

Union Calendar No. 670

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 726

[Report No. 119–769]

To amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2025

Mr. DOWNING (for himself and Mr. ZINKE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

AUGUST 27, 2026

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 January 24, 2025]

A BILL

To amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, 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 “Crow Tribe Water*
 5 *Rights Settlement Amendments Act of 2025”.*

6 **SEC. 2. CROW TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT.**

7 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—Section 403 of the Crow Tribe
 8 *Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291;*
 9 *124 Stat. 3097) is amended—*

10 (1) *by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the*
 11 *following:*

12 “(11) *MR&I PROJECT.*—*The term ‘MR&I*
 13 *Project’ means an activity described in clauses (i)*
 14 *through (iii) of section 411(e)(3)(F).”;* and

15 (2) *in paragraph (12)—*

16 (A) *in the paragraph heading, by striking*
 17 *“SYSTEM” and inserting “PROJECTS”;* and

18 (B) *in subparagraphs (A) through (C), by*
 19 *striking “System” each place it appears and in-*
 20 *serting “Projects”.*

21 (b) *REPEAL OF MR&I SYSTEM.*—

22 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 406 of the Crow Tribe
 23 *Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law*
 24 *111–291; 124 Stat. 3102) is repealed.*

1 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of con-*
 2 *tents for the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public*
 3 *Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3064) is amended by striking*
 4 *the item relating to section 406.*

5 (c) *CROW SETTLEMENT FUND.*—*Section 411 of the*
 6 *Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public*
 7 *Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3113) is amended—*

8 (1) *in subsection (a), by striking “to be adminis-*
 9 *tered by the Secretary” and inserting “to be managed,*
 10 *invested, and distributed by the Secretary and to re-*
 11 *main available until expended, withdrawn, or re-*
 12 *verted to the general fund of the Treasury, consisting*
 13 *of amounts deposited in the Fund under subsection*
 14 *(b), together with any investment earnings, including*
 15 *interest, earned on those amounts,”;*

16 (2) *in subsection (c)—*

17 (A) *in paragraph (3), by striking “System”*
 18 *and inserting “Projects”; and*

19 (B) *by adding at the end the following:*

20 “(5)(A) *The MR&I Projects Account, to be estab-*
 21 *lished as soon as practicable after the date of enact-*
 22 *ment of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement*
 23 *Amendments Act of 2025, consisting of—*

24 “(i) *amounts made available pursuant*
 25 *to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 414(b)*

1 that are appropriated after the date of en-
 2 actment of the Crow Tribe Water Rights
 3 Settlement Amendments Act of 2025; and

4 “(ii) amounts to be deposited pursuant
 5 to section 414(h)(2).

6 “(B) Amounts deposited into the MR&I Projects
 7 Account shall be further deposited into the special
 8 joint signature account named ‘MR&I Account’ estab-
 9 lished pursuant to the agreement with the Tribe dated
 10 September 13, 2012, prior to any investment earnings
 11 accruing or becoming available.”;

12 (3) in subsection (e)—

13 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-
 14 graph (C) and inserting the following:

15 “(C) the American Indian Trust Fund
 16 Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.
 17 4001 *et seq.*).”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (3)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 20 “through (E)” and inserting “through (F)”;

21 (ii) in subparagraph (E)—

22 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
 23 by striking “SYSTEM” and inserting
 24 “PROJECTS”; and

1 (ii) by striking “System” each
2 place it appears and inserting
3 “Projects”; and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(F) MR&I PROJECTS ACCOUNT.—Funds
7 from the MR&I Projects Account shall be used
8 for expenditures by the Tribe in accordance with
9 the following:

10 “(i) PRIORITY USE OF FUNDS.—The
11 Tribe shall use funds from the MR&I
12 Projects Account—

13 “(I) to plan, permit, design, engi-
14 neer, construct, reconstruct, replace, re-
15 habilitate, operate, or repair water
16 production, treatment, or delivery in-
17 frastructure, including for domestic
18 and municipal use or wastewater in-
19 frastructure; and

20 “(II) to comply with applicable
21 environmental laws for the activities
22 described in subclause (I).

23 “(ii) OTHER USE OF FUNDS.—After
24 providing written notice to the Secretary
25 that on-Reservation MR&I projects de-

1 scribed in clause (i) are complete, the Tribe
 2 may use funds remaining in the MR&I
 3 Projects Account to purchase on-Reservation
 4 land with water rights.”; and

5 (4) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(i) *TITLE TO INFRASTRUCTURE.*—Title to, control
 7 over, and operation of any project constructed using funds
 8 from the MR&I Projects Account shall remain in the Tribe.

9 “(j) *OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACE-*
 10 *MENT.*—The Federal Government shall have no obligation
 11 to pay for the operation, maintenance, or replacement of
 12 any MR&I Project.”.

13 (d) *YELLOWTAIL DAM, MONTANA.*—Subsection (b)(1)
 14 of section 412 of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement
 15 Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3116) is
 16 amended by striking “15 years” and inserting “20 years”.

17 (e) *FUNDING.*—Section 414 of the Crow Tribe Water
 18 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124
 19 Stat. 3120) is amended in subsection (e)—

20 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “SYS-
 21 TEM” and inserting “PROJECTS”; and

22 (2) by striking “System” and inserting
 23 “Projects”.

24 (f) *TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—

1 (1) *Section 403(9) of the Crow Tribe Water*
2 *Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291;*
3 *124 Stat. 3098) is amended by striking “(25 U.S.C.*
4 *450b)” and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304)”.*

5 (2) *Section 410(e)(1) of the Crow Tribe Water*
6 *Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291;*
7 *124 Stat. 3112) is amended in subparagraph (C), by*
8 *striking “agreements with the Tribe required by sec-*
9 *tions 405(a) and 406(a)” and inserting “agreement*
10 *with the Tribe required by section 405(a)”.*

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