

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3540

To coordinate the life-cycle assessment activities and resources of the Federal Government relating to environmental technologies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 1993

Mrs. MORELLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To coordinate the life-cycle assessment activities and resources of the Federal Government relating to environmental technologies.

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. LIFE-CYCLE ASSESSMENTS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Life-cycle assessments have much potential
6 for identifying opportunities for achieving more envi-
7 ronmentally sound products, processes, and services
8 and enhanced industrial efficiency.

9 (2) Methods of life-cycle assessment are
10 underused in both the public and private sectors,

1 particularly as applied to sustainable economic devel-
2 opment.

3 (3) The data necessary for meaningful life-cycle
4 assessment are often difficult to acquire, and no sys-
5 tem exists to make such data readily available to
6 public and private groups.

7 (b) LIFE-CYCLE ASSESSMENT COORDINATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
9 Science and Technology Policy, as part of activities
10 to coordinate environmental technology research, de-
11 velopment, and adoption, shall coordinate Federal
12 activities and resources that are applied to life-cycle
13 assessment in order to maximize the contribution of
14 life-cycle assessments to sustainable economic devel-
15 opment.

16 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out this
17 subsection, the Director of the Office of Science and
18 Technology Policy shall—

19 (A) ensure that the life-cycle assessment
20 resources of each Federal agency are developed
21 and disseminated in a coordinated fashion, par-
22 titioning agency responsibilities, where appro-
23 priate;

1 (B) coordinate with State and local govern-
2 ments developing life-cycle assessment re-
3 sources; and

4 (C) consider the life-cycle assessment capa-
5 bilities of the private sector.

6 (3) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this
7 subsection, the Director of the Office of Science and
8 Technology Policy shall also encourage appropriate
9 Federal agencies—

10 (A) to collect, develop, and disseminate in-
11 formation regarding analytic methods and, as
12 required, to develop such methods, that will sig-
13 nificantly enhance the ability of United States
14 companies and other organizations to evaluate
15 materials extraction, transportation, conversion,
16 end use, recycling, and disposal, and their asso-
17 ciated costs and environmental impacts;

18 (B) to utilize, to the fullest extent prac-
19 ticable, existing networks and supporting
20 databases providing ready access to
21 nonproprietary information that will facilitate
22 the use of life-cycle assessments; and

23 (C) to sponsor demonstrations for public
24 policy and business decisionmakers of the effec-

1 tive use of the database and methodologies de-
2 scribed in this section.

3 (c) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Director of the Office of
4 Science and Technology Policy shall annually submit to
5 the Congress a report containing an evaluation of the life-
6 cycle assessment activities of the Federal Government.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 For the purposes of this Act:

9 (1) The term “environmental technology”
10 means—

11 (A) a technology that is primarily intended
12 to improve the quality of the environment
13 through pollution reduction or remediation;

14 (B) a product, manufacturing process, or
15 service that is capable of cost-effectively replac-
16 ing the functions of an existing product, proc-
17 ess, or service, and as compared with the prod-
18 uct, process, or service it replaces, significantly
19 reducing overall pollution or significantly im-
20 proving the efficiency of energy or materials
21 use; or

22 (C) a technology within the meaning of
23 subparagraphs (A) and (B).

24 (2) The term “life-cycle assessment” means the
25 assessment of the complete systems involved in con-

1 verting resources to products, including resource ex-
2 traction, materials conversion, energy use, end use,
3 recycling, and disposal, and their associated costs.

4 (3) The term “sustainable economic develop-
5 ment” means the integration of environmental and
6 economic development concerns leading to long-term
7 economic development with reduced pollution and
8 the more efficient use of energy and materials.

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