

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to reauthorize the regional innovation program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to reauthorize the regional innovation program, and for other purposes.

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 “Build to Scale Reau-
5 thorization Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF REGIONAL INNOVATION**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 27 of the Stevenson-
9 Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C.
10 3722) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2)—

3 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking
4 “and”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
6 the period and inserting “; and”; and

7 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing new subparagraph:

9 “(G) increase access to capital to invest in
10 innovation-based business ventures in the geo-
11 graphic region.”; and

12 (B) by amending paragraph (4) to read as
13 follows:

14 “(4) VENTURE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZA-
15 TION.—The term ‘venture development organization’
16 means a State or nonprofit organization that has a
17 measured, geographically defined, economic develop-
18 ment purpose within its core mission and contributes
19 to regional or sector-based economic prosperity by
20 providing the following:

21 “(A) Direct financing to private innova-
22 tion-centered businesses.

23 “(B) Services to accelerate the commer-
24 cialization of research.

1 “(C) Entrepreneurial support tailored to
2 innovation-centered founders, start-ups, and
3 businesses within the geographic areas of serv-
4 ice of such founders, start-ups, and businesses,
5 as the case may be.”;

6 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “strategies”
7 and inserting “initiatives”;

8 (3) in subsection (c)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) by inserting “and subject to the
11 availability of appropriations” after “pur-
12 suant to subsection (b)”;

13 (ii) by striking “may” and inserting
14 “shall”;

15 (B) by striking paragraph (4)(D);

16 (C) by amending paragraph (5) to read as
17 follows:

18 “(5) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the
19 cost of any activity funded under this subsection
20 shall not exceed 50 percent, plus an additional
21 amount that—

22 “(A) shall not exceed 40 percent; and

23 “(B) is based on the relative needs of the
24 area in which the activity at issue will be fund-

1 ed, as determined in accordance with regula-
2 tions promulgated by the Secretary.”; and

3 (D) by amending paragraph (6) to read as
4 follows:

5 “(6) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct
6 outreach to encourage participation in regional inno-
7 vative initiatives under this subsection by public and
8 private sector entities—

9 “(A) in—

10 “(i) rural communities;

11 “(ii) communities negatively impacted
12 by trade;

13 “(iii) areas with persistent economic
14 distress; or

15 “(B) that agree to collaborate with local
16 workforce investment area boards to carry out
17 workforce or training related activities.”;

18 (4) in subsection (d)(4)—

19 (A) by amending the heading to read as
20 follows: “DATA SOURCES”; and

21 (B) by inserting “and the Regional Tech-
22 nology and Innovation Hub Program under sec-
23 tion 28” after “subsection (c)”;

24 (5) in subsection (e)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or at”
2 and inserting “, the Department of Energy, the
3 National Science Foundation, and”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking
5 “strategies” and inserting “initiatives and ac-
6 tivities carried out pursuant to subsection (d)”;
7 and

8 (6) by amending subsection (h) to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(h) FUNDING.—

11 “(1) USE OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Notwith-
12 standing any other provision of law relating to the
13 availability of funds to carry out this section, the
14 Secretary may obligate and expend any amounts ap-
15 propriated or otherwise available to carry out this
16 section for any previous fiscal year that remains un-
17 obligated as of the date of the enactment of this
18 subsection.

19 “(2) FUTURE AUTHORITY.—There is authorized
20 to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this
21 section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
22 through 2030.”.

23 (b) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Not later
24 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
25 the Secretary of Commerce shall issue a notice of funding

1 opportunity with respect to the regional innovation pro-
2 gram established under section 27(b) of the Stevenson-
3 Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C.
4 3722(b)), as amended by subsection (a).