

## **SUPER POLLUTANTS ACT OF 2014**

Senators Collins and Murphy

*Section-by-Section Summary*

### **Section 1 (Short Title)**

### **Section 2 (Findings)**

### **Section 3 (Defining terms)**

### **Section 4 (Interagency Task Force) – Page 4**

- (a) (b) (c) The President shall establish an interagency task force on short-lived climate pollutant mitigation, whose members will consist of the secretaries/administrators/chairmen of all relevant federal regulators and cabinet agencies (or their designated representatives), including EPA, DoD, Interior, Energy, Commerce, State, Transportation, and Agriculture. The task force will:
- 1) Review the recommendations of the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force, the Interagency Methane Emissions Strategy, the March 2012 Report to Congress on Black Carbon, and the Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, and adopt any relevant appropriate recommendations from those bodies;
  - 2) Identify relevant federal programs that are or could be addressing the reduction of the three short-lived pollutants both domestically and internationally;
  - 3) Examine overlapping and duplicative programs that would benefit from consolidation and streamlining;
  - 4) Identify gaps and serious deficiencies in U.S. programs currently addressing short-lived pollutants;
  - 5) and report to Congress.
- (d) Those agencies that have not fully complied with the efforts embodied in Executive Order 13514 to reduce hydrofluorocarbons and methane emissions within the federal government must immediately develop plans to accomplish the order's goals with 180 days, including specific plans to purchase alternatives to high-GWP substances where feasible.

### **Section 5 (Black Carbon) – Page 6**

- (a) The State Department, in consultation with U.S. DOT, EPA, and the Coast Guard, is directed to develop a comprehensive plan to address black carbon emissions from the international shipping industry through its membership in the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including binding limits on black carbon as part of the Polar Code.

A principle objective of the State Department's plan should be development of a roadmap toward helping countries reduce fine particle emissions (PM2.5) through installation of advanced emissions controls and reducing the sulfur content in fuels.

- (b) Upon assumption of the chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2015, the Secretary of State is directed to lead the development of Arctic-wide black carbon emissions goal and encourage observer nations to adopt national reduction goals.
- (c) As part of its membership in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the State Department and EPA are encouraged to craft specific financing mechanisms for the incremental cost of international black carbon mitigation activities. The CCAC should produce, at the U.S.'s request, a report of black carbon mitigation financing options.
- (d) USAID is directed to prioritize black carbon mitigation activities as part of aid distribution, though not to the exclusion of other existing agency priorities. Special emphasis should be provided to those projects that produce substantial environmental and public health co-benefits.

The State Department should further aid international efforts to reduce black carbon emissions from diesel trucks, two-stroke engines, diesel generators, and industrial processes with significant black carbon emissions, including: the provision of assistance to help developing nations lower the sulfur content of their diesel fuels, develop markets for clean cookstoves, expand access to diesel particulate filters, and provide technical assistance for vehicle manufacturers on low-emission engine designs.

## Section 6 (HFCs) – Page 9

- (a) (1) Urges EPA to:
  - (A) Extend the Section 608 (of the Clean Air Act of 1990) HCFC and CFC requirements regarding the servicing and disposal of air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment to HFC compounds, and to increase initiatives for recovery, reclamation and recycling of HFCs.
  - (B) Work with DOE to strengthen Energy Star certifications for refrigerant systems that achieve best-in-class energy efficiency *and* utilize low-GWP refrigerants and foam-blowing agents.
  - (C) Employ the Clean Air Act Section 612(c) "Significant New Alternatives Program" (SNAP) in removing high-GWP compounds for applications where alternatives are available and reduce risks to human health and the environment.
- (2) The Senate supports amending the North American Proposal to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, in order to ensure a smooth, technically-feasible transition away from high-GWP HFC compounds.
- (b) Directs the EPA, DOE, and NIST to evaluate the availability of alternatives to high-GWP HFCs, and to determine if and what standards are preventing the use of alternatives in the U.S. that are in widespread use in other countries, and whether the standards need to be revised.

- (c) Directs EPA to phase out the continued sale of uncharged residential HCFC-22 condensing equipment, and (2) report whether self-install HFC-134a automotive air conditioning service kits represent an environmentally significant source of HFC emissions.

### **Section 7 (Methane) – Page 13**

- (a) Directs the Departments of State, DOE, Commerce, and EPA to provide other countries with technical guidance on emissions controls from gas drilling, landfills, coal mining, and agriculture when engaging with other governments, especially on trade delegations (U.S. Trade Representative) under the auspices of State's Global Shale Gas Initiative. Emphasize collaboration with the Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership (World Bank), EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program, the Global Methane Initiative, and other voluntary initiatives.
- (b) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is directed to study leaks and venting of methane across facilities under its jurisdiction, including whether transmission rates, certification of new pipe designs, and standard-setting can be used to incent leak reductions.

EPA is directed to create an inspection and maintenance program that focuses on identifying equipment throughout the production value chain that are most likely to have high leak rates.

- (c) Directs the U.S. Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (EPIC) to consider methane leakage when financing gas and oil-related projects, and prioritize those projects that take significant steps to mitigate gas leakage and venting.