

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8779

To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 to require projects in the Caloosahatchee River watershed, the St. Lucie River and estuary basin, and the Lake Okeechobee watershed that mitigate harmful algal blooms and nutrient pollution by removing algae and converting the algae biomass into biofuel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2024

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

A BILL

To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 to require projects in the Caloosahatchee River watershed, the St. Lucie River and estuary basin, and the Lake Okeechobee watershed that mitigate harmful algal blooms and nutrient pollution by removing algae and converting the algae biomass into biofuel, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Convert Harmful Algal
5 Blooms to Fuel Act” or the “Convert HABs to Fuel Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOP-**
2 **MENT.**

3 Section 1109 of the Water Resources Development
4 Act of 2018 (36 U.S.C. 610 note) is amended—

5 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**DEM-**
6 **ONSTRATION**” and inserting “**DEVELOPMENT**”;

7 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “a 5-year
8 harmful algal bloom technology development dem-
9 onstration program” and inserting “a harmful algal
10 bloom technology development program”;

11 (3) in subsection (b), by striking “demonstra-
12 tion”; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(c) SPECIFIC PROJECTS REQUIRED.—

15 “(1) PROJECTS.—In carrying out the harmful
16 algal bloom technology development program under
17 this section, the Secretary shall carry out projects in
18 the Caloosahatchee River watershed, the St. Lucie
19 River and estuary basin, and the Lake Okeechobee
20 watershed (as such watershed is described by the
21 South Florida Water Management District for pur-
22 poses of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construc-
23 tion Project 2020 update) that utilize previously
24 demonstrated technologies that are capable of miti-
25 gating harmful algal blooms and nutrient pollution

1 by harvesting algae and converting the retrieved
2 algae biomass into renewable biofuel.

3 “(2) TECHNOLOGIES.—In carrying out projects
4 under this subsection, the Secretary shall utilize
5 technologies that have been previously demonstrated
6 as effective through research carried out under this
7 section.

8 “(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out projects
9 under this subsection, the Secretary shall consult
10 with relevant Federal, State, and local agencies, in-
11 stitutions of higher education, and private organiza-
12 tions, including nonprofit organizations.

13 “(4) SELECTION OF SPECIFIC LOCATIONS.—Not
14 later than 90 days after the date of enactment of
15 this subsection, the Secretary, in collaboration with
16 the entities described in paragraph (3), shall select
17 specific locations within the Caloosahatchee River
18 watershed, the St. Lucie River and estuary basin,
19 and the Lake Okeechobee watershed at which to
20 carry out projects under this subsection.

21 “(5) COORDINATION.—In carrying out projects
22 under this subsection, the Secretary shall coordinate
23 with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator
24 of the Environmental Protection Agency on the use
25 of algae biomass derived from the projects that may

1 be combined with other wet waste material, such as
2 municipal biosolids, to support the scaling up of
3 biofuel projects and the renewable energy activities
4 of the Office of Energy, Efficiency, and Renewable
5 Energy of the Department of Energy.

6 “(6) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out
7 projects under this subsection, the Secretary shall
8 collaborate with relevant Federal, State, and local
9 agencies and private organizations to the maximum
10 extent practicable.

11 “(7) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
12 date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary
13 shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
14 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
15 and the Committee on Environment and Public
16 Works of the Senate a report containing the results
17 of the projects carried out under this subsection, in-
18 cluding—

19 “(A) a determination of whether it is fea-
20 sible to mitigate harmful algal blooms and con-
21 vert retrieved algae biomass and other wet
22 waste material into renewable clean energy
23 sources, such as biofuel and renewable natural
24 gas;

1 “(B) a description of any water quality im-
2 provements that occurred at the locations of the
3 projects over the period during which the
4 projects were carried out; and

5 “(C) any other information determined ap-
6 propriate by the Secretary.

7 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
9 \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry
10 out this subsection.”.

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