

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6961

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a grant program to award grants to qualified partnerships to remove non-native plant species that contribute to drought conditions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a grant program to award grants to qualified partnerships to remove non-native plant species that contribute to drought conditions, 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 “Drought Relief
5 through Innovative Projects Act” or the “DRIP Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NON-NATIVE PLANT SPECIES REMOVAL GRANT**
2 **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
4 grant program to award grants, on a competitive basis,
5 to qualified partnerships to—

6 (1) remove non-native plant species that con-
7 tribute to drought conditions; and

8 (2) replace such non-native plant species with
9 native plant species.

10 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
11 under this section, a qualified partnership shall submit an
12 application to the Secretary, at such time, in such manner,
13 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
14 quire, including—

15 (1) a plan for how the qualified partnership will
16 use the grant funds to carry out the activities de-
17 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a);

18 (2) how the qualified partnership consulted with
19 local stakeholders, including conservation groups, to
20 establish the plan described under paragraph (1);
21 and

22 (3) information demonstrating that the native
23 plant species replaced pursuant to such grant will—

24 (A) reduce flood risk, improve hydrology
25 and water storage capacities, or reduce fire haz-
26 ard; and

1 (B) protect and restore rivers and streams
2 and associated riparian habitats, including fish
3 and wildlife resources that are dependent on
4 such habitats.

5 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) NON-NATIVE PLANT SPECIES.—The term
7 “non-native plant species” means a plant species
8 that—

9 (A) is non-native (or alien) to an eco-
10 system; and

11 (B) when introduced to such ecosystem
12 causes, or is likely to cause, economic harm, en-
13 vironmental harm, or harm to human health.

14 (2) QUALIFIED PARTNERSHIP.—The term
15 “qualified partnership” means a partnership be-
16 tween the following:

17 (A) At least 1 flood control district.

18 (B) At least 1 city, county, township, town,
19 borough, parish, village, or other general pur-
20 pose political subdivision of a State.

21 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of Agriculture.

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

- 1 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year
- 2 thereafter.

