

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3723

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 from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2026

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and 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 from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, 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 “Western South Dakota
5 Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITY.—The
 2 term “non-Federal project entity” means the West-
 3 ern Dakota Regional Water System, Inc., a non-
 4 profit corporation.

5 (2) PROPOSED RURAL WATER SUPPLY
 6 PROJECT.—The term “proposed rural water supply
 7 project” means the proposed project to supply mu-
 8 nicipal, rural, and industrial water from the Mis-
 9 souri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water
 10 System.

11 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 12 the Secretary of the Interior.

13 **SEC. 3. WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA WATER SUPPLY**
 14 **PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

15 (a) STUDY.—

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

20 (2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—After completion of
 21 the feasibility study for the proposed rural water
 22 supply project under paragraph (1), the Secretary
 23 shall—

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

1 (i) whether the proposed rural water
2 supply project should be authorized for
3 construction; and

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

6 (I) at least 25 percent of the
7 total construction costs; and

8 (II) determined based on an
9 analysis of the financial capability-to-
10 pay the allocated construction and op-
11 erations, maintenance, and replace-
12 ment costs of the recommended plan;

13 (B) submit the report under subparagraph
14 (A) to the Committee on Energy and Natural
15 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on
16 Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
17 tives; and

18 (C) make the report under subparagraph
19 (A) publicly available, along with associated fea-
20 sibility study documents.

21 (3) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—In ad-
22 dition to the non-Federal project entity, the Sec-
23 retary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate
24 Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local authorities
25 during the conduct of the feasibility study and devel-

1 opment of the feasibility report under this sub-
2 section.

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

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

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

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

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