

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

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

To reauthorize programs of the Economic Development Administration, and  
for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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**A BILL**

To reauthorize programs of the Economic Development  
Administration, 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 “Increasing our Na-  
5 tion’s Value through Economic Support and Tourism in  
6 Our Communities Act” or the “INVEST in Our Commu-  
7 nities Act”.

8 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

9 Section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Devel-  
10 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through  
2           (12) as paragraphs (10), (11), (12), (14), and (15),  
3           respectively;

4           (2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-  
5           lowing:

6           “(8) OUTDOOR RECREATION.—The term ‘out-  
7           door recreation’ means all recreational activities, and  
8           the economic drivers of those activities, that occur in  
9           nature-based environments outdoors.

10          “(9) PROJECT PREDEVELOPMENT.—The term  
11          ‘project predevelopment’ means a measure required  
12          to be completed before the initiation of a project, in-  
13          cluding—

14                 “(A) planning and community asset map-  
15                 ping;

16                 “(B) training;

17                 “(C) technical assistance and organiza-  
18                 tional development;

19                 “(D) feasibility and market studies;

20                 “(E) demonstration projects; and

21                 “(F) other predevelopment activities deter-  
22                 mined by the Secretary to be appropriate.”; and

23          (3) by inserting after paragraph (12) (as so re-  
24          designated) the following:

1           “(13) TRAVEL AND TOURISM.—The term ‘trav-  
2           el and tourism’ means any economic activity that  
3           primarily serves to encourage recreational or busi-  
4           ness travel within the United States or from  
5           abroad.”.

6   **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN FEDERAL SHARE.**

7           Section 204 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
8           velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3144) is amended—

9           (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “50” and  
10          inserting “60”; and

11          (2) in subsection (c)—

12                 (A) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-  
13                 ing the following:

14                 “(2) CERTAIN STATES, POLITICAL SUBDIVI-  
15                 SIONS, AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—In the  
16                 case of a grant to a State, or a political subdivision  
17                 of a State, that the Secretary determines has ex-  
18                 hausted the effective taxing and borrowing capacity  
19                 of the State or political subdivision or can otherwise  
20                 document that no local matching funds are reason-  
21                 ably obtainable, or in the case of a grant to a non-  
22                 profit organization that the Secretary determines  
23                 has exhausted the effective borrowing capacity of the  
24                 nonprofit organization, the Secretary may increase  
25                 the Federal share above the percentage specified in

1 subsection (a) up to 100 percent of the cost of the  
2 project.”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(4) SMALL COMMUNITIES.—In the case of a  
5 grant to a political subdivision of a State (as de-  
6 scribed in section 3(4)(A)(iv)) that has a population  
7 of fewer than 10,000 residents, the Secretary may  
8 increase the Federal share above the percentage  
9 specified in subsection (a) up to 100 percent of the  
10 total cost of the project.

11 “(5) COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY DISAS-  
12 TERS.—In the case of a grant under section  
13 209(c)(2), the Federal share of the cost of a project  
14 carried out with the grant shall be 100 percent.”.

15 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMIN-**  
16 **ISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

17 Section 203 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
18 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3143) is amended by  
19 adding at the end the following:

20 “(e) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Administrative  
21 expenses described in subsection (a) shall include—

22 “(1) expenses related to carrying out the plan-  
23 ning process described in subsection (b);

24 “(2) expenses related to project  
25 predevelopment; and

1           “(3) expenses related to hiring professional  
2 staff to assist communities in—

3           “(A) project predevelopment and the im-  
4 plementation of projects and priorities included  
5 in—

6           “(i) a comprehensive economic devel-  
7 opment strategy; or

8           “(ii) an economic development plan-  
9 ning grant;

10           “(B) identifying and using other Federal,  
11 State, and Tribal economic development pro-  
12 grams;

13           “(C) leveraging private and philanthropic  
14 investment;

15           “(D) preparing disaster coordination and  
16 preparation plans; and

17           “(E) carrying out economic development  
18 activities in accordance with professional eco-  
19 nomic development best practices.”.

20 **SEC. 5. TOURISM, OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND SUPPORT.**

21           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Public Works  
22 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141)  
23 is amended—

24           (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
25 section (d); and

1           (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
2           lowing:

3           “(c) **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—In providing  
4           grants under subsection (a) and subject to the criteria in  
5           subsection (b), the Secretary may also consider the extent  
6           to which a project would—

7           “(1) benefit highly rural communities without  
8           adequate tax revenues to invest in long-term or cost-  
9           ly infrastructure;

10           “(2) increase access to high-speed broadband;

11           “(3) support outdoor recreation to spur eco-  
12           nomic development, with a focus on rural commu-  
13           nities;

14           “(4) promote job creation or retention relative  
15           to the population of the impacted region with out-  
16           sized significance; or

17           “(5) promote travel and tourism.”.

18           (b) **ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.**—Section 209(c)(5) of  
19           the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965  
20           (42 U.S.C. 3149(c)(5)) is amended by inserting “, travel  
21           and tourism, or natural resource-based” after “manufac-  
22           turing”.

23           **SEC. 6. TOURISM MARKETING.**

24           Section 2(b) of the Public Works and Economic De-  
25           velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121(b)) is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the  
2           end;

3           (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at  
4           the end and inserting “; and”; and

5           (3) by adding at the end the following:

6           “(5) tourism marketing is an economic develop-  
7           ment tool used by communities for economic devel-  
8           opment and should be considered an eligible use of  
9           economic development funding awarded by the Fed-  
10          eral Government through the Economic Development  
11          Administration.”.

12 **SEC. 7. ECONOMIC DISTRESS FORMULA.**

13          Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
14          of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall review the  
15          economic distress formula under section 301 of the Public  
16          Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42  
17          U.S.C. 3161) and submit to Congress a report that in-  
18          cludes—

19                (1) recommendations for modifications to the  
20                formula to ensure that all areas, including distressed  
21                areas, are eligible to receive a higher percentage of  
22                Federal funding than those areas currently are eligi-  
23                ble to receive;

1           (2) a recommendation on whether to reduce the  
2 non-Federal share for projects carried out with  
3 grants under that Act (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.); and

4           (3) an analysis of the financial limitations of el-  
5 igible recipients located within counties with a ma-  
6 jority of acreage under Federal management in ac-  
7 cessing Economic Development Administration fund-  
8 ing opportunities.

9 **SEC. 8. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

10       (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Public Works and  
11 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et  
12 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 508. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

14       “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
15 the Economic Development Administration an Office of  
16 Tribal Economic Development (referred to in this section  
17 as the ‘Office’).

18       “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office shall  
19 be—

20           “(1) to coordinate all Tribal economic develop-  
21 ment activities carried out by the Secretary;

22           “(2) to help Tribal communities access eco-  
23 nomic development assistance programs, including  
24 the assistance provided under this Act;



1           “(3) to coordinate Tribal economic development  
2 strategies and efforts with other Federal agencies;  
3 and

4           “(4) to be a participant in any negotiated  
5 rulemakings or consultations relating to, or having  
6 an impact on, projects, programs, or funding that  
7 benefit Tribal communities.

8           “(c) TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRAT-  
9 EGY.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
11 the date of enactment of the INVEST in Our Com-  
12 munities Act, the Office shall initiate a Tribal con-  
13 sultation process to develop, and not less frequently  
14 than every 3 years thereafter, update, a strategic  
15 plan for Tribal economic development for the Eco-  
16 nomic Development Administration.

17           “(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
18 than 1 year after the date of enactment of the IN-  
19 VEST in Our Communities Act and not less fre-  
20 quently than every 3 years thereafter, the Office  
21 shall submit to Congress the strategic plan for Trib-  
22 al economic development developed under paragraph  
23 (1).

24           “(d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall establish a  
25 publicly facing website to help provide a comprehensive,

1 single source of information for Indian tribes, Tribal lead-  
2 ers, Tribal businesses, and citizens in Tribal communities  
3 to better understand and access programs that support  
4 economic development in Tribal communities, including  
5 the economic development programs administered by Fed-  
6 eral agencies or departments other than the Department.

7 “(e) DEDICATED STAFF.—The Secretary shall en-  
8 sure that the Office has sufficient staff to carry out all  
9 outreach activities under this section.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
11 contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Eco-  
12 nomic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 552; 112 Stat.  
13 3597) is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
14 section 507 the following:

“Sec. 508. Office of Tribal Economic Development.”.

15 **SEC. 9. ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAI-**  
16 **SONS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Public Works and  
18 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et  
19 seq.) (as amended by section 8(a)) is amended by adding  
20 at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 509. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Director of a re-  
23 gional office of the Economic Development Administration  
24 may designate a staff member to act as a ‘Technical As-

1 sistance Liaison' for any State served by the regional of-  
2 fice.

3 “(b) **ROLE.**—A Technical Assistance Liaison shall—

4 “(1) work in coordination with an Economic  
5 Development Representative to provide technical as-  
6 sistance, in addition to technical assistance under  
7 section 207, to eligible recipients that are  
8 underresourced communities, as determined by the  
9 Technical Assistance Liaison, that submit applica-  
10 tions for assistance under title II; and

11 “(2) at the request of an eligible recipient that  
12 submitted an application for assistance under title  
13 II, provide technical feedback on unsuccessful grant  
14 applications.

15 “(c) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary may  
16 enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an eli-  
17 gible recipient for the purpose of providing technical as-  
18 sistance to eligible recipients that are underresourced com-  
19 munities that have submitted or may submit an applica-  
20 tion for assistance under this Act.”.

21 (b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents  
22 contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Eco-  
23 nomic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 552; 112 Stat.  
24 3597) (as amended by section 8(b)) is amended by insert-  
25 ing after the item relating to section 508 the following:

“Sec. 509. Technical assistance liaisons.”.

1 **SEC. 10. FLEXIBLE HIRING AND DISASTER AUTHORITIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Public Works and  
3 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et  
4 seq.) (as amended by section 9(a)) is amended by adding  
5 at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 510. FLEXIBLE HIRING AND DISASTER AUTHORITIES.**

7 “(a) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION AUTHORI-  
8 TIES.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may appoint  
10 and fix the compensation of such temporary per-  
11 sonnel as may be necessary to carry out this Act and  
12 to implement post-disaster economic recovery re-  
13 sponsibilities, without regard to the provisions of  
14 subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States  
15 Code, governing appointments in competitive service  
16 and compensation of personnel.

17 “(2) APPOINTMENT TO POSITION WITHIN  
18 EDA.—Notwithstanding chapter 33 of title 5, United  
19 States Code, or any other provision of law relating  
20 to the examination, certification, and appointment of  
21 individuals in the competitive service, the Secretary  
22 may convert a temporary employee appointed under  
23 paragraph (1) to a permanent appointment in the  
24 competitive service in the Economic Development  
25 Administration under merit promotion procedures  
26 if—

1           “(A) the employee has served continuously  
2           in that appointment for not less than 2 years;  
3           and

4           “(B) the performance of the employee has  
5           been at an acceptable level of performance  
6           throughout the period or periods referred to in  
7           subparagraph (A).

8           “(b) DISASTER TEAM.—

9           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—As soon as practicable  
10          after the date of enactment of the INVEST in Our  
11          Communities Act, the Secretary shall establish a dis-  
12          aster team for the deployment of individuals to carry  
13          out post-disaster economic recovery efforts after a  
14          major disaster or emergency has been declared  
15          under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
16          Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)  
17          and an agency has been activated by the Federal  
18          Emergency Management Agency.

19          “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

20          “(A) DESIGNATION OF STAFF.—As soon  
21          as practicable after the date of enactment of  
22          the INVEST in Our Communities Act, the Sec-  
23          retary shall designate to serve on the disaster  
24          team, in conjunction with staff of the Depart-  
25          ment—

1                   “(i) employees of the Department who  
2                   are not employees of the agency; and

3                   “(ii) in consultation with the heads of  
4                   other Federal agencies, employees of those  
5                   agencies, as appropriate.

6                   “(B) CAPABILITIES.—In designating indi-  
7                   viduals under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
8                   shall ensure that the disaster team includes a  
9                   sufficient number of—

10                   “(i) individuals who are capable of de-  
11                   ploying rapidly and efficiently to respond  
12                   to major disasters and emergencies; and

13                   “(ii) in conjunction with permanent  
14                   agency staff, highly trained individuals em-  
15                   ployed full-time to lead and manage the  
16                   disaster team.

17                   “(3) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure  
18                   that appropriate and ongoing training is provided to  
19                   members of the disaster team designed under para-  
20                   graph (2) to ensure that the members are ade-  
21                   quately trained with respect to the programs and  
22                   policies of the agency relating to post-disaster eco-  
23                   nomic recovery efforts.

24                   “(4) EXPENSES.—In carrying out this sub-  
25                   section, the Secretary may—

1           “(A) use, with or without reimbursement,  
2           any service, equipment, personnel, or facility of  
3           any Federal agency with the explicit support of  
4           that agency, to the extent such use does not im-  
5           pair or conflict with the authority of the Presi-  
6           dent or the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
7           gency Management Agency under the Robert T.  
8           Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
9           ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) to direct  
10          Federal agencies in any major disaster or emer-  
11          gency declared under that Act; and

12           “(B) provide members of the disaster team  
13           with travel expenses, including per diem in lieu  
14           of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-  
15           ees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter  
16           57 of title 5, United States Code, relating to  
17           service as a member of the disaster team.”.

18          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
19          contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Eco-  
20          nomic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 552; 112 Stat.  
21          3597) (as amended by section 9(b)) is amended by insert-  
22          ing after the item relating to section 509 the following:

          “Sec. 510. Flexible hiring and disaster authorities.”.

23          **SEC. 11. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.**

24          (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
2 agency” means—

3           (A) the Economic Development Adminis-  
4 tration; and

5           (B) the Department of Agriculture, with  
6 respect to the rural development mission area.

7           (2) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term “covered  
8 program” means a program administered by a cov-  
9 ered agency that provides funding and technical as-  
10 sistance for rural economic development.

11          (b) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—Not later than 180  
12 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the heads  
13 of the covered agencies shall enter into an interagency  
14 agreement requiring coordination between the covered  
15 agencies with respect to covered programs.

16          (c) REQUIREMENTS.—The interagency agreement en-  
17 tered into under subsection (b) shall require that the cov-  
18 ered agencies—

19           (1) share information about existing or planned  
20 projects that have received or will receive funds for  
21 new rural economic development under a covered  
22 program;

23           (2) coordinate at all levels to support commu-  
24 nities in broadening awareness of, and access to,  
25 covered programs and obtaining additional Federal



1 funding opportunities to help address the needs of  
2 local or regional economies;

3 (3) align the collaborative efforts of the covered  
4 agencies based on current priorities and determine  
5 the extent to which any additional agencies should  
6 be included in the interagency agreement entered  
7 into under subsection (b);

8 (4) on request from another Federal agency  
9 with authority to award or authorize funds for rural  
10 economic development, provide to that agency any  
11 information the covered agencies possess relating  
12 to—

13 (A) each entity that has received or will re-  
14 ceive funds under the covered program; and

15 (B) the geographic scope of rural economic  
16 development in the area in which the project is  
17 carried out;

18 (5) monitor progress toward achieving outcomes  
19 of the covered agencies relating to rural economic  
20 development;

21 (6) coordinate with the Council on Rural Com-  
22 munity Innovation and Economic Development es-  
23 tablished by section 6306(b)(1) of the Agriculture  
24 Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204b–3(b)(1))  
25 and the Rural Broadband Integration Working

1 Group established by section 6214(a)(1) of that Act  
2 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4746) to assist  
3 communities in addressing and resolving Federal  
4 barriers to administering, fulfilling, or expanding  
5 economic development goals associated with invest-  
6 ments from the covered agencies;

7 (7) establish, maintain, and update not less fre-  
8 quently than once every 2 years, an effective re-  
9 source guide to boosting economic development in  
10 rural communities, which shall include information  
11 on, and Internet links to, the key priorities and re-  
12 sources of the covered agencies and outline programs  
13 and services that can be used to advance community  
14 and economic development in rural communities  
15 through 4 key focus areas, including—

16 (A) planning and technical assistance;

17 (B) infrastructure and broadband expan-  
18 sion;

19 (C) entrepreneurship and business assist-  
20 ance; and

21 (D) workforce development and livability;

22 and

23 (8) expand, in writing, the joint efforts of the  
24 covered agencies with respect to rural economic de-

1       velopment with the Department of Housing and  
2       Urban Development, as appropriate.

3       (d) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The covered agencies shall  
4       periodically update the interagency agreement entered into  
5       under subsection (b).

6       (e) PUBLIC COMMENT; ASSESSMENT AND REPORT.—

7           (1) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Not later than 1 year  
8       after the date on which the covered agencies enter  
9       into the interagency agreement under subsection (b),  
10      the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Ag-  
11      riculture shall jointly seek public comment on—

12           (A) the effectiveness of the interagency  
13      agreement in facilitating efficient use of funds  
14      for rural economic development;

15           (B) the availability of Tribal, State, and  
16      local data relating to rural economic develop-  
17      ment and the inclusion of those data in inter-  
18      agency coordination; and

19           (C) modifications to the interagency agree-  
20      ment that would improve the efficacy of inter-  
21      agency coordination.

22           (2) ASSESSMENT; REPORT.—Not later than 18  
23      months after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
24      Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Agri-  
25      culture shall jointly—

1 (A) review and assess the comments re-  
2 ceived under paragraph (1); and

3 (B) submit to the Committees on Environ-  
4 ment and Public Works and Agriculture, Nutri-  
5 tion, and Forestry of the Senate and the Com-  
6 mittees on Transportation and Infrastructure  
7 and Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
8 tives a report detailing any findings and rec-  
9 ommendations from the assessment under sub-  
10 paragraph (A).

11 **SEC. 12. HOSPITALITY AND OUTDOOR-RECREATION SUP-**  
12 **PORTING TOURISM (HOST) GRANTS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and  
14 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et  
15 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 **“SEC. 219. HOSPITALITY AND OUTDOOR-RECREATION SUP-**  
17 **PORTING TOURISM (HOST) GRANTS.**

18 “(a) DEFINITION OF TOURISM, HOSPITALITY, OR  
19 SPECIAL EVENT ACTIVITY.—In this section, the term  
20 ‘tourism, hospitality, or special event activity’ means any  
21 economic activity that primarily serves to encourage rec-  
22 reational or business travel within the United States or  
23 from abroad, including tourist attractions, business and  
24 recreational conventions, large entertainment events and

1 venues, and promotion or organization of any such activ-  
2 ity.

3 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
4 lish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients to  
5 support outdoor recreation, travel, and tourism, hospi-  
6 tality, or special event activities to spur economic develop-  
7 ment.

8 “(c) GOALS.—A project carried out with a grant  
9 under this section shall be carried out for the goal of—

10 “(1) in the case of an infrastructure project—

11 “(A) leading to long-term increases in  
12 tourist activity in a region, including in commu-  
13 nities adjacent to National Park System units,  
14 State parks, national marine sanctuaries, Na-  
15 tional Heritage Areas, Tribal parks, or other  
16 natural destinations; and

17 “(B) using nature-based infrastructure  
18 projects and other projects intended to enhance  
19 public access to outdoor recreation opportuni-  
20 ties; and

21 “(2) in the case of other projects as determined  
22 appropriate by the Secretary, supporting the outdoor  
23 recreation, travel, tourism, hospitality, and special  
24 event industries, in a manner consistent with the  
25 National Travel and Tourism Strategy or as rec-

1           ommended by the United States Travel and Tourism  
2           Advisory Board, if any.

3           “(d) ELIGIBLE USES.—

4                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section  
5           may be used—

6                 “(A) to pay costs associated with obtaining  
7           State, Tribal, county, city, community, or re-  
8           gional tourism marketing and promotion cam-  
9           paigns, including through nonprofit or quasi-  
10          governmental Destination Marketing Organiza-  
11          tions (DMOs);

12                “(B) to carry out workforce training, re-  
13          cruitment, and research programs that support  
14          the outdoor recreation, travel, tourism, hospi-  
15          tality, and special event industries to improve  
16          the skills of, and job opportunities for, workers  
17          in those industries, including through a pro-  
18          gram registered under the Act of August 16,  
19          1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Ap-  
20          prenticeship Act’; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.), and  
21          other work and learn models;

22                “(C) for short-term and long-term eco-  
23          nomic development planning and coordination  
24          for the purpose of responding to the effects of  
25          the COVID–19 pandemic on the regional out-

1 door recreation, travel, tourism, hospitality, and  
2 special event industries;

3 “(D) to carry out technical assistance  
4 projects, including for small business concerns,  
5 entrepreneurs, and small and rural commu-  
6 nities, to assist regional economies in—

7 “(i) the recovery from, and response  
8 to, damage to the outdoor recreation, trav-  
9 el, tourism, hospitality, and special event  
10 industries as a result of the COVID–19  
11 pandemic; and

12 “(ii) future development of the out-  
13 door recreation, travel, tourism, hospi-  
14 tality, and special event industries;

15 “(E) to establish local programs to provide  
16 assistance to small business concerns in the  
17 outdoor recreation, travel, tourism, hospitality,  
18 or special events industries—

19 “(i) for development;

20 “(ii) to recover from the impacts of a  
21 major disaster or emergency declared  
22 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-  
23 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
24 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) or a public health  
25 emergency declared under section 319 of

1 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
2 247d); or

3 “(iii) for expansion;

4 “(F) to carry out construction activities at  
5 facilities or property owned by, or held in trust  
6 by a Federal or State government entity for,  
7 the eligible recipient that support outdoor recre-  
8 ation, travel, tourism, hospitality, or special  
9 events, including activities involving—

10 “(i) construction of new, or improve-  
11 ments to existing, outdoor recreation and  
12 trail infrastructure, including public access  
13 enhancements to that infrastructure;

14 “(ii) nature-based infrastructure  
15 projects to improve access to outdoor  
16 recreation;

17 “(iii) improvement of cultural, arts,  
18 convention, special event, outdoor recre-  
19 ation, and tourism facilities, such as visitor  
20 or tourist information centers, including  
21 through—

22 “(I) general accessibility up-  
23 grades, such as increasing disability  
24 access;



1                   “(II) improving ventilation, heat-  
2                   ing, and cooling systems;

3                   “(III) increasing energy effi-  
4                   ciency; and

5                   “(IV) incorporating additional re-  
6                   newable energy generation associated  
7                   with that infrastructure, including  
8                   zero-emission vehicle fleets and charg-  
9                   ing infrastructure;

10                  “(iv) construction of workforce train-  
11                  ing facilities in order to carry out capacity  
12                  building programs;

13                  “(v) water or wastewater and  
14                  stormwater improvements;

15                  “(vi) pier construction and improve-  
16                  ments; and

17                  “(vii) accessibility enhancements;

18                  “(G) to pay costs associated with upgrades  
19                  and retrofits to existing outdoor recreation,  
20                  travel, tourism, hospitality, and special event in-  
21                  frastructure, such as convention centers, to in-  
22                  crease travel and tourism activity or to make  
23                  the infrastructure more functional under social  
24                  distancing conditions due to a public health

1 emergency declaration under section 319 of the  
2 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d);

3 “(H) to pay costs associated with pro-  
4 viding information to visitors about the health  
5 and safety protections, guidance, or require-  
6 ments of Federal, State, Tribal, or local govern-  
7 ments and businesses to reduce the spread of  
8 COVID-19;

9 “(I) to pay the increased costs of filtration  
10 and sanitation, including physical modifications  
11 to facilities such as convention centers, large  
12 event spaces, campsites, or community attrac-  
13 tions associated with precautions to provide for  
14 safe worker, traveler, or event environments;  
15 and

16 “(J) to pay the costs of salaries and ex-  
17 penses associated with the operations of the eli-  
18 gible recipient, other than salaries and expenses  
19 of the executives of the eligible recipient, if the  
20 applicant—

21 “(i) demonstrates the capacity to  
22 maintain the positions for which the funds  
23 are used; or

1                   “(ii) demonstrates that the positions  
2                   for which the funds are used are tem-  
3                   porary or seasonal.

4                   “(2) PROHIBITION.—Amounts provided under  
5                   this section may not be used for recruitment efforts  
6                   to bring in or host particular events, such as sport-  
7                   ing competitions or other activities.

8                   “(e) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to  
9 eligible recipients that seek to carry out an activity that—

10                   “(1) is based on long-term, regionally oriented,  
11                   coordinated, and collaborative economic development  
12                   or redevelopment strategies that foster economic  
13                   growth and resilience;

14                   “(2) will promote workforce development;

15                   “(3) will involve a minority-owned, rural, Native  
16                   American, or otherwise underserved small business  
17                   concern; or

18                   “(4) implements strong labor standards, includ-  
19                   ing project labor agreements and community benefit  
20                   agreements that include local hire provisions to pro-  
21                   mote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality  
22                   infrastructure projects.

23                   “(f) REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION.—

24                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing grants under  
25                   this section, the Secretary shall distribute the funds

1 to eligible recipients in each region served by the  
2 Economic Development Administration in accord-  
3 ance with the formula described in paragraph  
4 (2)(A).

5 “(2) FORMULA.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The formula referred  
7 to in paragraph (1) shall include consideration  
8 of each of the following:

9 “(i) Using the most recent data from  
10 the Quarterly Census of Employment and  
11 Wages and the Current Employment Sta-  
12 tistics, employment in the leisure and hos-  
13 pitality sectors (other than food service  
14 businesses) as a percentage of total em-  
15 ployment in States in the region, using a  
16 5-year average.

17 “(ii) Using the most recent data from  
18 the Arts and Cultural Production and Out-  
19 door Recreation Satellite Account, employ-  
20 ment in arts and cultural production and  
21 outdoor recreation as a percentage of total  
22 employment in States in the region, using  
23 a 5-year average.

24 “(iii) The number of international and  
25 domestic visitors in States in the region,

1 using data from the Department or an-  
2 other source as the Secretary determines  
3 to be appropriate.

4 “(iv) The impacts of the COVID–19  
5 pandemic, and other natural or economic  
6 disasters, on the outdoor recreation, travel,  
7 tourism, hospitality, or special event indus-  
8 tries in States in the region.

9 “(v) Any other data that the Sec-  
10 retary determines reliably measures the  
11 impact of outdoor recreation, travel, tour-  
12 ism, hospitality, or special events to the  
13 economy of a State.

14 “(B) OUT OF DATE, DISCONTINUED, OR  
15 INACCURATE DATA SOURCES.—If the Secretary  
16 determines that a data source described in  
17 clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) is out of  
18 date, discontinued, or otherwise inaccurate, the  
19 Secretary may substitute other data sources to  
20 obtain the employment statistics described in  
21 those clauses, subject to the condition that the  
22 Secretary provides to Congress a report describ-  
23 ing the new data source used by the Secretary.

24 “(g) RURAL SET-ASIDE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made  
2           available for each fiscal year to carry out this sec-  
3           tion, the Secretary shall ensure that not less than 20  
4           percent is used to provide assistance to eligible re-  
5           cipients located in, or that serve, a rural area (as de-  
6           fined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm  
7           and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))),  
8           with a particular focus on rural areas that are lo-  
9           cated in distressed or underserved communities.

10           “(2) WAIVER.—If there are not sufficient quali-  
11           fied eligible recipients located in, or that serve, a  
12           rural area (as so defined), to carry out paragraph  
13           (1), the Secretary may waive the requirement under  
14           that paragraph.

15           “(h) NATIVE AMERICAN SET-ASIDE.—

16           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made  
17           available for each fiscal year to carry out this sec-  
18           tion, the Secretary shall ensure that not less than 5  
19           percent is used to provide assistance to eligible re-  
20           cipients that are Indian tribes, tribal organizations  
21           (as defined in section 3 of the NATIVE Act (25  
22           U.S.C. 4352)), and Native Hawaiian organizations  
23           (as defined in that section).

24           “(2) WAIVER.—If there are not sufficient quali-  
25           fied eligible recipients that are Indian tribes, tribal

1 organizations (as so defined), or Native Hawaiian  
2 organizations (as so defined) to carry out paragraph  
3 (1), the Secretary may waive the requirement under  
4 that paragraph.”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
6 contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Eco-  
7 nomic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 552; 112 Stat.  
8 3597; 118 Stat. 1767) is amended by inserting after the  
9 item relating to section 218 the following:

“Sec. 219. Hospitality and Outdoor-Recreation Supporting Tourism (HOST)  
grants.”.