

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1709

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risks of drought to drinking water, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2015

Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. HONDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risks of drought to drinking water, 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. AMENDMENT TO THE SAFE DRINKING WATER**
4 **ACT RELATING TO RISKS OF DROUGHT TO**
5 **DRINKING WATER.**

6 Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.
7 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing new section:

1 **“SEC. 1459. DROUGHT RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGE-**
2 **MENT.**

3 “(a) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

4 “(1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 90 days
5 after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-
6 ministrator shall develop and submit to Congress a
7 strategic plan for assessing and managing the risks
8 of drought to drinking water provided by public
9 water systems. The strategic plan shall include steps
10 and timelines to—

11 “(A) evaluate the risks posed by drought
12 to drinking water provided by public water sys-
13 tems;

14 “(B) establish a comprehensive list of the
15 effects of drought on drinking water provided
16 by public water systems which the Adminis-
17 trator determines may have an adverse effect
18 on human health;

19 “(C) summarize—

20 “(i) the known adverse human health
21 effects resulting from the effects of
22 drought on drinking water included on the
23 list established under subparagraph (B);

24 “(ii) factors that cause drought; and

1 “(iii) factors that exacerbate the ef-
2 fects of drought on drinking water pro-
3 vided by public water systems;

4 “(D) with respect to the effects of drought
5 on drinking water included on the list estab-
6 lished under subparagraph (B), determine
7 whether to—

8 “(i) establish guidance regarding fea-
9 sible analytical methods to quantify such
10 effects; and

11 “(ii) establish guidance regarding the
12 frequency of monitoring necessary to de-
13 tect such effects;

14 “(E) recommend feasible treatment op-
15 tions, including procedures, equipment, and
16 source water protection practices, to mitigate
17 such effects; and

18 “(F) enter into cooperative agreements
19 with, and provide technical assistance to, af-
20 fected States and public water systems, as iden-
21 tified by the Administrator, for the purpose of
22 managing risks associated with the effects of
23 drought on drinking water.

1 “(2) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall, as
2 appropriate, update and submit to Congress the
3 strategic plan developed under paragraph (1).

4 “(b) INFORMATION COORDINATION.—In carrying out
5 this section the Administrator shall—

6 “(1) identify gaps in the Agency’s under-
7 standing of the effects of drought on drinking water
8 provided by public water systems, including—

9 “(A) the human health effects of drought;
10 and

11 “(B) methods and means of testing and
12 monitoring for the effects of drought on source
13 water of, or drinking water provided by, public
14 water systems;

15 “(2) as appropriate, consult with—

16 “(A) other Federal agencies that—

17 “(i) examine or analyze drought; or

18 “(ii) address public health concerns
19 related to drought;

20 “(B) States;

21 “(C) operators of public water systems;

22 “(D) multinational agencies;

23 “(E) foreign governments;

24 “(F) research and academic institutions;

25 and

1 “(G) companies that provide relevant
2 drinking water treatment options; and

3 “(3) assemble and publish information from
4 each Federal agency that has—

5 “(A) examined or analyzed drought; or

6 “(B) addressed public health concerns re-
7 lated to drought.

8 “(c) USE OF SCIENCE.—The Administrator shall
9 carry out this section in accordance with the requirements
10 described in section 1412(b)(3)(A), as applicable.

11 “(d) FEASIBLE.—For purposes of this section, the
12 term ‘feasible’ has the meaning given such term in section
13 1412(b)(4)(D).”.

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