

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6700

To modify the project for Central and Southern Florida to include public health and safety considerations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

Mr. MAST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To modify the project for Central and Southern Florida to include public health and safety considerations, 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 “Stop Harmful Dis-
5 charges Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN**
7 **FLORIDA SYSTEM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The project for Central and
9 Southern Florida authorized by Section 203 of Public Law
10 80–858 (62 Stat. 1175), as amended, is modified to in-

1 clude public health and safety as the primary consider-
2 ation for all authorized project purposes. Such authorized
3 project purposes shall include—

- 4 (1) flood control;
- 5 (2) navigation;
- 6 (3) water supply for agricultural irrigation, mu-
7 nicipalities, industry, and Everglades National Park;
- 8 (4) regional groundwater control, and salinity
9 control;
- 10 (5) enhancement of fish and wildlife; and
- 11 (6) recreation.

12 (b) PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.—For the pur-
13 poses of this Act, the term “public health and safety” is
14 defined as follows:

15 (1) Managing Lake Okeechobee and the Central
16 and Southern Florida system—

17 (A) to minimize the potential of toxic
18 cyanobacteria blooms; and

19 (B) prevent discharges containing cyano-
20 bacteria or related toxins into the St. Lucie and
21 Caloosahatchee watersheds and other areas
22 where such cyanobacteria or related toxins will
23 cause or exacerbate public health risks.

24 (2) Ensuring the integrity and stability of the
25 Herbert Hoover Dike.

1 (3) Maintaining all provisions of applicable
2 State and Federal water quality laws, policies and
3 regulations.

4 (4) Ensuring necessary water volume and qual-
5 ity reaches the Everglades National Park, Florida
6 Bay and Caloosahatchee Watershed to restore the
7 natural habitat.

8 (c) MODIFICATION OF OPERATIONS.—The Secretary
9 of the Army shall modify operations of all current project
10 elements to ensure that public health and safety shall be
11 the prime consideration for the operating regimes of these
12 various elements.

13 (d) MASTER OPERATIONAL MANUAL.—The Sec-
14 retary of the Army shall update or develop a Master Oper-
15 ational Manual, in cooperation with the State of Florida,
16 to ensure that all of the various existing operational
17 project elements of the Central and Southern Florida
18 project shall be managed as a system to protect public
19 health and safety. As new elements are completed and
20 added to the project, the Master Operational Manual shall
21 be updated to include the new features.

22 (e) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Army, in conjunc-
23 tion with the National Academies of Sciences, shall under-
24 take a study of the legacy of pollution and nutrient loading
25 as well as the impacts of soil amendments that contribute

1 to nutrient uptake that have occurred to Lake Okeechobee
2 from current and past operational regimes. The study
3 shall include—

4 (1) the components of the nutrient load and soil
5 amendments, and how this nutrient loading is and
6 will continue to impact Everglades restoration ef-
7 forts; and

8 (2) proposed solutions to ameliorate the impacts
9 of this pollution to downstream watersheds.

10 (f) SCOPE.—Nothing in this section shall be con-
11 strued to alter or amend—

12 (1) the Water Rights Compact between the
13 State of Florida and the Seminole Tribe and the
14 Miccosukee Tribe;

15 (2) the Miccosukee Tribe’s access to water; or

16 (3) the schedule for completion of the Central
17 Everglades Planning Project or Central Everglades
18 Restoration Plan projects authorized on or before
19 December 31, 2018.

20 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
22 essary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

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