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**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2419, AS REPORTED  
OFFERED BY MR. HODES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

*and Mr Arcuri of  
New York*

At the end of title IX add the following new section:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY PROGRAM.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.— Congress finds that—

3 (1) the United States' over-reliance on fossil  
4 fuel energy has placed undue strain on the nation by  
5 compromising our economy and national security;

6 (2) the United States' over-reliance on fossil  
7 fuel energy has also created new strains on our nat-  
8 ural systems, including carbon emissions that con-  
9 tribute to climate change;

10 (3) transportation of energy, such as heating  
11 oil, adds to carbon emissions associated with meet-  
12 ing our community energy needs and therefore fur-  
13 ther feeds climate change;

14 (4) it is in the national interest to conserve en-  
15 ergy and support adoption of new local, sustainable,  
16 efficient, and carbon neutral energy sources, such as  
17 wood energy, for community energy needs;

18 (5) communities can save as much as 50 per-  
19 cent over natural gas, 80 percent over propane, 80  
20 percent over electric heat, and 50 percent over oil

1 heat by switching to wood energy for heating schools  
2 and other public buildings;

3 (6) in fast growing communities of all sizes  
4 across the United States, municipal and country-  
5 owned forest land is playing an essential role in  
6 meeting many public needs and could also be used  
7 to help support sustainable forestry and local wood  
8 energy applications; and

9 (7) the rapidly expanding base of private forest  
10 land owners nationwide includes many individuals  
11 with no experience in forest stewardship who could  
12 be given technical assistance to provide locally  
13 sourced wood supply through sustainable forest  
14 management for local wood energy applications.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to pro-  
16 vide grants for community wood energy systems that are  
17 intended to—

18 (1) meet community energy needs with reduced  
19 carbon intensity versus fossil fuel systems;

20 (2) promote energy conservation and develop-  
21 ment of new renewable energy sources;

22 (3) aid local budgets by reducing municipal and  
23 county energy costs;

24 (4) increase utilization of low value wood sup-  
25 plies and waste, thereby strengthening the forest

1 products economy for the benefit of forest workers  
2 and private forest land owners; and

3 (5) increase awareness of energy conservation  
4 and consumption and the multiple-use values of for-  
5 ests among community members, especially young  
6 people.

7 (c) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Agriculture,  
8 acting through the Forest Service, shall establish a pro-  
9 gram to be known as the Community Wood Energy Pro-  
10 gram to provide grants to State and local governments to  
11 acquire community wood energy systems for public build-  
12 ings and to implement a community wood energy plan.

13 (d) USE IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—A State or local  
14 government receiving a grant under subsection (c) shall  
15 use a community wood energy system acquired in whole  
16 or in part with the use of grant funds for primary use  
17 in a public facility owned by such State or local govern-  
18 ment.

19 (e) LIMITATION.—A community wood energy system  
20 acquired with grant funds provided under subsection (c)  
21 shall not exceed an output of—

22 (1) 50,000,000 BTU per hour for heating; and

23 (2) 2 megawatts for electric power production.

24 (f) COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY PLAN.—Within 18  
25 months of receiving assistance under this section, commu-

1 nities shall utilize the technical assistance of the State for-  
2 ester to create a community wood energy plan identifying  
3 how local forests can be accessed in a sustainable manner  
4 to help meet the wood supply needs of systems purchased  
5 under this section.

6 (g) MATCHING FUNDS.—A State or local government  
7 receiving a grant under subsection (c) shall contribute an  
8 amount of non-Federal funds towards the acquisition of  
9 community wood energy systems that is at least equal to  
10 the amount of grant funds received by such State or local  
11 government

12 (h) COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY SYSTEM DE-  
13 FINED.—The term “community wood energy system” in-  
14 cludes single facility central heating, district heating, com-  
15 bined heat and energy systems, and other related biomass  
16 energy systems that service schools, town halls, libraries,  
17 and other public buildings.

18 (i) APPROPRIATION.— There are authorized to be ap-  
19 propriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out  
20 this section.