

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7845

To amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 with respect to the total amount of Federal assistance for projects in States experiencing severe drought, regionally and nationally significant projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2026

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. LEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 with respect to the total amount of Federal assistance for projects in States experiencing severe drought, regionally and nationally significant projects, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Drought Relief Ob-
3 tained Using Government Help Today Act of 2026” or
4 the “DROUGHT Act of 2026”.

5 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN WATER INFRA-**
6 **STRUCTURE PROJECTS.**

7 Section 5029(b)(9) of the Water Infrastructure Fi-
8 nance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908(b)(9))
9 is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(D) EXCEPTIONS FOR CERTAIN
11 PROJECTS.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
13 subparagraph (A), the total amount of
14 Federal assistance for a covered project for
15 which assistance is provided under this
16 subtitle shall not exceed 90 percent of the
17 total project cost.

18 “(ii) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this
19 section, the Secretary or the Adminis-
20 trator, as applicable shall prioritize financ-
21 ing for covered projects.

22 “(iii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
23 graph, the term ‘covered project’ means a
24 project described in paragraph (6) or (7)
25 of section 5026—

26 “(I) that is located in—

1 “(aa) a State that has been
2 designated as D2 (severe
3 drought) or greater according to
4 the United States Drought Mon-
5 itor for a minimum of 4 weeks
6 during the 5-year period pre-
7 ceding the date on which assist-
8 ance is provided for the project
9 under this subtitle; or

10 “(bb) a county for which a
11 drought emergency has been de-
12 clared by the applicable Governor
13 at any time during such period;

14 “(II) that serves—

15 “(aa) an area in which, on
16 the date on which assistance is
17 provided for the project under
18 this subtitle, the average house-
19 hold income is at or below 200
20 percent of the poverty threshold
21 established by the Bureau of the
22 Census; or

23 “(bb) an area that meets the
24 affordability criteria established
25 by a State pursuant to section

1 1452(d)(3) of the Safe Drinking
2 Water Act (42 U.S.C.
3 300j12(d)(3)) or section
4 603(i)(2) of the Federal Water
5 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
6 1383(i)(2)); or

7 “(III) that the Secretary or the
8 Administrator, as applicable, has des-
9 ignated to be a project of regional or
10 national significance because the
11 project demonstrably—

12 “(aa) increases drinking
13 water supply capacity or reli-
14 ability;

15 “(bb) enhances water reuse
16 or recycling;

17 “(cc) reduces regional water
18 usage;

19 “(dd) lowers costs to rate-
20 payers; or

21 “(ee) provides substantial
22 public health or environmental
23 benefits.”.

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