

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1554

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study with respect to stormwater runoff from oil and gas operations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2015

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study with respect to stormwater runoff from oil and gas operations, 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 “Focused Reduction of
5 Effluence and Stormwater runoff through Hydrofracking
6 Environmental Regulation Act of 2015” or the “FRESH-
7 ER Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. STORMWATER RUNOFF FROM OIL, GAS, AND MIN-**
2 **ING OPERATIONS.**

3 (a) **LIMITATION ON PERMIT REQUIREMENT.**—Sec-
4 tion 402(*l*) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
5 (33 U.S.C. 1342(*l*)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking paragraph (2);

7 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
8 graph (2); and

9 (3) in paragraph (2)(C) (as so redesignated), by
10 striking “402(*l*)(3)(A)” each place it appears and in-
11 sserting “subparagraph (A)”.

12 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 502 of the Federal Water
13 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362) is amended—

14 (1) by striking paragraph (24); and

15 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (25) and (26)
16 as paragraphs (24) and (25), respectively.

17 (c) **STUDY.**—

18 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Inte-
19 rior shall conduct a study of stormwater impacts
20 with respect to any area that the Secretary deter-
21 mines may be contaminated by stormwater runoff
22 associated with oil or gas operations, which shall in-
23 clude an analysis of—

24 (A) measurable contamination in the area;

25 (B) ground water resources in the area;

26 and

1 (C) the susceptibility of aquifers in the
2 area to contamination from stormwater runoff
3 associated with the oil or gas operations.

4 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
6 submit to Congress a report on the results of the
7 study conducted under paragraph (1).

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