

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5925

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to provide grants to owners of cargo vessels being rerouted from the western seaboard of the United States through the Panama Canal, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Mr. GIMENEZ (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MAST, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. CAWTHORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to provide grants to owners of cargo vessels being rerouted from the western seaboard of the United States through the Panama Canal, 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 “Supply Chain Emer-
3 gency Response Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR REROUT-**
5 **ING CARGO VESSELS.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Transportation,
7 acting through the Administrator of the Maritime Admin-
8 istration, shall establish a program to provide grants to
9 eligible entities to cover toll costs associated with rerouting
10 cargo vessels from ports along the western seaboard of the
11 United States through the Panama Canal to ports along
12 the Gulf of Mexico and the eastern seaboard of the United
13 States.

14 (b) **GRANT AMOUNT.**—A grant provided under this
15 section shall be in an amount equal to the cost of the toll
16 fees at the Panama Canal.

17 (c) **DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.**—To receive a
18 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit
19 to the Administrator documentation that such eligible en-
20 tity—

21 (1) had an agreement to dock a cargo vessel at
22 a port along the western seaboard of the United
23 States and intends to reroute such cargo vessel from
24 such port through the Panama Canal to a port along
25 the Gulf of Mexico or the eastern seaboard of the
26 United States; and

1 (2) has an agreement to dock such cargo vessel
2 at such port along the Gulf of Mexico or the eastern
3 seaboard of the United States.

4 (d) ENTITIES INELIGIBLE FOR GRANT.—Any indi-
5 vidual who is a member of the Chinese Communist Party
6 or any company owned, in whole or in part, by the Chinese
7 Communist Party may not receive a grant under this sec-
8 tion.

9 (e) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
10 tion, the term “eligible entity” means the owner of a cargo
11 vessel who intends to reroute such cargo vessel from a port
12 along the western seaboard of the United States through
13 the Panama Canal to a destination located in the United
14 States.

15 (f) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding any other provision
16 of law, not more than \$125,000,000 of the total amount
17 of unobligated funds made available under the CARES
18 Act (Public Law 116–136) may be used to carry out this
19 section.

20 **SEC. 3. USE OF COVID RELIEF FUNDS TO OFFSET SHIPPING**
21 **COSTS.**

22 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State
23 or unit of local government may use any unobligated funds
24 made available to such State or unit of local government
25 under the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136) for costs

1 related to rerouting cargo vessels from the western sea-
2 board of the United States to the eastern seaboard of the
3 United States.

4 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION OF PORT FEES.**

5 Any marine terminal operator (as such term is de-
6 fined in section 40102 of title 46, United States Code)
7 who is operating a port located along the western seaboard
8 of the United States may not collect port fees from a re-
9 cipient of a grant under section 2 who has rerouted a
10 cargo vessel from such port due to the inability of such
11 port to receive such vessel.

12 **SEC. 5. DEFINITION OF CARGO VESSEL.**

13 In this Act, the term “cargo vessel” has the meaning
14 given such term in section 199.30 of title 46, Code of Fed-
15 eral Regulations.

○