

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make predevelopment grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PADILLA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make predevelopment grants, 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 “Economic Empower-
5 ment Through Predevelopment Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

7 (a) PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works
9 and Economic Development Act of 1965 is amended

1 by inserting after section 207 (42 U.S.C. 3147) the
2 following:

3 **"SEC. 208. PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

4 "(a) PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—On the applica-
5 tion of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make
6 grants or cooperative agreements for—

7 "(1) community asset mapping;

8 "(2) training;

9 "(3) technical assistance and organizational de-
10 velopment;

11 "(4) feasibility, environmental, and market
12 studies;

13 "(5) demonstration projects;

14 "(6) organizational capacity building;

15 "(7) organizing and facilitating convenings;

16 "(8) permitting, including professional services;

17 and

18 "(9) other predevelopment activities determined
19 by the Secretary to be appropriate.

20 "(b) APPLICATION ASSISTANCE.—In the case of a
21 project under this section that provides assistance to 1 or
22 more eligible recipients with low organizational capacity,
23 [as determined by the Secretary,] the Secretary may
24 waive the prohibition under section 213."

1 (2) COST SHARING.—Section 204(c)(3) of the
2 Public Works and Economic Development Act of
3 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3144(c)(3)) is amended—

4 (A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting
5 “AND PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS” after “AND
6 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE”; and

7 (B) by striking “section 207” and insert-
8 ing “section 207 or 208”.

9 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
10 tents contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works
11 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat.
12 552; 112 Stat. 3597; 118 Stat. 1761) is amended by
13 inserting after the item relating to section 207 the
14 following:

“Sec. 208. Predevelopment grants.”

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (1) DIRECT EXPENDITURE OR REDISTRIBUTION
17 BY RECIPIENT.—Section 217(a) of the Public Works
18 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.
19 3154c(a)) is amended by striking “or 207” and in-
20 serting “207, or 208”.

21 (2) POWERS OF SECRETARY.—Section
22 601(a)(12) of the Public Works and Economic De-
23 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3211(a)(12)) is
24 amended by striking “section 207” and inserting
25 “sections 207 and 208”.