

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8030

To amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 with respect to the total amount of Federal assistance for projects in States experiencing severe drought and projects in historically disadvantaged communities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2024

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 with respect to the total amount of Federal assistance for projects in States experiencing severe drought and projects in historically disadvantaged communities, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Drought Relief Ob-  
3 tained Using Government Help Today Act of 2024” or  
4 the “DROUGHT Act of 2024”.

5 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN WATER INFRA-  
6 STRUCTURE PROJECTS.**

7 Section 5029(b)(9) of the Water Infrastructure Fi-  
8 nance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908(b)(9))  
9 is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(D) EXCEPTIONS FOR CERTAIN  
11 PROJECTS.—

12 “(i) PROJECTS IN STATES EXPERI-  
13 ENCING SEVERE DROUGHT.—Notwith-  
14 standing subparagraph (A), the Adminis-  
15 trator may finance up to 90 percent of the  
16 costs of a project described in paragraph  
17 (6) or (7) of section 5026 located in—

18 “(I) a State that has been des-  
19 igned as D2 (severe drought) or  
20 greater according to the United States  
21 Drought Monitor for a minimum of 4  
22 weeks during any of the 3 years pre-  
23 ceding the date on which assistance is  
24 provided for the project under this  
25 subtitle; or

1           “(II) a county for which a  
2 drought emergency has been declared  
3 by the applicable Governor at any  
4 time during the 3-year period pre-  
5 ceding that date.

6           “(ii) PROJECTS IN HISTORICALLY DIS-  
7 ADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.—Notwith-  
8 standing subparagraph (A), the Adminis-  
9 trator may finance up to 90 percent of the  
10 costs of a project described in paragraph  
11 (6) or (7) of section 5026 that serves a  
12 community that—

13           “(I) is designated as disadvan-  
14 taged, underserved, or financially dis-  
15 tressed by—

16           “(aa) the Climate and Eco-  
17 nomic Justice Screening Tool of  
18 the Council on Environmental  
19 Quality; or

20           “(bb) the Administrator  
21 pursuant to a water infrastruc-  
22 ture program of the Environ-  
23 mental Protection Agency, in-  
24 cluding water infrastructure  
25 grant programs, clean water and

1 drinking water grant programs,  
2 and other grant programs under  
3 the Safe Drinking Water Act (42  
4 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) and the Fed-  
5 eral Water Protection Control  
6 Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); or  
7 “(II) meets the affordability cri-  
8 teria established by a State pursuant  
9 to section 1452(d)(3) of the Safe  
10 Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-  
11 12(d)(3)) or section 603(i)(2) of the  
12 Federal Water Pollution Control Act  
13 (33 U.S.C. 1383(i)(2)).

14 “(iii) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this  
15 subparagraph, the Administrator shall  
16 prioritize financing for projects that—

17 “(I) are located in a State that is  
18 experiencing severe drought, as de-  
19 scribed in subclause (I) of clause (i),  
20 or a county for which a drought emer-  
21 gency has been declared, as described  
22 in subclause (II) of that clause; and

23 “(II) serve a community that is  
24 designated as disadvantaged, under-  
25 served, or financially distressed, or

1 meets affordability criteria established  
2 by a State, as described in clause  
3 (ii).”.

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