



Congressional Debate Legislation

April 2025 Online Speech Festival
Celebrating Earth Day

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This New Jersey Speech & Debate League (NJSDL) legislation packet includes portions of legislation from a collection of resources including the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) National Finals and monthly legislation packets produced by the NSDA. The NJSDL would like to acknowledge and thank the NSDA staff, author of the NSDA monthly dockets Coach John Russell, and members of the speech and debate community who contributed to the original legislation packets.

A Bill to Fund Brush Clearance in California and Other Wildfire Prone Areas

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall allocate an additional \$1 billion per year to the United States Department of
3 Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) for the express purpose of funding brush clearance in
4 forests in California and other areas prone to wildfire.

5 **SECTION 2.** This legislation shall be overseen by the USFS, which shall be tasked, among other things,
6 with determining which areas to focus on for brush clearance and how best to delegate this
7 work.

8 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

9 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill for a Green District of Columbia

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** By the year 2030, the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) shall be entirely powered
3 through local renewable energy, namely a combination of wind and solar power.

4 **SECTION 2.** Solar panels and wind turbines shall be constructed on federal lands throughout
5 Washington, D.C., in order to achieve this goal. Private citizens and business owners who
6 agree to allow construction of solar panels or wind turbines on their property shall be
7 compensated accordingly for their cooperation with this initiative—for costs incurred in
8 construction and maintenance as well as for any power they subsequently feed into the
9 grid.

10 **SECTION 3.** Congress shall ensure adequate funding is provided for the achievement of this goal.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Council of the District of Columbia.

12 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

13 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Abandon the Great American Worm Wall

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall cease all involvement in and support for the airdropping of sterile
3 screwworm flies (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) over the Panama-Colombia border, or
4 anywhere else outside of the sovereign territory of the United States.

5 **SECTION 2.** Funds recovered through this change of policy shall be redirected to the Department of
6 Agriculture to support the prevention and treatment of screwworm infestations within the
7 sovereign territory of the United States.

8 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Agriculture.

9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

10 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Expand the Protections of the Animal Welfare Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966, Pub. L. 89–544, is hereby amended to
3 eliminate the law’s exclusion of cold-blooded animals from its protections.

4 **SECTION 2.** Birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, mice of the genus *Mus*, and farm animals shall remain
5 excluded.

6 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be jointly overseen by the Department of Agriculture and the Animal
7 and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

8 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

9 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Invest in Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to Reduce Carbon Emissions

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Department of Energy shall have \$20 billion added to its yearly budget in order to invest in the creation of small modular reactors. This funding shall be dedicated towards the manufacture of these reactors, as well as the building of necessary infrastructure to support their development in both urban and rural areas.

SECTION 2. Small modular reactors shall be defined as nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, about $\frac{1}{3}$ the capacity of a traditional reactor, and are able to be factory-assembled and transported as a unit to a location for installation.

SECTION 3. The Department of Energy shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

A. The Department of Energy in conjunction with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall perform maintenance and quality assurance tests of small modular reactors every other year after their manufacture.

B. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency shall oversee the disposal and storage of nuclear waste created from small modular reactors in a safe, orderly manner.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Implement a Carbon Tax

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A carbon tax of \$35 per metric ton of CO₂ emitted will be imposed on for-profit companies
3 that emit more than 30 metric tons of CO₂ per year. Beginning in 2030, this same carbon
4 tax will increase to \$60 per metric ton of CO₂ emitted by for-profit companies that emit
5 more than 30 metric tons of CO₂ per year.

6 **SECTION 2.** "Carbon dioxide emitted" is defined as any direct or indirect emissions that stem from the
7 production or general operations of a for-profit corporation.

8 **SECTION 3.** This legislation will be overseen by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the United States
9 Department of Energy.

10 **SECTION 4.** The tax revenue taken from this carbon tax will be managed by the IRS and will go toward
11 the building of solar panels to reduce the amount of fossil fuel usage.

12 **SECTION 5.** Any companies found in violation of this legislation will be fined \$10,000 on first offense,
13 with fines increasing by \$10,000 per additional violation.

14 **SECTION 6.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2025.

15 **SECTION 7.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Eradicate Mosquitoes

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall direct \$500 million annually to the Centers for Disease Control and
3 Prevention (CDC) for the express purpose of the wholesale eradication of mosquitoes
4 (*Culicidae*) from the United States and its territories. This funding may also be used to stop
5 mosquitoes from crossing international borders into the United States and its territories.

6 **SECTION 2.** This funding shall continue for five years from the date of passage, at which point Congress
7 and the CDC shall examine the degree to which this goal has been achieved and consider
8 further measures if necessary.

9 **SECTION 3.** This funding shall be diverted from the Department of Defense budget.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the CDC.

11 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

12 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void

A Resolution to Encourage Sustainable Meat Consumption

1 **WHEREAS** The United States leads the globe in terms of per capita meat consumption; and

2 **WHEREAS** The farming of meat is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and is
3 detrimental to the environment in many other ways; and

4 **WHEREAS** These factors together reveal that more sustainable and less frequent meat consumption
5 within the United States could make a substantial difference in the fight to combat
6 climate change; now, therefore be it

7 **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that citizens and residents of the United States are
8 encouraged to limit their meat intake; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress commits to modeling this modesty by adjusting menus and meal
10 offerings at the U.S. Capitol and associated functions accordingly.