

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 240

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Crow Tribe Water
3 Rights Settlement Amendments Act of 2025”.

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

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

8 (1) by striking paragraph (11) and inserting
9 the following:

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

13 (2) in paragraph (12)—

14 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
15 “SYSTEM” and inserting “PROJECTS”; and

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

19 (b) REPEAL OF MR&I SYSTEM.—

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22 Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3102) is repealed.

23 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
24 tents for the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public
25 Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3064) is amended by strik-
26 ing the item relating to section 406.

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

4 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “to be admin-
5 istered by the Secretary” and inserting “to be man-
6 aged, invested, and distributed by the Secretary and
7 to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or re-
8 verted to the general fund of the Treasury, con-
9 sisting of amounts deposited in the Fund under sub-
10 section (b), together with any investment earnings,
11 including interest, earned on those amounts,”;

12 (2) in subsections (b) and (c), by striking “sec-
13 tion 414” each place it appears and inserting “sec-
14 tion 415”;

15 (3) in subsection (c)—

16 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “Sys-
17 tem” and inserting “Projects”; and

18 (B) by adding at the end the following:

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

23 “(A) amounts made available pursuant to
24 paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 415(b) that
25 are appropriated after the date of enactment of

1 the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement
 2 Amendments Act of 2025; and

3 “(B) amounts to be deposited pursuant to
 4 section 415(h)(2).”;

5 (4) in subsection (e)—

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

8 “(C) the American Indian Trust Fund
 9 Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.
 10 4001 et seq.).”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (3)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 13 “through (E)” and inserting “through
 14 (F)”;

15 (ii) in subparagraph (C)(i), by strik-
 16 ing “section 412” and inserting “section
 17 413”;

18 (iii) in subparagraph (E)—

19 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
 20 by striking “SYSTEM” and inserting
 21 “PROJECTS”; and

22 (II) by striking “System” each
 23 place it appears and inserting
 24 “Projects”; and

1 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

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

7 “(i) PRIORITY USE OF FUNDS.—The
8 Tribe shall use funds from the MR&I
9 Projects Account—

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

17 “(II) to comply with applicable
18 environmental laws for the activities
19 described in subclause (I).

20 “(ii) OTHER USE OF FUNDS.—After
21 providing written notice to the Secretary
22 that on-Reservation MR&I projects de-
23 scribed in clause (i) are complete, the
24 Tribe may use funds remaining in the

1 MR&I Projects Account to purchase on-
2 Reservation land with water rights.”;

3 (5) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “section
4 414” and inserting “section 415”; and

5 (6) 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
9 Tribe.

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

14 (d) CROW CIP IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT.—The
15 Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (31
16 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–291) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating sections 412 through 416
18 as sections 413 through 417, respectively; and

19 (2) by inserting after section 411 the following:

20 **“SEC. 412. CROW CIP IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT.**

21 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
22 lish a nontrust, interest-bearing account, to be known as
23 the ‘Crow CIP Implementation Account’, to be managed
24 and distributed by the Secretary.

1 “(b) DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall deposit in the
2 Crow CIP Implementation Account—

3 “(1) amounts made available pursuant to para-
4 graphs (1) and (2) of section 415(a) that are appro-
5 priated after the date of enactment of the Crow
6 Tribe Water Rights Settlement Amendments Act of
7 2025; and

8 “(2) amounts to be deposited pursuant to sec-
9 tion 415(h)(1).

10 “(c) USES.—Amounts in the Crow CIP Implementa-
11 tion Account shall be used to carry out section 405.

12 “(d) INTEREST.—In addition to the deposits made
13 into the Crow CIP Implementation Account pursuant to
14 subsection (b), any investment earnings, including interest
15 credited to amounts unexpended in the Crow CIP Imple-
16 mentation Account, shall be available for use in accord-
17 ance with subsection (c).”.

18 (e) YELLOWTAIL DAM, MONTANA.—Subsection
19 (b)(1) of section 413 of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Set-
20 tlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat.
21 3116) (as redesignated by subsection (d)(1)) is amended
22 by striking “15 years” and inserting “20 years”.

23 (f) FUNDING.—Section 415 of the Crow Tribe Water
24 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124

1 Stat. 3120) (as redesignated by subsection (d)(1)) is
2 amended—

3 (1) in subsection (e)—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
5 “SYSTEM” and inserting “PROJECTS”; and

6 (B) by striking “System” and inserting
7 “Projects”;

8 (2) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(h) JOINT SIGNATURE ACCOUNTS.—The Secretary
11 shall take all actions necessary to authorize the withdrawal
12 of funds, including principal and interest, held and main-
13 tained in joint signature accounts in accordance with the
14 following:

15 “(1) CROW CIP IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT.—
16 In the special joint signature account named ‘CIP
17 Account’ established pursuant to the agreement with
18 the Tribe dated October 19, 2011, for the purpose
19 of transferring and depositing those funds in the
20 Crow CIP Implementation Account established
21 under section 412(a).

22 “(2) MR&I PROJECTS ACCOUNT.—In the spe-
23 cial joint signature account named ‘MR&I Account’
24 established pursuant to the agreement with the
25 Tribe dated September 13, 2012, for the purpose of

1 transferring and depositing those funds in the MR&I
 2 Projects Account established pursuant to section
 3 411(c)(5).”; and

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

5 “(j) MR&I PROJECTS ACCOUNT FLUCTUATIONS IN
 6 COSTS.—

7 “(1) INDEXING ADJUSTMENT.—Amounts depos-
 8 ited in the MR&I Projects Account pursuant to sec-
 9 tion 411(c)(5)(A) shall be increased or decreased, as
 10 appropriate, by such amounts as may be justified by
 11 reason of ordinary fluctuations in costs occurring
 12 after May 1, 2008, as indicated by the Bureau of
 13 Reclamation Construction Cost Index–Composite
 14 Trend.

15 “(2) PERIOD OF INDEXING.—The period of in-
 16 dexing adjustment under paragraph (1), for any in-
 17 crement of funding, shall end on the date on which
 18 the amounts are deposited in the MR&I Projects Ac-
 19 count.”.

20 (g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

21 (1) Section 403(9) of the Crow Tribe Water
 22 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–
 23 291; 124 Stat. 3098) is amended by striking “(25
 24 U.S.C. 450b)” and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304)”.

(2) Section 409(b) of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3108) is amended, in each of paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking “section 414” and inserting “section 415”.

(3) Section 410(e)(1) of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3112) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “section 414” and inserting “section 415”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “agreements with the Tribe required by sections 405(a) and 406(a)” and inserting “agreement with the Tribe required by section 405(a)”.

(4) Section 416 of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (31 U.S.C. 1105 note; Public Law 111–291) (as redesignated by subsection (d)(1)) is amended, in each of paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking “section 414” and inserting “section 415”.

(h) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3064) is amended by striking the items relating to sections 407 through 416 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 407. Tribal water rights.

- “Sec. 408. Storage allocation from Bighorn Lake.
- “Sec. 409. Satisfaction of claims.
- “Sec. 410. Waivers and releases of claims.
- “Sec. 411. Crow Settlement Fund.
- “Sec. 412. Crow CIP Implementation Account.
- “Sec. 413. Yellowtail Dam, Montana.
- “Sec. 414. Miscellaneous provisions.
- “Sec. 415. Funding.
- “Sec. 416. Repeal on failure to meet enforceability date.
- “Sec. 417. Antideficiency.”.

Passed the Senate December 11, 2025.

Attest:

Secretary.

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