

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 429

To amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. CAMEJO, Mr. HITCH, and Mr. MULLIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration program, 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 “Abandoned Well Devel- v  
5 opment, Research and Demonstration Act”.

1 S 2 **ABANDONED WELL REMEDIATION RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of division D of the In-  
4 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-  
5 58; 135 Stat. 1080) is amended by adding at the end the  
6 following:

7 **“S 40602 ABANDONED WELLS RESEARCH, DEVELOP-  
8 MENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM**

9 “(a) DEFINITION OF ABANDONED WELL.—In this  
10 section, the term ‘abandoned well’ means a well originally  
11 drilled in connection with oil and gas operations that—

12 “(1) is not being used;

13 G “(2) has not been plugged; and

14 G “(3) has no anticipated use in oil and gas oper-  
15 ations.

16 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days  
17 after the date of enactment of the Abandoned Well Reme-  
18 diation Research and Development Act, the Secretary, in  
19 coordination with relevant Federal and State agencies and  
20 entities, shall establish a research, development, and dem-  
21 onstration program to improve—

22 “(1) data collection on the location of aban-  
23 doned wells;

24 “(2) the plugging, remediation, reclamation,  
25 and repurposing of abandoned wells; and

1 b                    3     ra egie   o mi iga e po en ial environ-  
 2     men al impac   of documen ed and undocumen ed  
 3     a andoned well .

4 b             c     ACTIVITIES.—Re earch, developmen , and dem-  
 5 on ra ion ac ivi ie carried ou under he program e a -  
 6 li hed under u ec ion     hall include ac ivi ie   o im-  
 7 prove—

8 b                    1     remo e en or capa ili ie , ligh de ee ion  
 9     and ranging referred o in hi ec ion a LiDAR'  
 10     capa ili ie , op ical ga imaging, magne icurvey  
 11     echnology, and any o her echnologie relevan o  
 12     he efficien iden ifica ion of a andoned well ;

13 b                    2     under anding of how cer ain parame er  
 14     of a andoned well affec me hane emi ion ra e of  
 15     he well , including parame er uch a well age, well  
 16     dep h, geology, con ruc ion, ca e ma erial, and geo-  
 17     graphic region;

18                    3     he efficiency and co -efficacy of proce e  
 19     for plugging, remedia ing, reclaiming, and  
 20     repurpo ing a andoned well , including—

21 b                    A     improvemen of proce e and ech-  
 22     nologie for he unique challenge a ocia ed  
 23 b                    wi h plugging remo e a andoned well ;     b

1 v use of low carbon, lightweight cement  
 2 or use of alternative materials and additives for  
 3 v plugging purposes; and

4 v C repositioning of abandoned wells for  
 5 v alternative uses, including geothermal power  
 6 v production or carbon capture, utilization, and  
 7 v storage; and

8 4 Understanding of the impacts of aban-  
 9 doned wells on groundwater quality and contamina-  
 10 tion.

11 d COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program  
 12 established under subsection b, the Secretary shall en-  
 13 sure coordination of activities carried out under the pro-  
 14 gram with—

15 v 1 institutions of higher education;  
 16 v 2 the National Laboratories; and  
 17 3 the private sector.

18 e AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 19 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
 20 tion—

21 1 \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;  
 22 v 2 \$31,250,000 for fiscal year 2024;  
 23 v 3 \$32,500,000 for fiscal year 2025;  
 24 v 4 \$33,750,000 for fiscal year 2026; and  
 25 v 5 \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.”. v

1 n                    ERI A AMENDMENT.—The ta le of co te ts  
2 for the I frastructure I vestme t a d Jo s Act Pu lic  
3 aw 117–58; 135 Stat. 437 is ame ded y i serti g after n  
4 the item relati g to sectio 40601 the followi g:

“Sec. 40602. A a do ed wells research, developme t, a d demo stratio pro-  
gram.”.

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