

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a strategy of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to address the global climate change crisis, improve the energy and resource efficiency of the Department, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARDIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a strategy of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to address the global climate change crisis, improve the energy and resource efficiency of the Department, 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 “Climate Change Diplo-  
5 macy and Development Act of 2020”.

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

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
3 ings:

4 (1) The planet risks increasingly catastrophic  
5 impacts unless global average temperatures are lim-  
6 ited to no more than 2 °C, aiming for 1.5 °C above  
7 preindustrial levels.

8 (2) According to the Intergovernmental Panel  
9 on Climate Change’s Special Report on 1.5 °C, lim-  
10 iting warming to no more than 1.5 °C requires fast  
11 mitigation of both CO<sub>2</sub> and non-CO<sub>2</sub> climate pollut-  
12 ants, as well as the protection and expansion of for-  
13 ests and other sinks that remove and store CO<sub>2</sub>,  
14 along with other strategies for removing CO<sub>2</sub> and  
15 other climate pollutants.

16 (3) Forced displacement and forced migration  
17 are increasingly caused or exacerbated by environ-  
18 mental changes and climate-induced disruptions.

19 (4) The United National Human Rights Coun-  
20 cil has recognized that climate change poses an exis-  
21 tential threat that has already had a negative impact  
22 on the fulfillment of human rights.

23 (5) To have a chance at limiting warming to  
24 1.5 °C and avoiding increasingly severe impacts  
25 from climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel  
26 on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that global net

1 anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions must fall by  
2 45 percent from global 2010 levels by 2030 and  
3 reach net-zero by 2050.

4 (6) Failure to act on the climate crisis leads to  
5 higher levels of warming and exposes all regions of  
6 the world to potentially catastrophic insecurity and  
7 destabilization that could cause a breakdown of  
8 economies, social systems, and political institutions  
9 in ways that are likely irreversible. It is in the inter-  
10 est of the United States to place a high priority on  
11 strengthening the global response to the threat of  
12 climate change.

13 (7) United States leadership and ingenuity are  
14 central to solving the climate crisis. The United  
15 States must act urgently, guided by science, and in  
16 concert with the international community to signifi-  
17 cantly reduce emissions, prepare for climate impacts,  
18 and drive progress through international negotia-  
19 tions to maintain a livable climate for today and fu-  
20 ture generations.

21 (8) The United States can also build strong sci-  
22 entific and security partnerships and reinforce the  
23 United States's ability to lead on other key global  
24 priorities through climate diplomacy. These efforts  
25 can foster climate security while creating new oppor-

1       tunities for United States leadership, economic  
2       growth, and innovation.

3           (9) The United States is a Party to the United  
4       Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
5       (referred to in this Act as the “Convention”), as  
6       agreed to by the advice and consent of the Senate  
7       on October 7, 1992, and should remain actively en-  
8       gaged in the Convention.

9           (10) In Paris, on December 12, 2015, parties  
10       to the Convention reached a landmark agreement to  
11       strengthen the global response to the threat of cli-  
12       mate change by keeping a global temperature rise  
13       well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial lev-  
14       els and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature in-  
15       crease even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

16       (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
17       gress that the United States should—

18           (1) utilize multilateral and bilateral foreign as-  
19       sistance to promote low-carbon, climate-resilient de-  
20       velopment, including supporting greater participa-  
21       tion of women in the development and implementa-  
22       tion of climate policies that are gender-responsive;  
23       and

1           (3) advance clean energy and climate resilience  
2           through budgeting and operations of United States  
3           Government facilities abroad.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5           In this Act:

6           (1) ADAPTATION.—The term “adaptation”  
7           means an adjustment in natural or human systems  
8           to a new or changing environment that exploits ben-  
9           eficial opportunities or moderates negative effects.

10          (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
11          TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
12          mittees” means—

13                 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
14                 and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
15                 Senate; and

16                 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and  
17                 the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
18                 of Representatives.

19          (3) CLEAN ENERGY.—The term “clean energy”  
20          means any electricity generation, transmission, stor-  
21          age, heating, cooling, industrial process, or manufac-  
22          turing project the primary purpose of which is the  
23          deployment, development, or production of an energy  
24          system or technology that avoids, significantly re-

1       duces, or sequesters emissions of greenhouse gas or  
2       other pollutants.

3           (4) CLIMATE CHANGE.—The term “climate  
4       change” means anthropogenic changes in average  
5       weather conditions that persist over multiple decades  
6       or longer, and encompasses both increases and de-  
7       creases in temperature, as well as shifts in precipita-  
8       tion, changing risk of certain types of severe weather  
9       events, and changes to other features of the climate  
10      system.

11          (5) CLIMATE SECURITY.—The term “climate  
12      security” has the meaning given such term in sec-  
13      tion 120 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50  
14      U.S.C. 3060).

15          (6) MITIGATION.—The term “mitigation”  
16      means measures to reduce the amount or speed of  
17      future climate change, including by reducing emis-  
18      sions of heat-trapping gases or removing carbon di-  
19      oxide from the atmosphere.

20          (7) RESILIENT.—The term “resilient” means  
21      the capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to,  
22      or recover from significant multihazard threats with  
23      minimum damage to social well-being, health, the  
24      economy, or the environment.

1 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE DIPLO-**  
2 **MACY AND DEVELOPMENT.**

3 (a) STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,  
5 in coordination with the Administrator of the United  
6 States Agency for International Development (USAID),  
7 shall—

8 (1) develop, in consultation with the Secretary  
9 of Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Office of  
10 the Director of National Intelligence, the heads of  
11 any other relevant Federal departments or agencies,  
12 and domestic and international civil society and or-  
13 ganizations with experience researching or imple-  
14 menting policies and programs dealing with the cli-  
15 mate crisis, a “Joint Department of State and  
16 USAID Strategy to Address the Global Climate  
17 Change Crisis” (in this section referred to as the  
18 “Strategy”);

19 (2) designate the Department of State’s Bureau  
20 of Oceans and International Environmental and Sci-  
21 entific Affairs to coordinate Department of State  
22 and USAID efforts to guide United States foreign  
23 policy related to global climate change in order to—

24 (A) confront risks to United States na-  
25 tional security, including geopolitical, commer-

1           cial, economic, environmental, financial, and  
2           health interests;

3                   (B) advance United States prosperity; and

4                   (C) restore United States leadership  
5           through climate change diplomacy; and

6           (3) submit to the appropriate congressional  
7           committees the Strategy.

8           (b) ELEMENTS.—The Strategy developed pursuant to  
9           subsection (a) shall at a minimum—

10                   (1) include an assessment of the global threat  
11           of climate change, including geographic or country  
12           prioritization based on the assessed threat to the  
13           United States and its allies;

14                   (2) identify Department of State and USAID  
15           goals, objectives, and priorities for United States  
16           policy on climate change to protect United States  
17           national security (including the interests specified in  
18           subsection (a)(2)(A)), including—

19                           (A) examining how the United States will  
20           engage diplomatically and utilize foreign assist-  
21           ance to ensure parties to the United Nations  
22           Framework Convention on Climate Change col-  
23           lectively move toward a pathway consistent with  
24           holding the increase in the global average tem-  
25           perature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial

1 levels and pursuing efforts to limit the tempera-  
2 ture increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial lev-  
3 els, taking into account each country's domestic  
4 circumstances and capabilities;

5 (B) outlining an approach to utilize multi-  
6 lateral and bilateral foreign assistance to pro-  
7 mote low-carbon, climate-resilient development;

8 (C) integrating into diplomatic fora and  
9 development programs issues related to gender  
10 and the impacts of climate change on the most  
11 vulnerable countries and communities;

12 (D) articulating guidelines for inter-  
13 national finance flows consistent with a path-  
14 way toward low greenhouse gas emissions and  
15 climate-resilient development;

16 (E) mobilizing public and private sector fi-  
17 nance to support low-carbon, climate-resilient  
18 development, including through the Green Cli-  
19 mate Fund; and

20 (F) reflecting the input of other executive  
21 branch agencies, as appropriate;

22 (3) describe the coordination mechanisms with-  
23 in the Department of State and USAID, including  
24 diplomatic missions, for developing and imple-  
25 menting efforts to advance United States global cli-

1       mate change foreign policy, including with regard to  
2       climate security policy, conflict mitigation, economic  
3       policy, and geographic policy parameters;

4               (4) describe how the Department of State plans  
5       to build on any existing frameworks, policies, or pro-  
6       grams to—

7               (A) adapt or expand existing Department  
8       programs, projects, activities, or policy instru-  
9       ments based on existing authorities for the spe-  
10      cific purpose of addressing or mitigating the ef-  
11      fects of global climate change;

12              (B) consider how compliance with inter-  
13      national climate agreements affects the global  
14      economy, including in terms of employment,  
15      trade, and investment; and

16              (C) identify the need for any new Depart-  
17      ment programs, projects, activities, or policy in-  
18      struments for the specific purpose of addressing  
19      or mitigating the effects of global climate  
20      change and describe the steps and resources  
21      necessary to establish such programs, projects,  
22      activities, or instruments, noting whether such  
23      steps or resources would require new statutory  
24      authorities; and

1           (5) demonstrate how the President’s Budget for  
2           State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs  
3           (SFOPs) allocates resources in support of the Strat-  
4           egy, including for Department of State and USAID  
5           operations and foreign assistance programs, includ-  
6           ing security assistance.

7           (c) FORM.—The Strategy shall be submitted in un-  
8           classified form, but may include a classified annex as ap-  
9           propriate.

10          (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than three months  
11          after the submission of the Strategy, the Secretary of  
12          State and the Administrator of the United States Agency  
13          for International Development shall begin implementing  
14          the Strategy.

15          (e) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 90 days after  
16          the date of the enactment of this Act and not less often  
17          than annually thereafter, the Secretary of State and Ad-  
18          ministrator of the United States Agency for International  
19          Development shall jointly consult with the appropriate  
20          congressional committees regarding the development and  
21          implementation of the Strategy.

22          (f) CLIMATE CHANGE DIPLOMACY REPORTING RE-  
23          QUIREMENT.—

24                 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days  
25                 after the submission of the Strategy, and annually

1 thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the  
2 appropriate congressional committees a report that  
3 outlines progress that the Department of State and  
4 USAID have made regarding implementation of the  
5 Strategy.

6 (2) FORM.—The reports required under para-  
7 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,  
8 but may include a classified annex as appropriate.

9 **SEC. 5. CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS BUDGETING AND OPER-**  
10 **ATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND**  
11 **UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTER-**  
12 **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

13 The Secretary of State shall include in the annual  
14 budget submission of the President under section 1105(a)  
15 of title 31, United States Code—

16 (1) a dedicated budget line item for adaptation  
17 to, and mitigation of, climate-related risks to De-  
18 partment of State assets and capabilities;

19 (2) a dedicated budget line item to improve the  
20 sustainability and climate resilience of the Depart-  
21 ment's global operations, including reducing the De-  
22 partment's carbon footprint through enhanced en-  
23 ergy efficiency and water efficiency, as well as utili-  
24 zation of clean energy sources; and

1           (3) an estimate of the anticipated adverse im-  
2           pacts to the readiness of the Department and  
3           USAID and the financial costs to the Department  
4           and USAID during the year covered by the budget  
5           of the loss of, or damage to, Department assets and  
6           capabilities as a result of climate change.