

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5315
OFFERED BY M . _____**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Drone Infrastructure
3 Inspection Grant Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. DRONE INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTION GRANT
5 PROGRAM.**

6 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Transportation
7 shall establish a drone infrastructure inspection grant pro-
8 gram to make grants to governmental entities to facilitate
9 the use of eligible small unmanned aircraft systems to in-
10 crease efficiency, reduce costs, improve worker and com-
11 munity safety, reduce carbon emissions, or meet other pri-
12 orities (as determined by the Secretary) related to critical
13 infrastructure projects.

14 (b) **USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.**—A governmental enti-
15 ty may use a grant provided under this section to—

16 (1) purchase or lease eligible small unmanned
17 aircraft systems;

1 (2) support operational capabilities of eligible
2 small unmanned aircraft systems by the govern-
3 mental entity;

4 (3) contract for services performed with an eli-
5 gible small unmanned aircraft system in cir-
6 cumstances in which the governmental entity does
7 not have the resources or expertise to safely carry
8 out or assist in carrying out the activities described
9 under subsection (a); and

10 (4) support the program management capability
11 of the governmental entity to use an eligible small
12 unmanned aircraft system.

13 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
14 under this section, a governmental entity shall submit an
15 application to the Secretary at such time, in such form,
16 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
17 quire, including an assurance that the governmental entity
18 or its contractor will comply with relevant federal regula-
19 tions.

20 (d) SELECTION OF APPLICANTS.—In selecting an ap-
21 plicant for a grant under this section, the Secretary shall
22 prioritize projects that propose to—

23 (1) carry out a critical infrastructure project in
24 a historically disadvantaged community; or

1 (2) address a safety risk in the inspection, oper-
2 ation, maintenance, repair, modernization, or con-
3 struction of an element of critical infrastructure.

4 (e) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be
5 construed as to interfere with an agreement between a
6 governmental entity and a labor union.

7 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
8 after the first grant is provided under this section, the
9 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
10 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
11 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
12 tation of the Senate a report that evaluates the program
13 carried out under this section, including—

14 (1) a description of the number of grants
15 awarded;

16 (2) the amount of each grant;

17 (3) the activities funded under this section; and

18 (4) the effectiveness of such funded activities in
19 meeting the objectives described in subsection (a).

20 (g) FUNDING.—

21 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
23 subparagraph (B), the Federal share of the cost
24 of a project carried out using a grant under

1 this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the
2 total project cost.

3 (B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may increase
4 the Federal share requirement under subpara-
5 graph (A) to up to 100 percent for a project
6 carried out using a grant under this section by
7 a governmental entity if such entity—

8 (i) submits a written application to
9 the Secretary requesting an increase in the
10 Federal share; and

11 (ii) demonstrates that the additional
12 assistance is necessary to facilitate the ac-
13 ceptance and full use of a grant under this
14 section, such as alleviating economic hard-
15 ship, meeting additional workforce needs,
16 or such other uses that the Secretary de-
17 termines to be appropriate.

18 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
19 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
20 this section—

21 (A) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and

22 (B) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

1 **SEC. 3. DRONE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING**
2 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Transportation
4 shall establish a drone education and training grant pro-
5 gram to make grants to educational institutions for work-
6 force training for eligible small unmanned aircraft system
7 technology.

8 (b) **USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.**—Amounts from a
9 grant under this section shall be used in furtherance of
10 activities authorized under sections 631 and 632 of the
11 FAA Reauthorization Act 2018 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note).

12 (c) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a grant
13 under this section, an educational institution shall submit
14 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such form,
15 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
16 quire.

17 (d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
19 tion—

20 (1) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and

21 (2) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

22 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**—The term
25 “critical infrastructure” has the meaning given such

1 term in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infrastruc-
2 tures Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

3 (2) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.—

4 The term “critical infrastructure project” means a
5 project for the inspection, operation, maintenance,
6 repair, modernization, or construction of an element
7 of critical infrastructure, including mitigating envi-
8 ronmental hazards to such infrastructure.

9 (3) COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.—The term
10 “covered foreign entity” means an entity—

11 (A) included on the Consolidated Screening
12 List or Entity List as designated by the Sec-
13 retary of Commerce;

14 (B) domiciled in the People’s Republic of
15 China or the Russian Federation;

16 (C) subject to influence or control by the
17 government of the People’s Republic of China
18 or by the Russian Federation; or

19 (D) is a subsidiary or affiliate of an entity
20 described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

21 (4) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
22 “educational institution” means an institution of
23 higher education (as defined in section 101 of the
24 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001))
25 that participates in a program authorized under sec-

1 tions 631 and 632 of the FAA Reauthorization Act
2 of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note).

3 (5) ELEMENT OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUC-
4 TURE.—The term “element of critical infrastruc-
5 ture” means a critical infrastructure facility or
6 asset, including public bridges, tunnels, roads, high-
7 ways, dams, electric grid, water infrastructure, com-
8 munication systems, pipelines, or other related facili-
9 ties or assets, as defined by the Secretary.

10 (6) ELIGIBLE SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT
11 SYSTEM.—The term “eligible small unmanned air-
12 craft system” means a small unmanned aircraft sys-
13 tem manufactured or assembled by a company that
14 is domiciled in the United States and is not a cov-
15 ered foreign entity.

16 (7) GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.—The term “gov-
17 ernmental entity” means—

18 (A) a State, the District of Columbia, the
19 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a territory of
20 the United States, or a political subdivision
21 thereof;

22 (B) a unit of local government;

23 (C) a Tribal Government;

24 (D) a metropolitan planning organization;

1 (E) a combination of the entities described
2 in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

3 (8) SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED
4 AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The
5 terms “small unmanned aircraft”, “unmanned air-
6 craft”, and “unmanned aircraft system” have the
7 meanings given such terms in section 44801 of title
8 49, United States Code.

