

Calendar No. 653

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 2751****[Report No. 109–356]**

To strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's
drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4, 2006

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

Reported by Mr. STEVENS, without amendment

A BILL

To strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.

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 “National Integrated
5 Drought Information System Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. NOAA PROGRAM TO MONITOR AND FORECAST**
2 **DROUGHTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Com-
4 merce for Oceans and Atmosphere shall establish a Na-
5 tional Integrated Drought Information System within the
6 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

7 (b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The System shall—

8 (1) provide an effective drought early warning
9 system that—

10 (A) is a comprehensive system that collects
11 and integrates information on the key indica-
12 tors of drought in order to make usable, reli-
13 able, and timely drought forecasts and assess-
14 ments of drought, including assessments of the
15 severity of drought conditions and impacts;

16 (B) communicates drought forecasts,
17 drought conditions, and drought impacts on an
18 ongoing basis to—

19 (i) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
20 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of gov-
21 ernment;

22 (ii) the private sector; and

23 (iii) the public,

24 in order to facilitate better informed, more
25 timely decisions and support drought mitigation

1 and preparedness programs that will reduce im-
2 pacts and costs; and

3 (C) includes timely (where possible real-
4 time) data, information, and products that re-
5 flect local, regional, and State differences in
6 drought conditions;

7 (2) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
8 Federal research in support of a drought early warn-
9 ing system, improved forecasts, and the development
10 of mitigation and preparedness tools and techniques;

11 (3) build upon existing drought forecasting, as-
12 sessment, and mitigation programs at the National
13 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including
14 programs conducted in partnership with other Fed-
15 eral departments and agencies and existing research
16 partnerships, such as that with the National
17 Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Ne-
18 braska-Lincoln; and

19 (4) be incorporated into the Global Earth Ob-
20 servation System of Systems.

21 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Under Secretary shall con-
22 sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local
23 government agencies, research institutions, and the pri-
24 vate sector in the development of the National Integrated
25 Drought Information System.

1 (d) COOPERATION FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-
 2 CIES.—Each Federal agency shall cooperate as appro-
 3 priate with the Under Secretary in carrying out this Act.

4 (e) DROUGHT DEFINED.—In this section, the term
 5 “drought” means a deficiency in precipitation—

6 (1) that leads to a deficiency in surface or sub-
 7 surface water supplies (including rivers, streams,
 8 wetlands, ground water, soil moisture, reservoir sup-
 9 plies, lake levels, and snow pack); and

10 (2) that causes or may cause—

11 (A) substantial economic or social impacts;

12 or

13 (B) substantial physical damage or injury
 14 to individuals, property, or the environment.

15 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
 17 retary of Commerce for use by the Under Secretary of
 18 Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in implementing
 19 section 2—

20 (1) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

21 (2) \$9,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

22 (3) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009
 23 and 2010; and

24 (4) \$11,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011
 25 and 2012.

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