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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To promote innovation, investment, and economic growth by accelerating spectrum efficiency through a challenge prize competition.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MATSUI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To promote innovation, investment, and economic growth by accelerating spectrum efficiency through a challenge prize competition.

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 “Spectrum Challenge
5 Prize Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The future competitiveness and global tech-
2 nology leadership of the United States depend, in
3 part, upon the availability and efficient use of spec-
4 trum.

5 (2) Dramatic improvement in spectrum effi-
6 ciency would spur innovation, investment, and eco-
7 nomic growth.

8 (3) Radio frequency spectrum is vital for emer-
9 gency communications, national security, law en-
10 forcement, aviation, maritime safety, space commu-
11 nications, and numerous other Federal functions.

12 (4) Prize competitions can spur innovation in
13 the private and public sectors.

14 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act—

16 (1) the term “Commission” means the Federal
17 Communications Commission;

18 (2) the term “prize competition” means a prize
19 competition conducted by the Secretary under sec-
20 tion 4(a); and

21 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
22 of Commerce.

23 **SEC. 4. SPECTRUM CHALLENGE PRIZE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
25 Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and

1 Information and in consultation with the Under Secretary
2 of Commerce for Standards and Technology, shall—

3 (1) conduct prize competitions to dramatically
4 accelerate the development and commercialization of
5 technology that improves spectrum efficiency and is
6 capable of cost-effective deployment; and

7 (2) define a measurable set of performance
8 goals for participants in the prize competitions to
9 demonstrate their solutions on a level playing field
10 while making a significant advancement over the
11 current state of the art.

12 (b) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**—In carrying out
13 subsection (a), the Secretary may—

14 (1) enter into a grant, contract, cooperative
15 agreement, or other agreement with a private sector
16 for-profit or nonprofit entity to administer the prize
17 competitions;

18 (2) invite the Defense Advanced Research
19 Projects Agency, the Commission, the National Aer-
20 onautics and Space Administration, the National
21 Science Foundation, or any other Federal agency to
22 provide advice and assistance in the design or ad-
23 ministration of the prize competitions; and

1 (3) award not more than \$5,000,000, in the ag-
2 gregate, to the winner or winners of the prize com-
3 petitions.

4 **SEC. 5. CRITERIA.**

5 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Commission shall publish a technical paper
7 on spectrum efficiency providing criteria that may be used
8 for the design of the prize competitions.

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
11 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.