

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To require a Federal science strategy for the monitoring and detection of methane, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To require a Federal science strategy for the monitoring and detection of methane, 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 “Methane Monitoring
5 Science Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. METHANE MONITORING AND DETECTION STRAT-**
7 **EGY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator
10 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in

1 this section referred to as the “Administrator”) shall carry
2 out the following:

3 (1) Develop, in consultation with the heads of
4 relevant Federal departments and agencies, a
5 consensus- and science-based strategy to assess and
6 evaluate the utilization of present and future meth-
7 ane monitoring, detection, and quantification capa-
8 bilities, including ground-based, airborne, and space-
9 based sensors, source- and site-level technologies,
10 and the integration of data relating to such moni-
11 toring and detection from other indicators, with a
12 focus on the ability to detect methane emissions and
13 large methane emission events, to strengthen Amer-
14 ican energy security.

15 (2) Submit such strategy to Congress.

16 (b) GOAL.—The strategy under subsection (a) shall
17 be developed with the goal of enhancing the scientific value
18 of the capabilities referred to in such subsection, such
19 that—

20 (1) the Administrator may use such strategy to
21 inform the planning of relevant research and devel-
22 opment activities; and

23 (2) non-Federal entities, including State and
24 local governments, academia, nonprofit organiza-
25 tions, commercial industry such as the natural gas

1 and oil industry of the United States, and inter-
2 national organizations, may effectively, but are not
3 required to, leverage data and information provided
4 or enabled by such capabilities.

5 (c) STRATEGY ALIGNMENT.—In developing the strat-
6 egy under subsection (a), the Administrator may draw on
7 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and
8 Medicine decadal surveys pursuant to section 20305 of
9 title 51, United States Code, the Office of Science and
10 Technology Policy interagency civilian Earth observation
11 plans pursuant to section 702 of the National Aeronautics
12 and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
13 U.S.C. 18371), and other earth observation planning and
14 strategy documents and processes.

15 (d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

16 (1) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—Nothing in
17 this section may be construed as conferring enforce-
18 ment authority to the Administrator, or the head of
19 any other Federal department or agency, with re-
20 gard to methane emissions, that was not in effect on
21 the date before the date of the enactment of this
22 Act.

23 (2) AFFECT ON OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—
24 Nothing in this section may be construed to—

1 (A) establish or otherwise affect, any regu-
2 latory requirement under any other provision of
3 Federal law; or

4 (B) authorize the use of information col-
5 lected under this section for the purposes of de-
6 termining compliance with, or enforcing, any
7 such requirement.