

Union Calendar No. 372

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4750

[Report No. 109-632]

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2006

Mr. OSBORNE (for himself and Mr. MORAN of Kansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 14, 2006]

A BILL

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 Repub-

lican 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 River*
5 *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 through*
9 *the Bureau of Reclamation and in consultation and co-*
10 *operation with the States of Nebraska, Kansas, and Colo-*
11 *rado, 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 the*
21 *“Republican River Basin”);*

22 (B) *increase the capacity of water storage*
23 *through modifications of existing projects or*

1 *through new projects that serve areas in the Re-*
2 *publican River Basin; and*

3 (C) *improve water management efficiency*
4 *in the Republican River Basin through conserva-*
5 *tion and other available means and, where ap-*
6 *propriate, evaluate integrated water resource*
7 *management and supply needs in the Republican*
8 *River Basin; and*

9 (2) *consider appropriate cost-sharing options for*
10 *implementation of the project.*

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

14 (c) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall*
15 *undertake the study through cooperative agreements with*
16 *the State of Kansas or Nebraska and other appropriate enti-*
17 *ties determined by the Secretary.*

18 (d) *COMPLETION AND REPORT.—*

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

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

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

3 *(A) shall, at the time of that determination,*
4 *report to the Congress on the status of the study,*
5 *including an estimate of the date of completion;*
6 *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 Sec-*
11 *retary to carry out any provisions of this Act shall termi-*
12 *nate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

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