

Patrick Leahy

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To promote regional economic and infrastructure development.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. _____

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND)

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

2 **SEC. 63__ . NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION**
3 **REAUTHORIZATION.**

4 (a) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF REGIONAL COM-
5 MISSIONS.—Section 15304(c)(3)(A) of title 40, United
6 States Code, is amended by striking “unanimous” and in-
7 serting “majority”.

8 (b) ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOP-
9 MENT GRANTS.—Section 15501 of title 40, United States
10 Code, is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (8) as
4 paragraph (9); and

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the
6 following:

7 “(8) to grow the capacity for successful commu-
8 nity economic development in its region; and”;

9 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “paragraphs
10 (1) through (3)” and inserting “paragraph (1), (2),
11 (3), or (7)”;

12 (3) in subsection (f), by striking the period at
13 the end and inserting “, except that financial assist-
14 ance may be used as otherwise authorized by this
15 subtitle to attract businesses to the region from out-
16 side the United States.”.

17 (c) STATE CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM.—

18 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

19 (A) COMMISSION.—The term “Commis-
20 sion” means the Northern Border Regional
21 Commission established by section 15301(a)(3)
22 of title 40, United States Code.

23 (B) COMMISSION STATE.—The term
24 “Commission State” means each of the States

1 of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and
2 Vermont.

3 (C) ELIGIBLE COUNTY.—The term “eligi-
4 ble county” means a county described in section
5 15733 of title 40, United States Code.

6 (D) PROGRAM.—The term “program”
7 means the State capacity building grant pro-
8 gram established under paragraph (2).

9 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
10 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commis-
11 sion shall establish a State capacity building grant
12 program to provide grants to Commission States to
13 carry out the purpose under paragraph (3).

14 (3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is
15 to support the efforts of Commission States—

16 (A) to better support business retention
17 and expansion in eligible counties;

18 (B) to create programs to encourage job
19 creation and workforce development;

20 (C) to prepare economic and infrastructure
21 plans for eligible counties;

22 (D) to expand access to high-speed
23 broadband;

1 (E) to encourage initiatives that drive in-
2 vestments in transportation, water, wastewater,
3 and other critical infrastructure;

4 (F) to create initiatives to increase the ef-
5 fectiveness of local or regional economic devel-
6 opers; and

7 (G) to implement new or innovative eco-
8 nomic development practices that will better po-
9 sition the Commission States to compete in the
10 global economy.

11 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Funds from a grant
13 under the program may be used to support a
14 project, program, or expense of the Commission
15 State in an eligible county.

16 (B) LIMITATION.—Funds from a grant
17 under the program shall not be used for—

18 (i) the purchase of furniture, fixtures,
19 or equipment; or

20 (ii) the compensation of—

21 (I) any State member of the
22 Commission (as described in section
23 15301(b)(1)(B) of title 40, United
24 States Code); or

1 (II) any State alternate member
2 of the Commission (as described in
3 section 15301(b)(2)(B) of title 40,
4 United States Code).

5 (5) ANNUAL WORK PLAN.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year,
7 before providing a grant under the program,
8 each Commission State shall provide to the
9 Commission an annual work plan that includes
10 the proposed use of the grant.

11 (B) APPROVAL.—No grant under the pro-
12 gram shall be provided to a Commission State
13 unless the Commission has approved the annual
14 work plan of the State.

15 (6) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant
17 provided to a Commission State under the pro-
18 gram shall be an amount equal to the share of
19 the State of administrative expenses of the
20 Commission for a fiscal year (as determined
21 under section 15304(c) of title 40, United
22 States Code).

23 (B) APPROVAL.—For each fiscal year, a
24 grant provided under the program shall be ap-

1 proved and made available as part of the ap-
2 proval of the annual budget of the Commission.

3 (7) GRANT AVAILABILITY.—Funds from a
4 grant under the program shall be available only dur-
5 ing the fiscal year for which the grant is provided.

6 (8) REPORT.—Each fiscal year, each Commis-
7 sion State shall submit to the Commission and make
8 publicly available a report that describes the use of
9 the grant funds and the impact of the program in
10 the State.

11 (9) FUNDING.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
13 be appropriated such sums as the Commission
14 determines to be necessary, subject to the con-
15 dition that the Commission may use not more
16 than \$5,000,000 to carry out this subsection
17 for any fiscal year.

18 (B) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—
19 Funds made available to carry out this sub-
20 section shall supplement and not supplant
21 funds made available for the Commission and
22 other activities of the Commission.

23 (d) NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION.—
24 Section 15733 of title 40, United States Code, is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) by inserting “Belknap,” before “Car-

3 roll,”; and

4 (B) by inserting “Cheshire,” before

5 “Coos,”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (4)—

7 (A) by inserting “Addison, Bennington,”

8 before “Caledonia,”;

9 (B) by inserting “Chittenden,” before

10 “Essex,”;

11 (C) by striking “and” and inserting “Or-

12 ange,” and

13 (D) by inserting “, Rutland, Washington,

14 Windham, and Windsor” after “Orleans”.

15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section

16 15751(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by

17 striking “2018” and inserting “2023”.

18 (f) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Chapters 1, 2, 3,

19 and 4 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, are

20 redesignated as chapters 151, 153, 155, and 157, respec-

21 tively.