

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4750

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the capacity of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas.

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 “Lower Republican
5 River Basin Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.—Pursuant to rec-
8 lamation laws, the Secretary of the Interior, acting
9 through the Bureau of Reclamation and in consultation
10 and cooperation with the States of Nebraska, Kansas, and
11 Colorado, may conduct a study to—

12 (1) determine the feasibility of implementing a
13 water supply and conservation project that will—

14 (A) improve water supply reliability in the
15 Republican River Basin between Harlan County
16 Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas,
17 including areas in the counties of Harlan,
18 Franklin, Webster, and Nuckolls in Nebraska
19 and Jewel, Republic, Cloud, Washington, and
20 Clay in Kansas (in this section referred to as
21 the “Republican River Basin”);

22 (B) increase the capacity of water storage
23 through modifications of existing projects or
24 through new projects that serve areas in the
25 Republican River Basin; and

1 (C) improve water management efficiency
2 in the Republican River Basin through con-
3 servation and other available means and, where
4 appropriate, evaluate integrated water resource
5 management and supply needs in the Repub-
6 lican River Basin; and

7 (2) consider appropriate cost-sharing options
8 for implementation of the project.

9 (b) COST SHARING.—The Federal share of the cost
10 of the study shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost
11 of the study, and shall be nonreimbursable.

12 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
13 shall undertake the study through cooperative agreements
14 with the State of Kansas or Nebraska and other appro-
15 priate entities determined by the Secretary.

16 (d) COMPLETION AND REPORT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
18 graph (2), not later than 3 years after the date of
19 the enactment of this section the Secretary of the
20 Interior shall complete the study and transmit to the
21 Congress a report containing the results of the
22 study.

23 (2) EXTENSION.—If the Secretary determines
24 that the study cannot be completed within the 3-year

1 period beginning on the date of the enactment of
2 this Act, the Secretary—

3 (A) shall, at the time of that determina-
4 tion, report to the Congress on the status of the
5 study, including an estimate of the date of com-
6 pletion; and

7 (B) complete the study and transmit to the
8 Congress a report containing the results of the
9 study by not later than that date.

10 (e) SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the
11 Secretary to carry out any provisions of this Act shall ter-
12 minate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this
13 Act.

Passed the House of Representatives September 27,
2006.

Attest:

Clerk.

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