

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2847

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish an energy efficiency and renewable energy worker training program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2007

Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. MCNERNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish an energy efficiency and renewable energy worker training program.

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 “Green Jobs Act of
5 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**
7 **WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM.**

8 Section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998
9 (29 U.S.C. 2916) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

1 “(e) ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE EN-
2 ENERGY WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM.—

3 “(1) GRANT PROGRAM.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6
5 months after the date of enactment of the
6 Green Jobs Act of 2007, the Secretary, in con-
7 sultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall es-
8 tablish an energy efficiency and renewable en-
9 ergy worker training program under which the
10 Secretary shall carry out the activities described
11 in paragraph (2) to achieve the purposes of this
12 subsection.

13 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of pro-
14 viding assistance and services under the pro-
15 gram established under this subsection—

16 “(i) target populations of eligible indi-
17 viduals to be given priority for training
18 and other services shall include—

19 “(I) veterans, or past and
20 present members of reserve compo-
21 nents of the Armed Forces;

22 “(II) workers affected by na-
23 tional energy and environmental pol-
24 icy;

25 “(III) unemployed workers;

1 “(IV) individuals, including at-
2 risk youth, seeking employment path-
3 ways out of poverty and into economic
4 self-sufficiency;

5 “(V) formerly incarcerated, adju-
6 dicated, non-violent offenders; and

7 “(VI) individuals in need of up-
8 dated training related to the energy
9 efficiency and renewable energy indus-
10 tries; and

11 “(ii) energy efficiency and renewable
12 energy industries eligible to participate in
13 a program under this subsection include—

14 “(I) the energy-efficient building,
15 construction, and retrofits industries;

16 “(II) the renewable electric power
17 industry;

18 “(III) the energy efficient and
19 advanced drive train vehicle industry;

20 “(IV) the biofuels industry; and

21 “(V) the deconstruction and ma-
22 terials use industries.

23 “(2) ACTIVITIES.—

24 “(A) NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

25 Under the program established under para-

1 graph (1), the Secretary, acting through the
2 Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall collect and
3 analyze labor market data to track workforce
4 trends resulting from energy-related initiatives
5 carried out under this subsection. Activities car-
6 ried out under this paragraph shall include—

7 “(i) linking research and development
8 in renewable energy and energy efficiency
9 technology with the development of stand-
10 ards and curricula for current and future
11 jobs;

12 “(ii) the tracking and documentation
13 of academic and occupational competencies
14 as well as future skill needs with respect to
15 renewable energy and energy efficiency
16 technology;

17 “(iii) tracking and documentation of
18 occupational information and workforce
19 training data with respect to renewable en-
20 ergy and energy efficiency technology;

21 “(iv) assessing new employment and
22 work practices including career ladder and
23 upgrade training as well as high perform-
24 ance work systems;

1 “(v) collaborating with State agencies,
2 workforce investments boards, industry, or-
3 ganized labor, and community and non-
4 profit organizations to disseminate success-
5 ful innovations for labor market services
6 and worker training with respect to renew-
7 able energy and energy efficiency tech-
8 nology;

9 “(vi) serving as a clearinghouse for
10 best practices in workforce development,
11 job placement, and collaborative partner-
12 ships;

13 “(vii) promoting the establishment of
14 workforce training initiatives with respect
15 to renewable energy and energy efficiency
16 technologies; and

17 “(viii) providing technical assistance
18 and capacity building to national and state
19 energy partnerships, including industry
20 and labor representatives.

21 “(B) NATIONAL ENERGY TRAINING PART-
22 NERSHIP GRANTS.—

23 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the pro-
24 gram established under paragraph (1), the
25 Secretary shall award National Energy

1 Training Partnerships Grants on a com-
2 petitive basis to eligible entities to enable
3 such entities to carry out national training
4 that leads to economic self-sufficiency and
5 to develop an energy efficiency and renew-
6 able energy industries workforce. Grants
7 shall be awarded under this subparagraph
8 so as to ensure geographic diversity with at
9 least two grants awarded to entities lo-
10 cated in each of the four Petroleum Ad-
11 ministration for Defense Districts with no
12 subdistricts, and at least one grant award-
13 ed to an entity located in each of the sub-
14 districts of the Petroleum Administration
15 for Defense District with subdistricts, as
16 such districts are established by the Sec-
17 retary of Energy.

18 “(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to
19 receive a grant under clause (i), an entity
20 shall be a non-profit partnership that—

21 “(I) includes the equal participa-
22 tion of industry, including public or
23 private employers, and labor organiza-
24 tions, including joint labor-manage-
25 ment training programs, and may in-

1 include community-based organizations,
2 educational institutions, small busi-
3 nesses, cooperatives, State and local
4 veterans agencies, and veterans serv-
5 ice organizations; and

6 “(II) demonstrates—

7 “(aa) experience in imple-
8 menting and operating worker
9 skills training and education pro-
10 grams;

11 “(bb) the ability to identify
12 and involve in training programs
13 carried out under this grant, tar-
14 get populations of workers who
15 are, or will be engaged in, activi-
16 ties related to energy efficiency
17 and renewable energy industries;
18 and

19 “(cc) the ability to help
20 workers achieve economic self-
21 sufficiency.

22 “(iii) ACTIVITIES.—Activities to be
23 carried out under a grant under this sub-
24 paragraph may include—

1 “(I) the provision of occupational
2 skills training, including curriculum
3 development, on-the-job training, and
4 classroom training;

5 “(II) the provision of safety and
6 health training;

7 “(III) the provision of basic
8 skills, literacy, GED, English as a
9 second language, and job readiness
10 training;

11 “(IV) individual referral and tui-
12 tion assistance for a community col-
13 lege training program;

14 “(V) the provision of customized
15 training in conjunction with an exist-
16 ing registered apprenticeship program
17 or labor-management partnership;

18 “(VI) the provision of career lad-
19 der and upgrade training;

20 “(VII) the implementation of
21 transitional jobs strategies; and

22 “(VIII) the provision of sup-
23 portive services.

1 “(C) STATE LABOR MARKET RESEARCH,
2 INFORMATION, AND LABOR EXCHANGE RE-
3 SEARCH PROGRAM.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the pro-
5 gram established under paragraph (1), the
6 Secretary shall award competitive grants to
7 States to enable such States to administer
8 labor market and labor exchange informa-
9 tion programs that include the implemen-
10 tation of the activities described in clause
11 (ii).

12 “(ii) ACTIVITIES.—A State shall use
13 amounts awarded under a grant under this
14 subparagraph to provide funding to the
15 State agency that administers the Wagner-
16 Peysner Act and State unemployment com-
17 pensation programs to carry out the fol-
18 lowing activities using State agency merit
19 staff:

20 “(I) The identification of job
21 openings in the renewable energy and
22 energy efficiency sector.

23 “(II) The administration of skill
24 and aptitude testing and assessment
25 for workers.

1 “(III) The counseling, case man-
2 agement, and referral of qualified job
3 seekers to openings and training pro-
4 grams, including energy efficiency and
5 renewable energy training programs.

6 “(D) STATE ENERGY TRAINING PARTNER-
7 SHIP PROGRAM.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the pro-
9 gram established under paragraph (1), the
10 Secretary shall award competitive grants to
11 States to enable such States to administer
12 renewable energy and energy efficiency
13 workforce development programs that in-
14 clude the implementation of the activities
15 described in clause (ii).

16 “(ii) ACTIVITIES.—

17 “(I) IN GENERAL.—A State shall
18 use amounts awarded under a grant
19 under this subparagraph to award
20 competitive grants to eligible State
21 Energy Sector Partnerships to enable
22 such Partnerships to coordinate with
23 existing apprenticeship and labor
24 management training programs and
25 implement training programs that

1 lead to the economic self-sufficiency of
2 trainees.

3 “(II) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligi-
4 ble to receive a grant under this sub-
5 paragraph, a State Energy Sector
6 Partnership shall—

7 “(aa) consist of non-profit
8 organizations that include equal
9 participation from industry, in-
10 cluding public or private non-
11 profit employers, and labor orga-
12 nizations, including joint labor-
13 management training programs,
14 and may include representatives
15 from local governments, worker
16 investment agency one-stop ca-
17 reer centers, community based
18 organizations, community col-
19 leges, and other post-secondary
20 institutions, small businesses, co-
21 operatives, State and local vet-
22 erans agencies, and veterans
23 service organizations;

24 “(bb) demonstrate experi-
25 ence in implementing and oper-

1 ating worker skills training and
2 education programs; and

3 “(cc) demonstrate the ability
4 to identify and involve in training
5 programs, target populations of
6 workers who are, or will be en-
7 gaged in, activities related to en-
8 ergy efficiency and renewable en-
9 ergy industries.

10 “(iii) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants
11 under this subparagraph, the Secretary
12 shall give priority to States that dem-
13 onstrate that activities under the grant—

14 “(I) meet national energy policies
15 associated with energy efficiency, re-
16 newable energy, and the reduction of
17 emissions of greenhouse gases; and

18 “(II) meet State energy policies
19 associated with energy efficiency, re-
20 newable energy, and the reduction of
21 emissions of greenhouse gases.

22 “(iv) COORDINATION.—A grantee
23 under this subparagraph shall coordinate
24 activities carried out under the grant with
25 existing apprenticeship and labor manage-

1 ment training programs and implement
2 training programs that lead to the eco-
3 nomic self-sufficiency of trainees, including
4 providing—

5 “(I) outreach and recruitment
6 services, in coordination with the ap-
7 propriate State agency;

8 “(II) occupational skills training,
9 including curriculum development, on-
10 the-job training, and classroom train-
11 ing;

12 “(III) safety and health training;

13 “(IV) basic skills, literacy, GED,
14 English as a second language, and job
15 readiness training;

16 “(V) individual referral and tui-
17 tion assistance for a community col-
18 lege training program;

19 “(VI) customized training in con-
20 junction with an existing registered
21 apprenticeship program or labor-man-
22 agement partnership;

23 “(VII) career ladder and upgrade
24 training;

1 “(VIII) services under transi-
2 tional jobs strategies; and

3 “(IX) supportive services.

4 “(E) PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY DEM-
5 ONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the pro-
7 gram established under paragraph (1), the
8 Secretary shall award at least 10 competi-
9 tive grants to eligible entities to enable
10 such entities to carry out training that
11 leads to economic self-sufficiency. The Sec-
12 retary shall give priority to entities that
13 serve individuals in families with income of
14 less than 200 percent of the poverty
15 threshold (as determined by the Bureau of
16 the Census) or a self-sufficiency standard
17 for the local areas where the training is
18 conducted that specifies the income needs
19 of families, by family size, the number and
20 ages of children in the family, and sub-
21 State geographical considerations. Grants
22 shall be awards to ensure geographic diver-
23 sity.

1 “(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eli-
2 gible to receive a grant an entity shall be
3 a partnership that—

4 “(I) includes community-based
5 non-profit organizations and edu-
6 cational institutions with expertise in
7 serving low-income adults or youth,
8 public or private employers from the
9 industry sectors described in para-
10 graph (1)(B)(ii), labor organizations
11 representing workers in such industry
12 sectors;

13 “(II) demonstrates experience in
14 implementing and operating worker
15 skills training and education pro-
16 grams; and

17 “(III) demonstrates the ability to
18 recruit individuals for training and to
19 support such individuals to successful
20 completion in training programs car-
21 ried out under this grant, targeting
22 populations of workers who are or will
23 be engaged in activities related to en-
24 ergy efficiency and renewable energy
25 industries.

1 “(iii) PRIORITIES.—In awarding
2 grants under this paragraph, the Secretary
3 shall give priority to applicants that—

4 “(I) target programs to benefit
5 low-income workers, unemployed
6 youth and adults, high school drop-
7 outs, or other underserved sectors of
8 the workforce within areas of high
9 poverty;

10 “(II) ensure that supportive serv-
11 ices are integrated with education and
12 training, and delivered by organiza-
13 tions with direct access to and experi-
14 ence with targeted populations;

15 “(III) leverage additional public
16 and private resources to fund training
17 programs, including cash or in-kind
18 matches from participating employers;

19 “(IV) involve employers and
20 labor organizations in the determina-
21 tion of relevant skills and com-
22 petencies and ensure that the certifi-
23 cates or credentials that result from
24 the training are employer-recognized;

1 “(V) deliver courses at alter-
2 native times (such as evening and
3 weekend programs) and locations
4 most convenient and accessible to par-
5 ticipants; and

6 “(VI) link adult remedial edu-
7 cation with occupational skills train-
8 ing.

9 “(iv) ACTIVITIES.—Activities to be
10 carried out may include—

11 “(I) outreach, recruitment, career
12 guidance, counseling, and case man-
13 agement services;

14 “(II) occupational skills training,
15 on-the-job training, customized train-
16 ing, and classroom training;

17 “(III) supportive services;

18 “(IV) basic skills, literacy, GED,
19 English as a second language, and job
20 readiness training;

21 “(V) career ladder and upgrade
22 training; and

23 “(VI) transitional jobs strategies.

1 “(v) DATA COLLECTION.—Grantees
2 shall collect and report the following infor-
3 mation:

4 “(I) The number of participants.

5 “(II) The demographic character-
6 istics of participants, including race,
7 gender, age, parenting status, partici-
8 pation in other Federal programs,
9 education and literacy level at entry,
10 significant barriers to employment
11 (such as limited English proficiency,
12 criminal record, addiction or mental
13 health problem requiring treatment,
14 or mental disability).

15 “(III) The services received by
16 participants, including training, edu-
17 cation, and supportive services.

18 “(IV) The amount of program
19 spending per participant.

20 “(V) Program completion rates.

21 “(VI) Other factors determined
22 as significantly interfering with pro-
23 gram participation or completion.

1 “(VII) The rate of Job placement
2 and the rate of employment retention
3 after 1 year.

4 “(VIII) The average wage at
5 placement, including any benefits, and
6 the rate of average wage increase
7 after 1 year.

8 “(IX) Any post-employment sup-
9 portive services provided.

10 The Secretary shall assist grantees in the
11 collection of data under this clause by
12 making available, where practicable, low-
13 cost means of tracking the labor market
14 outcomes of participants.

15 “(3) WORKER PROTECTIONS AND NON-
16 DISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS.—

17 “(A) APPLICATION OF WIA.—The provi-
18 sions of sections 181 and 188 of the Workforce
19 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2931 and
20 2938) shall apply to all programs carried out
21 with assistance under this subsection.

22 “(B) CONSULTATION WITH LABOR ORGANI-
23 ZATIONS.—If a labor organization represents a
24 substantial number of workers who are engaged
25 in similar work or training in an area that is

1 the same as the area that is proposed to be
2 funded under this Act, the labor organization
3 shall be provided an opportunity to be consulted
4 and to submit comments in regard to such a
5 proposal.

6 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
7 the date of enactment of the Green Jobs Act of
8 2007, the Secretary shall transmit a report to Con-
9 gress on the training program established by this
10 subsection. The report shall include a description of
11 the entities receiving funding and the activities car-
12 ried out by such entities, and an assessment of the
13 results achieved by the program.

14 “(5) DEFINITION.—As used in this subsection,
15 the term ‘renewable energy’ has the meaning given
16 such term in section 203(b)(2) of the Energy Policy
17 Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58).

18 “(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
19 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
20 this subsection, \$125,000,000 for each fiscal years,
21 of which—

22 “(A) not to exceed 20 percent of the
23 amount appropriated in each such fiscal year
24 shall be made available for, and shall be equally
25 divided between, national labor market research

1 and information under paragraph (2)(A) and
2 State labor market information and labor ex-
3 change research under paragraph (2)(C);

4 “(B) 20 percent shall be dedicated to
5 Pathways Out of Poverty Demonstration Pro-
6 grams under paragraph (2)(E); and

7 “(C) the remainder shall be divided equally
8 between National Energy Partnership Training
9 Grants under paragraph (2)(B) and State en-
10 ergy training partnership grants under para-
11 graph (2)(D).”.

○