

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6489

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Mr. HALL (for himself and Mr. BOREN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

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 “National Integrated
5 Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of
6 2012”.

7 **SEC. 2. NIDIS PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.**

8 Section 3 of the National Integrated Drought Infor-
9 mation System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amend-
10 ed—

1 (1) in subsection (a) by inserting before the pe-
2 riod at the end the following: “to better inform and
3 provide for more timely decisionmaking to reduce
4 drought related impacts and costs”;

5 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated
8 Drought Information System shall—

9 “(1) provide an effective drought early warning
10 system that—

11 “(A) collects and integrates information on
12 the key indicators of drought in order to make
13 usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of drought,
14 including assessments of the severity of drought
15 conditions and impacts; and

16 “(B) provides such information, forecasts,
17 and assessments on both national and regional
18 levels;

19 “(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought
20 conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis
21 to—

22 “(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
23 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of govern-
24 ment;

25 “(B) the private sector; and

1 “(C) the public;

2 “(3) provide timely data, information, and
3 products that reflect local, regional, and State dif-
4 ferences in drought conditions;

5 “(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
6 Federal research in support of a drought early warn-
7 ing system;

8 “(5) build upon existing forecasting and assess-
9 ment programs and partnerships; and

10 “(6) continue ongoing research activities related
11 to drought.”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(e) REPORT.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
15 after the date of enactment of the National Inte-
16 grated Drought Information System Reauthorization
17 Act of 2012, the Under Secretary shall transmit to
18 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
19 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
20 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
21 ate a report that contains—

22 “(A) an analysis of the implementation of
23 the National Integrated Drought Information
24 System program, including how the informa-

1 tion, forecasts, and assessments are utilized in
2 drought policy planning and response activities;

3 “(B) specific plans for continued develop-
4 ment of such program, including future mile-
5 stones; and

6 “(C) an identification of research, moni-
7 toring, and forecasting needs to enhance the
8 predictive capability of—

9 “(i) drought early warnings;

10 “(ii) the length and severity of
11 droughts; and

12 “(iii) the contribution of weather
13 events to reducing the severity or ending
14 drought conditions.

15 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report
16 under paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall con-
17 sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal,
18 and local government agencies, research institutions,
19 and the private sector.”.

20 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 Section 4 of such Act is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$13,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through
4 2017.”.

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