

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4750

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

Received

NOVEMBER 13, 2006

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## 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:

KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk.*