

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 574

To modify the project for navigation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf of Mexico to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2013

Ms. LANDRIEU introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To modify the project for navigation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf of Mexico to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 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 “‘Dredging for Restora-
5 tion and Economic Development for Global Exports Act
6 of 2013’” or the “‘DREDGE Act of 2013’”.

7 **SEC. 2. MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHIP CHANNEL, GULF OF MEX-**
8 **ICO TO BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA.**

9 (a) PROJECT MODIFICATION.—The project for navi-
10 gation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf of Mexico to

1 Baton Rouge, Louisiana, authorized by the matter under
2 the heading “MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHIP CHANNEL, GULF TO
3 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA” of section 201(a) of the Water
4 Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4090), is
5 modified as follows to direct the Secretary of the Army,
6 acting through the Chief of Engineers—

7 (1) to achieve, operate, and maintain a naviga-
8 tion channel of 50 feet with respect to the portion
9 of the project from Baton Rouge to the Southwest
10 Pass sea buoy;

11 (2) to complete the work required under para-
12 graph (1) not later than the last day of the third fis-
13 cal year beginning after the date of enactment of
14 this Act (completing at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of that work in each
15 of the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the date of
16 enactment of this Act); and

17 (3) to conduct a pilot disposal and sediment
18 project in the Southwest Pass area to determine the
19 cost-effectiveness of pump-out disposal operations
20 for hopper dredges for—

21 (A) environmental enhancement; and

22 (B) dredged material disposal.

23 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection
24 (a)(3), the Secretary of the Army, acting through the
25 Chief of Engineers, shall consult with appropriate Federal,

1 State, and local agencies and stakeholders to determine
2 the safe placement and timing of pump-out disposal oper-
3 ations that protect, create, restore, and nourish coastal
4 wetlands and aquatic habitat.

5 (c) TREATMENT OF COSTS.—All costs of the work re-
6 quired under subsection (a) shall be treated as operation
7 and maintenance costs, including the first costs of achiev-
8 ing a navigation channel of 50 feet.

9 (d) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding section
10 101(b)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of
11 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211(b)(1)), the Federal share of the
12 cost of the work required under subsection (a) shall be
13 100 percent.

14 (e) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding section 210 of the
15 Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C.
16 2238) or section 9505 of the Internal Revenue Code of
17 1986, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief
18 of Engineers, shall pay 100 percent of the costs of the
19 work required under subsection (a) out of amounts made
20 available to the Secretary from the Harbor Maintenance
21 Trust Fund for operation and maintenance expenses.

22 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years
23 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
24 the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall
25 submit to Congress a report on—

1 (1) the cost and the environmental, storm dam-
2 age reduction, and social benefits of the pump-out
3 disposal operation carried out under subsection
4 (a)(3), as compared to standard dredging practices
5 for the area; and

6 (2) the total quantity of dredge material pro-
7 duced during operation and maintenance activities in
8 the New Orleans District and the quantity that is
9 beneficially used.

10 (g) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—
11 Nothing in this section affects the authority of the Sec-
12 retary of the Army with respect to the width of the project
13 referred to in subsection (a).

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