

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7287

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the capacity and reach of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. FEENSTRA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the capacity and reach of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota.

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 “Lewis and Clark Re-
5 gional Water System Expansion Feasibility Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITY.—The
4 term “non-Federal project entity” means—

5 (A) the Lewis and Clark Regional Water
6 System, Inc.; and

7 (B) any nonprofit successor entity to the
8 corporation described in subparagraph (A).

9 (2) PROPOSED RURAL WATER SUPPLY
10 PROJECT.—The term “proposed rural water supply
11 project” means the proposed project to supply mu-
12 nicipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the ca-
13 pacity and reach of the Lewis and Clark Regional
14 Water System in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and
15 South Dakota.

16 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

18 **SEC. 3. LEWIS AND CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM EX-**
19 **PANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

20 (a) STUDY.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
22 tion with the non-Federal project entity, shall carry
23 out a study to determine the feasibility of the pro-
24 posed rural water supply project.

25 (2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—After completion of
26 the feasibility study for the proposed rural water

1 supply project under paragraph (1), the Secretary
2 shall—

3 (A) develop a feasibility report that in-
4 cludes a recommendation of the Secretary on—

5 (i) whether the proposed rural water
6 supply project should be authorized for
7 construction; and

8 (ii) the appropriate non-Federal share
9 of construction costs, which shall be—

10 (I) at least 25 percent of the
11 total construction costs; and

12 (II) determined based on an
13 analysis of the financial capability-to-
14 pay the allocated construction and op-
15 erations, maintenance, and replace-
16 ment costs of the recommended plan;

17 (B) submit the report under subparagraph
18 (A) to the Committee on Energy and Natural
19 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on
20 Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
21 tives; and

22 (C) make the report under subparagraph
23 (A) publicly available, along with associated fea-
24 sibility study documents.

1 (3) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—In ad-
2 dition to the non-Federal project entity, the Sec-
3 retary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate
4 Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local authorities
5 during the conduct of the feasibility study and devel-
6 opment of the feasibility report under this sub-
7 section.

8 (b) COST-SHARING AGREEMENT FOR FEASIBILITY
9 STUDY COSTS.—The Secretary shall enter into a cost-
10 sharing agreement (or an appropriate financial assistance
11 agreement, as determined by the Secretary) with the non-
12 Federal project entity to conduct a study under subsection
13 (a) that complies with the reclamation feasibility stand-
14 ards.

15 (c) FEDERAL SHARE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY
16 COSTS.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying
17 out the feasibility study under subsection (a) shall not ex-
18 ceed 50 percent.

19 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
21 out this section \$10,000,000.

22 (e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority
23 provided by this section expires on the date that is 10
24 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

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