

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To establish the position of Climate Security Envoy within the Department of State, who shall develop policies to address security concerns with climate change and serve as a liaison with other Federal agencies and international partners on climate security issues, to express concern with, and improved preparedness for, growing security issues in the Arctic, to establish the position of Special Representative for the Arctic, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish the position of Climate Security Envoy within the Department of State, who shall develop policies to address security concerns with climate change and serve as a liaison with other Federal agencies and international partners on climate security issues, to express concern with, and improved preparedness for, growing security issues in the Arctic, to establish the position of Special Representative for the Arctic, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Climate Security Act
3 of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) the impacts of climate change are—

7 (A) worsening natural disasters and global
8 water, food, health, and energy insecurities;

9 (B) contributing to the conditions that lead
10 to intrastate and interstate conflict, state insta-
11 bility, and state failure; and

12 (C) straining United States and allied mili-
13 tary readiness, operations, and strategy;

14 (2) the impacts of climate change on sea level
15 and on the Arctic region are among the most signifi-
16 cant current and projected impacts of climate
17 change on national and international security;

18 (3) during the administrations of George H. W.
19 Bush, William J. Clinton, George W. Bush, and
20 Barack H. Obama, various departments and agen-
21 cies of the Federal Government initiated actions to
22 prepare for and reduce climate change-related risks
23 to national security;

24 (4) the Intelligence Community, the Depart-
25 ment of Defense, the Department of State, a broad
26 range of national security experts and organizations,

1 and key allies of the United States have concluded
2 that—

3 (A) the impacts of climate change already
4 present a strategically significant risk to the
5 United States and our allies and partners; and

6 (B) this risk will increase over time;

7 (5) the collaboration of the National Oceanic
8 and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of
9 the Navy, the Department of the Air Force, the De-
10 partment of Energy, the National Aeronautics and
11 Space Administration, and the National Science
12 Foundation on the National Earth System Pre-
13 diction Capability provides accurate global analysis
14 and prediction capabilities for the physical environ-
15 ment that enhances response and prevention strate-
16 gies to national security threats;

17 (6) comprehensive action must be taken to en-
18 sure that the response of the United States and of
19 our key international partners is commensurate with
20 the scale of the existing and projected climate-re-
21 lated risks to national and international security;

22 (7) these responses should include actions—

23 (A) to reduce the contributions to climate
24 change caused by human activity; and

1 (B) to adapt to and to increase resiliency
2 to the impacts of climate change; and
3 (8) the United States requires, but does not
4 now have, comprehensive and effective whole of gov-
5 ernment, whole of nation, and international strate-
6 gies to address existing climate-related security risks
7 and anticipated increases in such risks.

8 **SEC. 3. CLIMATE SECURITY ENVOY.**

9 Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities
10 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
12 section (i); and

13 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(g) CLIMATE SECURITY ENVOY.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
18 President shall appoint, by and with the advice and
19 consent of the Senate, a Climate Security Envoy,
20 who shall serve within the Office of the Secretary of
21 State.

22 “(2) DUTIES.—The Climate Security Envoy—

23 “(A) shall develop a climate security policy
24 in accordance with paragraph (3);

1 “(B) shall coordinate the integration of the
2 climate security policy into applied strategies
3 across programmatic and regional bureaus and
4 into the Department of State’s decision making
5 processes;

6 “(C) shall serve as a key point of contact
7 for other Federal agencies, including the De-
8 partment of Defense, the Department of Home-
9 land Security, and the Intelligence Community,
10 on climate security issues;

11 “(D) shall use the voice, vote, and influ-
12 ence of the United States to encourage other
13 countries and international multilateral organi-
14 zations to support the principles of the climate
15 security policy implemented under paragraph
16 (3);

17 “(E) shall perform such other duties and
18 exercise such powers as the Secretary of State
19 shall prescribe; and

20 “(F) may not perform the functions of the
21 Special Envoy for Climate Change to the
22 United Nations or serve as the United States
23 negotiator in any international fora to address
24 climate change.

1 “(3) CLIMATE SECURITY POLICY.—The Climate
2 Security Envoy shall develop and implement a cli-
3 mate security policy that includes requirements for
4 the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations,
5 the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, embassies,
6 regional bureaus, and other offices with a role in
7 conflict avoidance, prevention and security assist-
8 ance, or humanitarian disaster response, prevention,
9 and assistance to assess, develop, budget for, and
10 (upon approval) implement plans, policies, and ac-
11 tions—

12 “(A) to enhance resilience to the effects of
13 climate change as a principal means of reducing
14 the risk of conflict and instability;

15 “(B) to evaluate specific added risks to
16 certain regions and countries that are—

17 “(i) vulnerable to the effects of cli-
18 mate change; and

19 “(ii) strategically significant to the
20 United States;

21 “(C) to account for the impacts on human
22 health, safety, stresses, reliability, food produc-
23 tion, fresh water and other critical natural re-
24 sources, and economic activity;

1 “(D) to coordinate the integration of cli-
2 mate change risk and vulnerability assessments
3 into the decision making process on foreign as-
4 sistance awards;

5 “(E) to advance principles of good govern-
6 ance by encouraging foreign governments, par-
7 ticularly nations that are least capable of cop-
8 ing with the effects of climate change—

9 “(i) to conduct climate security eval-
10 uations; and

11 “(ii) to facilitate the development of
12 climate security action plans to ensure sta-
13 bility and public safety in disaster situa-
14 tions in a humane and responsible fashion;
15 and

16 “(F) to evaluate the vulnerability, security,
17 susceptibility, and resiliency of United States
18 assets and interests abroad.

19 “(4) REPORT.—The Climate Security Envoy
20 shall regularly report to the Secretary of State on
21 activities described in paragraphs (2) and (3) to in-
22 tegrate climate concerns into agendas and program
23 budget requests.

1 “(5) RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR.—

2 The Climate Security Envoy shall have the rank and
3 status of Ambassador at Large.

4 “(6) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the
5 term ‘climate security’ means the effects of climate
6 change on—

7 “(A) United States national security con-
8 cerns and subnational, national, and regional
9 political stability; and

10 “(B) overseas security and conflict situa-
11 tions that are potentially exacerbated by dy-
12 namic environmental factors and events, includ-
13 ing—

14 “(i) the intensification and frequency
15 of droughts, floods, wildfires, tropical
16 storms, and other extreme weather events;

17 “(ii) changes in historical severe
18 weather, drought, and wildfire patterns;

19 “(iii) the expansion of geographical
20 ranges of droughts, floods, and wildfires
21 into regions that had not regularly experi-
22 enced such phenomena;

23 “(iv) global sea level rise patterns and
24 the expansion of geographical ranges af-
25 fected by drought; and

1 “(v) changes in marine environments
2 that effect critical geostrategic waterways,
3 such as the Arctic Ocean, the South China
4 Sea, the South Pacific Ocean, the Barents
5 Sea, and the Beaufort Sea.”.

6 **SEC. 4. ENHANCING UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDING ON**
7 **GLOBAL CLIMATE DISRUPTIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall conduct peri-
9 odic comprehensive evaluations of present and ongoing
10 disruptions to the global climate system that analyze—

11 (1) the intensity, frequency, and range of nat-
12 ural disasters;

13 (2) the scarcity of global natural resources, in-
14 cluding fresh water;

15 (3) global food, health, and energy insecurities;

16 (4) conditions that contribute to—

17 (A) intrastate and interstate conflict;

18 (B) political and economic instability;

19 (C) migration of vulnerable and under-
20 served populations;

21 (D) state failure; and

22 (E) gender based violence; and

23 (5) United States and allied military readiness,
24 operations, and strategy.

1 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the evaluations con-
2 ducted under subsection (a) shall be—

3 (1) to support the practical application of sci-
4 entific data and research on climate change’s dy-
5 namic effects around the world towards improving
6 resilience, adaptability, security, and stability in the
7 face of growing global environmental risks and
8 changes;

9 (2) to ensure that the strategic planning and
10 mission execution of United States international de-
11 velopment and diplomatic missions adequately ac-
12 count for heightened and dynamic risks and chal-
13 lenges associated with the effects of climate change;

14 (3) to improve coordination between United
15 States science agencies conducting research and
16 forecasts on the causes and effects of climate change
17 and United States national security agencies; and

18 (4) to better understand the effects of global
19 climate disruptions on all genders, thereby leading to
20 better, more sustainable, and targeted solutions.

21 (c) SCOPE.—The evaluations conducted under sub-
22 section (a) shall—

23 (1) examine developing countries’ vulnerabilities
24 and risks associated with global, regional, and local-

1 ized effects of climate change, including utilizing
2 gender analysis; and

3 (2) assess and make recommendations regard-
4 ing necessary measures to mitigate risks and reduce
5 vulnerabilities associated with effects, including—

6 (A) sea level rise;

7 (B) freshwater resource scarcity;

8 (C) wildfires; and

9 (D) increased intensity and frequency of
10 extreme weather conditions and events, includ-
11 ing flooding, drought, and extreme storm
12 events, including tropical cyclones.

13 (d) REPORT.—The President shall—

14 (1) compile a report containing a summary of
15 the results of the evaluations conducted under this
16 section; and

17 (2) make such report available to the public.

18 **SEC. 5. TRANSPARENCY.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any commission, advisory panel,
20 or committee designated by the President to examine or
21 evaluate climate security (as defined in section 1(g)(6) of
22 the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as
23 added by section 3) shall comply with the Federal Advi-
24 sory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

1 (b) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.—Section
2 2302(b)(8)(A) of title 5, United States Code, is amend-
3 ed—

4 (1) in clause (i), by striking “, or” and insert-
5 ing a semicolon;

6 (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);
7 and

8 (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

9 “(ii) a deliberate manipulation, mis-
10 judgment, removal, or obfuscation of, or
11 failure to take into account, data and in-
12 formation critical to fulsome or accurate
13 national security assessment and planning;
14 or”.

15 (c) ACCESSIBILITY OF PROCESSES.—The President
16 shall ensure that the draft and final reports, studies, and
17 policy recommendations relating to climate security re-
18 search that are compiled by entities working under the di-
19 rection of the Federal Government are made available to
20 the public.

21 **SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ARCTIC SECURITY.**

22 It is the sense of Congress that—

23 (1) the rapidly changing Arctic environment—

1 (A) creates new national and regional secu-
2 rity challenges due to increased military activity
3 in the Arctic;

4 (B) heightens the risks of potential con-
5 flicts spilling over into the Arctic region from
6 interventions and theaters of tension in other
7 regions of the world;

8 (C) threatens maritime safety due to inad-
9 equate regional resource capacity to patrol the
10 increases in vessel traffic this remote region is
11 experiencing from the increased expanses of
12 open Arctic water from diminished annual levels
13 of sea ice;

14 (D) impacts public safety due to increased
15 human activity in the Arctic region where
16 search and rescue capacity remains very lim-
17 ited; and

18 (E) threatens the health of the Arctic's
19 fragile and historically pristine environment and
20 the unique and highly sensitive species found in
21 the Arctic's marine and terrestrial ecosystems;
22 and

23 (2) the United States should reduce the con-
24 sequences outlined in paragraph (1) by—

1 (A) carefully evaluating the wide variety
2 and extremely dynamic set of security and safe-
3 ty risks unfolding in the Arctic;

4 (B) developing policies and making prep-
5 arations for mitigating and responding to
6 threats and risks in the Arctic;

7 (C) adequately funding the National Earth
8 System Prediction Capability to substantively
9 improve weather, ocean, and ice predictions on
10 time scales necessary for ensuring regional se-
11 curity and trans-Arctic shipping;

12 (D) investing in resources, including a sig-
13 nificantly expanded icebreaker fleet, to ensure
14 that the United States has adequate capacity to
15 prevent and respond to security threats in the
16 Arctic region; and

17 (E) pursuing diplomatic engagements with
18 all nations in the Arctic region to reach an
19 agreement for—

20 (i) maintaining peace and stability in
21 the Arctic region; and

22 (ii) fostering cooperation on steward-
23 ship and safety initiatives in the Arctic re-
24 gion.

1 **SEC. 7. UNITED STATES SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR**
2 **THE ARCTIC.**

3 Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities
4 Act of 1956, as amended by section 3, is further amended
5 by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

6 “(h) SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ARCTIC.—

7 “(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of State
8 shall designate a Special Representative for the Arc-
9 tic—

10 “(A) to coordinate the United States Gov-
11 ernment response to international disputes and
12 needs in the Arctic;

13 “(B) to represent the United States Gov-
14 ernment, as appropriate, in multilateral fora in
15 discussions concerning access, cooperation, con-
16 servation, cultural relations, and transit in the
17 Arctic; and

18 “(C) to formulate United States policy to
19 assist in the resolution of international conflicts
20 in the Arctic.

21 “(2) OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.—The indi-
22 vidual designated under paragraph (1) may carry
23 out the duties set forth in paragraph (1) in addition
24 to other assigned responsibilities.”.