

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To authorize the Land Port of Entry Community Infrastructure Program to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of land ports of entry, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GALLEGRO (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To authorize the Land Port of Entry Community Infrastructure Program to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of land ports of entry, 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 “Strong Ports, Strong
5 Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (2) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area”
2 means a city, town, or unincorporated area that has
3 a population of not more than 100,000 inhabitants.

4 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

6 **SEC. 3. LAND PORT OF ENTRY COMMUNITY INFRASTRUC-**
7 **TURE PROGRAM.**

8 (a) FUNDING AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
9 award grants and supplement funds available under exist-
10 ing Federal programs administered by agencies other than
11 the Department of Homeland Security to assist State,
12 Tribal, and local governments and not-for-profit, member-
13 owned utility services to address deficiencies in community
14 infrastructure supportive of a land port of entry.

15 (b) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA; PROJECT CATEGORIES.—
16 The Secretary shall establish criteria for determining
17 which community infrastructure projects are eligible for
18 assistance under this section in the following categories:

19 (1) Projects designed to improve the safety, ef-
20 ficiency, and reliability of legitimate trade and travel
21 across the international borders of the United
22 States, such as local transportation or water infra-
23 structure projects to support the modernization or
24 construction of a port of entry.

1 (2) Projects designed to enhance border secu-
2 rity, as measured by their predicted impact on illicit
3 drug seizure rates and other relevant metrics for se-
4 curing the border at ports of entry established pur-
5 suant to section 1092(c) of the National Defense
6 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C.
7 223(c)).

8 (3) Projects designed to enhance resilience of
9 land ports of entry and supportive infrastructure, in-
10 cluding projects that bolster the emergency pre-
11 paredness of such ports and infrastructure.

12 (4) Projects designed to enhance U.S. Customs
13 and Border Protection personnel family quality of
14 life, as determined in accordance with subsection
15 (c)(3).

16 (5) Projects designed to address the direct im-
17 pacts that land ports of entry may have on sur-
18 rounding communities, such as projects related to
19 transportation infrastructure, traffic congestion,
20 waste and wastewater infrastructure, pollution, and
21 environmental degradation.

22 (c) **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—In selecting
23 community infrastructure projects to receive financial as-
24 sistance under this section, the Secretary shall consider—

1 (1) infrastructure improvements identified in
2 the U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s 2024 re-
3 port entitled, “Land Port of Entry Modernization:
4 Promoting Security, Travel, and Trade”;

5 (2) infrastructure improvements identified in
6 State capital investment plans that directly support
7 a land port of entry; and

8 (3) for the purposes of determining whether a
9 proposed community infrastructure project will en-
10 hance family quality of life—

11 (A) the impact of such project on alle-
12 viating port of entry commuter workforce
13 issues; and

14 (B) the benefit of local infrastructure
15 funded by such project that will support U.S.
16 Customs and Border Protection personnel and
17 their dependents while residing in the commu-
18 nity in which such infrastructure will be con-
19 structed.

20 (d) STANDARDIZATION OF PROCESSES FOR DETER-
21 MINING PROJECT ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION.—In ac-
22 cordance with the eligibility criteria described in sub-
23 section (b) and the selection considerations described in
24 subsection (c), the Secretary shall develop and implement
25 guidance to standardize the process of identifying, vali-

1 dating, and prioritizing community infrastructure
2 projects.

3 (e) INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION.—In assessing the
4 merits and viability of community infrastructure projects
5 seeking financial assistance under this section, the Sec-
6 retary, to the extent possible, shall consult with appro-
7 priate officials in the Department of Transportation, the
8 Department of Commerce, the Department of Housing
9 and Urban Development, the Department of Energy, the
10 Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection
11 Agency, and other Federal agencies with relevant exper-
12 tise.

13 (f) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
15 graph (2), a community infrastructure project may
16 not receive financial assistance under this section
17 unless the recipient of such assistance agrees to con-
18 tribute not less than 30 percent of the total funding
19 for such project from non-Federal sources.

20 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—If a proposed community in-
21 frastructure project will be carried out in a rural
22 area or if the Secretary determines such project is
23 advantageous for reasons related to homeland secu-
24 rity, the Secretary—

1 (A) shall not penalize a State or local gov-
2 ernment for offering to make a non-Federal
3 contribution equal to less than 30 percent of
4 the total funding for such project;

5 (B) may reduce the matching requirement
6 for a State or local government to an amount
7 that is less than 30 percent of the cost of such
8 project; or

9 (C) may waive the matching requirement
10 entirely.

11 (g) REIMBURSEMENT.—If a State, Tribal, or local
12 government or a not-for-profit, member-owned utility serv-
13 ice expends its own funds, on or after November 15, 2021,
14 and, within a reasonable amount of time, seeks reimburse-
15 ment for a community infrastructure project that meets
16 the eligibility criteria described in subsection (b) and the
17 selection considerations described in subsection (c), the
18 Secretary may reimburse such entity for up to 70 percent
19 of the costs incurred for such project unless such project
20 qualifies for an adjusted matching requirement authorized
21 under subsection (f)(2).

22 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
24 priated to the Department of Homeland Security such
25 sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year to carry

1 out the Land Port of Entry Community Infrastructure
2 Program authorized under section 3.

3 (b) LIMITATION.—The authority of the Secretary to
4 award grants or other funding under section 3 in any fis-
5 cal year is subject to the availability of appropriations for
6 such purpose in such fiscal year.

7 (c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
8 priated or otherwise made available to carry out section
9 3 may remain available until expended.