

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To increase the quantity of solar photovoltaic electricity by providing rebates for the purchase and installation of an additional 10,000,000 photovoltaic systems by 2018.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To increase the quantity of solar photovoltaic electricity by providing rebates for the purchase and installation of an additional 10,000,000 photovoltaic systems by 2018.

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 “10 Million-Solar Roofs
5 Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1)(A) there is huge potential for increasing the
2 quantity of electricity produced in the United States
3 from distributed solar photovoltaics; and

4 (B) the use of photovoltaics on the roofs of 10
5 percent of existing buildings could meet 70 percent
6 of peak electric demand;

7 (2) investment in solar photovoltaics technology
8 will create economies of scale that will allow the
9 technology to deliver electricity at prices that are
10 competitive with electricity from fossil fuels;

11 (3) electricity produced from distributed solar
12 photovoltaics helps to reduce greenhouse gas emis-
13 sions and does not emit harmful air pollutants, such
14 as mercury, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides;

15 (4) electricity produced from distributed solar
16 photovoltaics enhances national energy security;

17 (5) investments in renewable energy stimulate
18 the development of green jobs that provide substan-
19 tial economic benefits;

20 (6)(A) rebate programs in several States have
21 been successful in increasing the quantity of solar
22 energy from distributed photovoltaics;

23 (B) the State of California has used rebate pro-
24 grams to install nearly 300 megawatts of grid-con-
25 nected photovoltaics since 2000; and

1 (C) the State of New Jersey has installed near-
2 ly 50 megawatts of grid-connected photovoltaics
3 since 2001, including 20 megawatts in 2007 alone;
4 and

5 (7) Germany has installed nearly 4,000
6 megawatts of distributed solar photovoltaics and
7 sustained an annual growth rate approaching 67
8 percent since enacting aggressive laws to encourage
9 photovoltaic installations

10 **SEC. 3. REBATES FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF**
11 **PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy (referred
13 to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall establish a pro-
14 gram under which the Secretary shall provide rebates to
15 eligible individuals or entities for the purchase and instal-
16 lation of photovoltaic systems for residential and commer-
17 cial properties in order to install, over the 10-year period
18 beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, at least
19 an additional 10,000,000 solar systems in the United
20 States (as compared to the number of solar systems in-
21 stalled in the United States as of the date of enactment
22 of this Act) with a cumulative capacity of at least 30,000
23 megawatts.

24 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a rebate
2 under this section—

3 (A) the recipient of the rebate shall be a
4 homeowner, business, nonprofit entity, or State
5 or local government that purchased and in-
6 stalled a photovoltaic system for a property lo-
7 cated in the United States;

8 (B) the total capacity of the photovoltaic
9 system for the property shall not exceed 4
10 megawatts;

11 (C) the buildings on the property for which
12 the photovoltaic system is installed shall—

13 (i) in the case of a new or renovated
14 building, achieve a rating of not less than
15 75 under the Energy Star program estab-
16 lished by section 324A of the Energy Pol-
17 icy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C.
18 6294a) (or an equivalent rating under an
19 established benchmarking metric); and

20 (ii) in the case of any building not de-
21 scribed in clause (i), be retrofitted to
22 achieve a rating improvement of not less
23 than 30 points under the Energy Star pro-
24 gram (or an equivalent improvement under
25 an established benchmarking metric); and

1 (D) the recipient of the rebate shall meet
2 such other eligibility criteria as are determined
3 to be appropriate by the Secretary.

4 (2) OTHER ENTITIES.—After public review and
5 comment, the Secretary may identify other individ-
6 uals or entities located in the United States that
7 qualify for a rebate under this section.

8 (c) AMOUNT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
10 the amount of a rebate provided to an eligible indi-
11 vidual or entity for the purchase and installation of
12 a photovoltaic system for a property under this sec-
13 tion shall be at least \$3 for each watt of installed
14 capacity.

15 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The total amount of a
16 rebate provided to an eligible individual or entity for
17 the purchase and installation of a photovoltaic sys-
18 tem for a property under this section shall not ex-
19 ceed 50 percent of the cost of the purchase and in-
20 stallation of the system.

21 (d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—The authority
22 provided under this section shall be in addition to any
23 other authority under which credits or other types of fi-
24 nancial assistance are provided for installation of a photo-
25 voltaic system for a property.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
3 essary to carry out this section.