVERED GRANT.—The term “covered
7 grant” means a grant awarded under section 4(a).

8 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
9 ty” means—

10 (A) a State (as defined in section 102 of
11 the Housing and Community Development Act
12 of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302));

13 (B) a metropolitan planning organization;

14 (C) a unit of general local government (as
15 defined in section 102 of the Housing and Com-
16 munity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.
17 5302));

18 (D) an Indian tribe (as defined in section
19 102 of the Housing and Community Develop-
20 ment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302));

21 (E) a territorial government;

22 (F) a nonprofit organization working in co-
23 ordination with an entity described in subpara-
24 graphs (A) through (E); and

1 (G) a consortium of nonprofit organiza-
2 tions.

3 (4) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—The term “eligible
4 project”—

5 (A) means a project designed to mitigate
6 or manage heat in an urban area by—

7 (i) working to mitigate the causes of
8 higher temperatures; or

9 (ii) managing the impacts of higher
10 temperatures or other extreme weather
11 events; and

12 (B) includes the implementation, construc-
13 tion, or maintenance of—

14 (i) tree planting and maintenance
15 with, wherever possible, preference for—

16 (I) native tree species;

17 (II) tree species with high shade
18 production and carbon sequestration;

19 and

20 (III) tree species that are valu-
21 able for food production;

22 (ii) cool pavements;

23 (iii) cool roofs;

24 (iv) green roofs;

- 1 (v) bus and other transit stop shel-
2 ters;
3 (vi) shade structures;
4 (vii) cooling centers with, wherever
5 possible, preference for—
6 (I) cooling centers that collabo-
7 rate with existing community centers
8 and spaces;
9 (II) cooling centers with year-
10 round accessibility, and
11 (III) cooling centers that utilize
12 renewable energy;
13 (viii) community gardens, including
14 agroforestry practices;
15 (ix) outreach to communities about re-
16 sources available under this section;
17 (x) local heat mitigation and manage-
18 ment education efforts;
19 (xi) urban forestry master plans;
20 (xii) urban tree canopy assessments;
21 (xiii) arboriculture training;
22 (xiv) maintenance of existing urban
23 trees; or

1 (xv) other actions the Secretary deter-
2 mines appropriate to mitigate or manage
3 excess urban heat.

4 (5) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.—The term “en-
5 vironmental justice” means the fair treatment and
6 meaningful involvement of all people regardless of
7 race, color, culture, national origin, income, and edu-
8 cational levels with respect to the development, im-
9 plementation, and enforcement of protective environ-
10 mental laws, regulations, and policies.

11 (6) EXCESS URBAN HEAT EFFECT.—The term
12 “excess urban heat effect” means the phenomenon
13 of local urban warming, resulting from manmade
14 factors such as low solar reflectance, low tree cover,
15 high building density, high impervious surface cover,
16 and waste heat emissions.

17 (7) EXTREME HEAT.—The term “extreme
18 heat” means a prolonged period of excessively hot
19 weather, with temperatures well above climatological
20 normals for a given location and season.

21 (8) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
22 “nonprofit organization” means an organization de-
23 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
24 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under sec-
25 tion 501(a) of such Code.

1 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

3 (10) URBAN AREA.—The term “urban area”
4 has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of
5 title 23, United States Code.

6 (11) URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN.—The
7 term “urban forestry master plan” means a stra-
8 tegic plan that establishes the overall vision, goals,
9 objectives, and implementation tools to evaluate,
10 maintain and expand the urban tree canopy with the
11 intention of building resilience to extreme weather
12 events, reducing the urban heat island effect, miti-
13 gating stormwater runoff, reducing nutrient runoff,
14 addressing air quality, and preserving biodiversity.

15 (12) URBAN TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT.—The
16 term “urban tree canopy assessment” means a
17 measure of a community’s tree canopy coverage as
18 a percentage of the total land area that serves as a
19 baseline for setting community tree canopy goals
20 and measuring progress.

21 **SEC. 4. URBAN HEAT MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT**
22 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
25 through the Office of Community Planning and Develop-

1 ment, in coordination with the Administrator of the Envi-
2 ronmental Protection Agency, the Chief of the Forest
3 Service, and the Director of the Climate Program Office
4 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
5 shall establish an urban heat mitigation and management
6 grant program to award grants to eligible entities to im-
7 plement eligible projects.

8 (b) SET-ASIDE.—Not less than 75 percent of the
9 amounts of covered grants awarded for a fiscal year shall
10 be awarded to eligible entities to implement projects in a
11 covered census tract.

12 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 3 percent of
14 amounts appropriated to carry out this section may
15 be used to provide technical assistance to eligible en-
16 tities applying for or implementing a covered grant.

17 (2) PREFERENCE.—In providing technical as-
18 sistance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
19 give preference to eligible entities that intend to
20 serve communities—

21 (A) located in a covered census tract; or

22 (B) with lower-tree canopy and higher
23 maximum daytime summer temperatures com-
24 pared to surrounding communities, as deter-

1 mined by the Secretary, based on publicly avail-
2 able information.

3 (3) INCLUSIONS.—Technical assistance pro-
4 vided under paragraph (1) may include—

5 (A) assistance developing a complete appli-
6 cation;

7 (B) financial analysis and budget develop-
8 ment;

9 (C) support for project integration;

10 (D) assessment of project readiness; and

11 (E) technical assistance implementing ac-
12 tivities once a covered grant is received.

13 (d) APPLICATION.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a
15 covered grant shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
16 cation, at such time and in such manner as required
17 by the Secretary in guidance, that includes, at a
18 minimum—

19 (A) how the eligible entity will use the cov-
20 ered grant;

21 (B) how the eligible projects funded will
22 combat extreme heat or excess urban heat ef-
23 fects and improve quality of life for impacted
24 communities;

25 (C) a robust engagement plan that—

1 (i) outlines how the eligible entity will
2 meaningfully and inclusively engage with
3 the communities in which the eligible
4 projects take place throughout project im-
5 plementation; and

6 (ii) demonstrates how the eligible enti-
7 ty plans to—

8 (I) foster meaningful, reciprocal
9 relationships with community-based
10 organizations;

11 (II) engage in respectful, good-
12 faith consultation with diverse com-
13 munity stakeholders; and

14 (III) empower members of the
15 community to participate in decision
16 making; and

17 (D) how the eligible entity will address the
18 intersection between human health, environ-
19 ment, and built environment.

20 (2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
22 shall issue the guidance described in paragraph (1).

23 (e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
25 graph (2), the Federal share of the cost of an eligi-

1 ble project carried out with amounts from a covered
2 grant shall be not more than 80 percent.

3 (2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may increase the
4 maximum Federal share described in paragraph (1)
5 from 80 percent to 100 percent for an eligible
6 project carried out by an eligible entity that dem-
7 onstrates economic hardship, as determined by the
8 Secretary.

9 (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding covered grants, the Sec-
10 retary shall give priority to an eligible entity that serves—

11 (1) a community located in a covered census
12 tract; or

13 (2) a community with lower tree canopy and
14 higher maximum daytime summer temperatures
15 compared to surrounding communities, as deter-
16 mined by the Secretary, based on publicly available
17 information.

18 (g) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall
19 submit an annual report to Congress that identifies the
20 recipients of covered grants and the geographic and eco-
21 nomic distribution of those recipients.

22 (h) OVERSIGHT.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to ensure the effec-
24 tiveness of projects that are carried out using cov-
25 ered grants, the Secretary shall use not more than

1 5 percent of any amounts appropriated to carry out
2 this section to establish an oversight board to help—

3 (A) select recipients of covered grants; and

4 (B) review the progress made by recipients
5 of covered grants on a yearly basis.

6 (2) EVALUATION.—The board established under
7 paragraph (1) shall—

8 (A) develop and apply a rubric to evaluate
9 the success of projects carried out using covered
10 grants in reaching their objective to combat the
11 causes and effects of excess urban heat; and

12 (B) serve the Secretary in an advisory ca-
13 pacity.

14 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Members of the board
16 established under paragraph (1) may include—

17 (i) representatives from the Environ-
18 mental Protection Agency, particularly
19 from the Heat Island Reduction Program;

20 (ii) representatives from the Depart-
21 ment of Health and Human Services, par-
22 ticularly from the Office of Climate
23 Change and Health Equity;

24 (iii) representatives from the Depart-
25 ment of Energy, particularly from the Of-

1 fice of Energy Efficiency and Renewable
2 Energy;

3 (iv) representatives from the Depart-
4 ment of Agriculture, particularly from the
5 Urban and Community Forestry Program;

6 (v) subject to subparagraph (B), rep-
7 resentatives from nonprofit organizations
8 with proven leadership in urban heat miti-
9 gation or environmental justice, as deter-
10 mined by the Secretary; and

11 (vi) subject to subparagraph (B), rep-
12 resentatives from academia and research
13 studying the effects of and mitigation of
14 excess urban heat, environmental justice,
15 or related areas.

16 (B) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—In order
17 to be a member of the board established under
18 paragraph (1), a representative described in
19 clause (v) or (vi) of subparagraph (A) of this
20 paragraph shall certify that the representative
21 does not possess any conflict of interest with re-
22 spect to projects being considered for a covered
23 grant or being carried out using a covered
24 grant.

1 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2033.