

(e) Evaluation

(1) In general

Not later than 3 years after December 16, 2014, the Secretary shall enter into a contract with an independent entity, such as the National Academy of Sciences, to conduct an evaluation of the program established under subsection (a).

(2) Requirements

The evaluation shall include—

- (A) whether the program is achieving its goals;
- (B) any recommendations for how the program may be improved; and
- (C) a recommendation as to whether the program should be continued or terminated.

(f) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Regional innovation cluster

The term “regional innovation cluster” means a geographically bounded network of similar, synergistic, or complementary entities that—

- (A) are engaged in or with a particular industry sector and its related sectors;
- (B) have active channels for business transactions and communication;
- (C) share specialized infrastructure, labor markets, and services; and
- (D) leverage the region’s unique competitive strengths to stimulate innovation and create jobs.

(2) State

The term “State” means one of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

(g) Funding

(1) General rule

Except as provided in paragraph (2), no funds are authorized to be appropriated by the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2014 for carrying out this section.

(2) Authority

To the extent provided for in advance by appropriations Acts, the Secretary may use not to exceed \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2019 to carry out this section from amounts appropriated for economic development assistance programs.

(Pub. L. 96-480, §27, as added Pub. L. 111-358, title VI, §603, Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 4030; amended Pub. L. 113-235, div. B, title VII, §705, Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2230.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2014, referred to in subsec. (g)(1), is title VII of div. B. of Pub. L. 113-235, Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2220. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note under section 271 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Pub. L. 113-235 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, text related to regional innovation pro-

gram and consisted of subsecs. (a) to (i), including provisions relating to establishment of program, cluster grants, science and research park development grants, loan guarantees for science park infrastructure, regional innovation research and information program, interagency coordination, evaluation of program, definitions, and authorization of appropriations.

CHAPTER 64—METHANE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION

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§ 3801. Congressional statement of findings and declaration of policy

(a) The Congress finds and declares that—

- (1) gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicular use are in short supply and constitute a sizable portion of domestic petroleum consumption;
- (2) methane use in fleet-operated vehicles would result in substantial reduction in oil imports;
- (3) methane is in more abundant domestic supply than petroleum products, is the primary component of natural gas and can be derived in increased quantities from coal, biomass, waste products, and other renewable resources;
- (4) recoverable methane presently available in the United States is not fully utilized;
- (5) test results to date indicate that methane use as a substitute for gasoline as a motor fuel can result in emission reductions;
- (6) experience to date has shown methane to be a safe motor fuel in properly modified vehicles and is therefore particularly suitable as fuel for fleet vehicles; and
- (7) the introduction into commerce of methane-fueled vehicles would be expedited and facilitated by the establishment of a Federal program of research, development, and demonstration to explore and refine technologies related to methane use as a vehicular fuel.

(b) It is therefore declared to be the policy of the Congress in this chapter to—

- (1) provide for and support advanced and accelerated research into, and development of, methane vehicle design, and related technologies;
- (2) demonstrate the economic and technological practicalities of methane-fueled vehicles for fleet use and of methane-fueled farm equipment;
- (3) facilitate, and remove barriers to, the use of methane-fueled vehicles in lieu of gasoline- or diesel-powered motor vehicles where practicable;
- (4) promote the substitution of methane-fueled vehicles for gasoline- and diesel-pow-