

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of Commerce to undertake certain activities to support waterfront community revitalization and resiliency.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. BALDWIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## **A BILL**

To require the Secretary of Commerce to undertake certain activities to support waterfront community revitalization and resiliency.

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 “Waterfront Community  
5 Revitalization and Resiliency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) many communities in the United States  
9 were developed along waterfronts;

1           (2) water proximity and access is a recognized  
2           economic driver;

3           (3) water shortages faced by parts of the  
4           United States underscore the need to manage water  
5           sustainably and restore water quality;

6           (4) interest in waterfront revitalization and de-  
7           velopment has grown, while the circumstances driv-  
8           ing waterfront development have changed;

9           (5) waterfront communities face challenges to  
10          revitalizing and leveraging water resources, such as  
11          outdated development patterns, deteriorated water  
12          infrastructure, industrial contamination of soil and  
13          sediment, and lack of public access to the water-  
14          front, which are often compounded by overarching  
15          economic distress in the community;

16          (6) public investment in waterfront community  
17          development and infrastructure should reflect chang-  
18          ing ecosystem conditions and extreme weather pro-  
19          jections to ensure strategic, resilient investments;

20          (7) individual communities have unique prior-  
21          ities, concerns, and opportunities related to water-  
22          front restoration and community revitalization; and

23          (8) the Secretary of Commerce has unique ex-  
24          pertise in Great Lakes and ocean coastal resiliency  
25          and economic development.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”  
4 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the  
5 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
6 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

7 (2) RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITY.—  
8 The term “resilient waterfront community” means a  
9 unit of local government or Indian tribe that is—

10 (A)(i) bound in part by—

11 (I) the Great Lakes; or

12 (II) the ocean; or

13 (ii) bordered or traversed by a riverfront or  
14 an inland lake;

15 (B) self-nominated as a resilient water-  
16 front community; and

17 (C) designated by the Secretary as a resil-  
18 ient waterfront community on the basis of the  
19 development by the community of an eligible re-  
20 silient waterfront community plan, with eligi-  
21 bility determined by the Secretary after consid-  
22 ering the requirements of subsections (b) and  
23 (c) of section 4.

24 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
25 the Secretary of Commerce.

1 **SEC. 4. RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES DESIGNA-**  
2 **TION.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
5 the Secretary shall designate resilient waterfront  
6 communities based on the extent to which a commu-  
7 nity meets the criteria described in subsection (b).

8 (2) COLLABORATION.—For inland lake and  
9 riverfront communities, in making the designation  
10 described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall work  
11 with the Administrator of the Environmental Protec-  
12 tion Agency and the heads of other Federal agen-  
13 cies, as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

14 (b) RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITY PLAN.—  
15 A resilient waterfront community plan is a community-  
16 driven vision and plan that is developed—

17 (1) voluntarily at the discretion of the commu-  
18 nity—

19 (A) to respond to local needs; or

20 (B) to take advantage of new water-ori-  
21 ented opportunities;

22 (2) with the leadership of the relevant govern-  
23 mental entity or Indian tribe with the active partici-  
24 pation of—

25 (A) community residents;

26 (B) utilities; and

1 (C) interested business and nongovern-  
2 mental stakeholders;

3 (3) as a new document or by amending or com-  
4 piling community planning documents, as necessary,  
5 at the discretion of the Secretary;

6 (4) in consideration of all applicable State and  
7 Federal coastal zone management planning require-  
8 ments;

9 (5) to address economic competitive strengths;  
10 and

11 (6) to complement and incorporate the objec-  
12 tives and recommendations of applicable regional  
13 economic plans.

14 (c) COMPONENTS OF A RESILIENT WATERFRONT  
15 COMMUNITY PLAN.—A resilient waterfront community  
16 plan shall—

17 (1) consider all, or a portion of, the waterfront  
18 area and adjacent land and water to which the wa-  
19 terfront is connected ecologically, economically, or  
20 through local governmental or tribal boundaries;

21 (2) describe a vision and plan for the commu-  
22 nity to develop as a vital and resilient waterfront  
23 community, integrating consideration of—

24 (A) the economic opportunities resulting  
25 from water proximity and access, including—

- 1 (i) water-dependent industries;
- 2 (ii) water-oriented commerce; and
- 3 (iii) recreation and tourism;
- 4 (B) the community relationship to the
- 5 water, including—
- 6 (i) quality of life;
- 7 (ii) public health;
- 8 (iii) community heritage; and
- 9 (iv) public access, particularly in areas
- 10 in which publicly funded ecosystem res-
- 11 toration is underway;
- 12 (C) ecosystem challenges and projections,
- 13 including unresolved and emerging impacts to
- 14 the health and safety of the waterfront and pro-
- 15 jections for extreme weather and water condi-
- 16 tions;
- 17 (D) infrastructure needs and opportunities,
- 18 to facilitate strategic and sustainable capital in-
- 19 vestments in—
- 20 (i) docks, piers, and harbor facilities;
- 21 (ii) protection against storm surges,
- 22 waves, and flooding;
- 23 (iii) stormwater, sanitary sewer, and
- 24 drinking water systems, including green in-

1                   frastructure and opportunities to control  
2                   nonpoint source runoff; and  
3                   (iv) other community facilities and  
4                   private development; and  
5                   (E) such other factors as are determined  
6                   by the Secretary to align with metrics or indica-  
7                   tors for resiliency, considering environmental  
8                   and economic changes.

9           (d) DURATION.—After the designation of a commu-  
10   nity as a resilient waterfront community under subsection  
11   (a), a resilient waterfront community plan developed in ac-  
12   cordance with subsections (b) and (c) may be—

13           (1) effective for the 10-year period beginning on  
14           the date on which the Secretary approves the resil-  
15           ient waterfront community plan; and

16           (2) updated by the resilient waterfront commu-  
17           nity and submitted to the Secretary for the approval  
18           of the Secretary before the expiration of the 10-year  
19           period.

20   **SEC. 5. RESILIENT WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES NETWORK.**

21           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and  
22           maintain a resilient waterfront communities network to fa-  
23           cilitate the sharing of best practices among waterfront  
24           communities.

1 (b) PUBLIC RECOGNITION.—In consultation with  
2 designated resilient waterfront communities, the Secretary  
3 shall provide formal public recognition of the designated  
4 resilient waterfront communities to promote tourism, in-  
5 vestment, or other benefits.

6 **SEC. 6. WATERFRONT COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AC-**  
7 **TIVITIES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—To support a community in  
9 leveraging other sources of public and private investment,  
10 the Secretary may use existing authority to support—

11 (1) the development of a resilient waterfront  
12 community plan, including planning and feasibility  
13 analysis; and

14 (2) the implementation of strategic components  
15 of a resilient waterfront community plan after the  
16 resilient waterfront community plan has been ap-  
17 proved by the Secretary.

18 (b) NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.—

19 (1) LEAD NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.—A unit of  
20 local government or an Indian tribe shall be eligible  
21 to be considered as a lead non-Federal partner if the  
22 unit of local government or Indian tribe is—

23 (A) bound in part by—

24 (i) the Great Lakes; or

25 (ii) the ocean; or

1 (B) bordered or traversed by a riverfront  
2 or an inland lake.

3 (2) NON-FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION PART-  
4 NERS.—Subject to subsection (d)(3), a lead non-  
5 Federal partner may contract with an eligible non-  
6 Federal implementation partner for implementation  
7 activities described in subsection (d)(2).

8 (c) PLANNING ACTIVITIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Technical assistance may be  
10 provided for the development of a resilient water-  
11 front community plan.

12 (2) ELIGIBLE PLANNING ACTIVITIES.—In devel-  
13 oping a resilient waterfront community plan, a resil-  
14 ient waterfront community may—

15 (A) conduct community visioning and out-  
16 reach;

17 (B) identify challenges and opportunities;

18 (C) develop strategies and solutions;

19 (D) prepare plan materials, including text,  
20 maps, design, and preliminary engineering;

21 (E) collaborate across local agencies and  
22 work with regional, State, and Federal agencies  
23 to identify, understand, and develop responses  
24 to changing ecosystem and economic cir-  
25 cumstances; and

1 (F) conduct other planning activities that  
2 the Secretary considers necessary for the devel-  
3 opment of a resilient waterfront community  
4 plan that responds to revitalization and resil-  
5 iency issues confronted by the resilient water-  
6 front community.

7 (d) IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Implementation assistance  
9 may be provided—

10 (A) to initiate implementation of a resilient  
11 waterfront community plan and facilitate high-  
12 quality development, including leveraging local  
13 and private sector investment; and

14 (B) to address strategic community prior-  
15 ities that are identified in the resilient water-  
16 front community plan.

17 (2) ASSISTANCE.—Assistance may be provided  
18 to advance implementation activities, such as—

19 (A) site preparation;

20 (B) environmental review;

21 (C) engineering and design;

22 (D) acquiring easements or land for uses  
23 such as green infrastructure, public amenities,  
24 or assembling development sites;

25 (E) updates to zoning codes;

- 1 (F) construction of—
- 2 (i) public waterfront or boating amen-
- 3 ities; and
- 4 (ii) public spaces;
- 5 (G) infrastructure upgrades to improve
- 6 coastal resiliency;
- 7 (H) economic and community development
- 8 marketing and outreach; and
- 9 (I) other activities at the discretion of the
- 10 Secretary.

11 (3) IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—To assist in the com-  
13 pletion of implementation activities, a lead non-  
14 Federal partner may contract or otherwise col-  
15 laborate with a non-Federal implementation  
16 partner, including—

- 17 (i) a nonprofit organization;
- 18 (ii) a public utility;
- 19 (iii) a private entity;
- 20 (iv) an institution of higher education;
- 21 (v) a State government; or
- 22 (vi) a regional organization.

23 (B) LEAD NON-FEDERAL PARTNER RE-  
24 SPONSIBILITY.—The lead non-Federal partner  
25 shall ensure that assistance and resources re-

1           ceived by the lead non-Federal partner to ad-  
2           vance the resilient waterfront community plan  
3           of the lead non-Federal partner and for related  
4           activities are used for the purposes of, and in  
5           a manner consistent with, any initiative ad-  
6           vanced by the Secretary for the purpose of pro-  
7           moting waterfront community revitalization and  
8           resiliency.

9           (e) USE OF NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—A resilient waterfront com-  
11           munity receiving assistance under this section shall  
12           provide non-Federal funds toward completion of  
13           planning or implementation activities.

14           (2) NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES.—Non-Federal  
15           funds may be provided by—

16           (A) 1 or more units of local or tribal gov-  
17           ernment;

18           (B) a State government;

19           (C) a nonprofit organization;

20           (D) a private entity;

21           (E) a foundation;

22           (F) a public utility; or

23           (G) a regional organization.

1 **SEC. 7. INTERAGENCY AWARENESS.**

2 At regular intervals, the Secretary shall provide a list  
3 of resilient waterfront communities to the applicable  
4 States and the heads of national and regional offices of  
5 interested Federal agencies, including at a minimum—

6 (1) the Secretary of Transportation;

7 (2) the Secretary of Agriculture;

8 (3) the Administrator of the Environmental  
9 Protection Agency;

10 (4) the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
11 gency Management Agency;

12 (5) the Assistant Secretary of the Army for  
13 Civil Works;

14 (6) the Secretary of the Interior; and

15 (7) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-  
16 opment.

17 **SEC. 8. NO NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

18 Nothing in this Act may be construed as establishing  
19 new authority for any Federal agency.