

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7087

To require development and implementation of an interagency plan to assist communities affected by climate change in the Ohio River Basin, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 23, 2018

Mr. LAMB (for himself, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require development and implementation of an interagency plan to assist communities affected by climate change in the Ohio River Basin, 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 “Ohio River Basin Pre-
5 paredness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY PLAN.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
3 date of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency
4 described in subsection (d) shall coordinate to develop and
5 issue an interagency plan for such agencies to assist
6 States, Indian tribes, and communities in the Ohio River
7 Basin in preparing for, and responding to, the effects of
8 climate change, including by—

9 (1) informing such States, Indian tribes, and
10 communities of existing Federal resources available
11 to such States, Indian tribes, and communities,
12 based on the analysis described in subsection (b)(2);
13 and

14 (2) providing assistance through the Environ-
15 mental Protection Agency’s Smart Growth Program,
16 the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Pre-
17 Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, the Department
18 of Housing and Urban Development’s Community
19 Development Block Grant program, the Economic
20 Development Administration of the Department of
21 Commerce, and the Department of Agriculture, to
22 such States, Indian tribes, and communities to help
23 them prepare for extreme weather, major floods, ris-
24 ing temperatures, and potential economic losses
25 from such threats.

1 (b) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the interagency
2 plan under subsection (a), the agencies described in sub-
3 section (d) shall—

4 (1) consult with States, Indian tribes, and com-
5 munities in the Ohio River Basin that may be af-
6 fected by climate change; and

7 (2) include in such interagency plan—

8 (A) identification of the particular needs of
9 such States, Indian tribes, and communities in
10 order for such States, Indian tribes, and com-
11 munities to adequately prepare for, and respond
12 to, the effects of climate change; and

13 (B) an analysis of—

14 (i) the availability of existing and po-
15 tential Federal resources, including pro-
16 grams, grants, loans, and other assistance,
17 that such agencies may provide to assist
18 States, Indian tribes, and communities in
19 the Ohio River Basin in preparing for, and
20 responding to, the effects of climate
21 change (including assistance in building or
22 modernizing infrastructure), including—

23 (I) Corps of Engineers resources
24 related to—

1 (aa) modernizing and hard-
2 ening levees, floodwalls, and flood
3 control projects for more extreme
4 weather flooding events;

5 (bb) restoring wetlands so
6 that such wetlands may absorb
7 rain;

8 (cc) reconnecting floodplains
9 to rivers in order to allow for
10 natural flood storage;

11 (dd) developing a basin-wide
12 water management plan, in col-
13 laboration with the Department
14 of Agriculture, Tennessee Valley
15 Authority, and water manage-
16 ment agencies of the States in
17 the Ohio River Basin; and

18 (ee) updating and modern-
19 izing operations manuals for
20 dams and reservoirs operated by
21 the Corps of Engineers to ac-
22 count for future water risks, pre-
23 cipitation, flow patterns, and
24 usage;

1 (II) Environmental Protection
2 Agency resources and Department of
3 Agriculture resources related to mod-
4 ernizing drinking water and waste-
5 water treatment and stormwater man-
6 agement;

7 (III) Department of Transpor-
8 tation resources related to raising or
9 hardening critical transportation in-
10 frastructure that may be vulnerable to
11 flooding;

12 (IV) United States Geological
13 Survey resources and Environmental
14 Protection Agency resources related to
15 water quality and flow discharge mon-
16 itoring and modeling; and

17 (V) Federal Emergency Manage-
18 ment Agency resources related to up-
19 dating and modernizing flood hazard
20 maps to incorporate the latest science
21 and future risk projections; and

22 (ii) the limitations of existing Federal
23 resources that such agencies may so pro-
24 vide, including—

1 (I) the limitations of such re-
2 sources in meeting the particular
3 needs of such States, Indian tribes,
4 and communities identified under sub-
5 paragraph (A); and

6 (II) recommendations—

7 (aa) for Congress regarding
8 any statutory changes regarding
9 existing Federal programs, or ad-
10 ditional Federal funding, that the
11 agencies determine are necessary
12 to assist such States, Indian
13 tribes, and communities in pre-
14 paring for, and responding to,
15 the effects of climate change; and

16 (bb) for additional Federal,
17 State, and local resources that
18 the agencies determine are nec-
19 essary to so assist such States,
20 Indian tribes, and communities.

21 (c) PUBLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.—

22 (1) PUBLICATION.—Upon issuance of the inter-
23 agency plan developed under subsection (a), the plan
24 shall be published on the public internet website
25 of—

1 (A) the Environmental Protection Agency;

2 (B) the Assistant Secretary of the Army
3 for Civil Works; and

4 (C) the Great Lakes and Ohio River Divi-
5 sion of the Corps of Engineers.

6 (2) DEADLINE.—Not later than 30 days after
7 the interagency plan developed under subsection (a)
8 is issued, each head of an agency described in sub-
9 section (d) shall implement such interagency plan.

10 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In implementing
11 the interagency plan developed under subsection (a),
12 the heads of the agencies described in subsection (d)
13 shall provide technical assistance and expertise to
14 States, Indian tribes, and communities in the Ohio
15 River Basin.

16 (d) AGENCIES DESCRIBED.—The agencies described
17 in this subsection are as follows:

18 (1) The Corps of Engineers.

19 (2) The Environmental Protection Agency.

20 (3) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
21 ministration.

22 (4) The Department of the Interior.

23 (5) The Department of Agriculture.

24 (6) The Department of Transportation.

1 (7) The Federal Emergency Management Agen-
2 cy.

3 (8) The United States Geological Survey.

4 (9) The Department of Housing and Urban De-
5 velopment.

6 (10) The Department of Commerce.

7 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON**
8 **ELECTRIC UTILITIES.**

9 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
10 of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall publish, on the
11 public internet website of the Department of Energy, a
12 report that includes—

13 (1) an analysis of—

14 (A) the potential vulnerabilities of electric
15 utilities that are located in, or serve electric
16 consumers in, the Ohio River Basin, to climate
17 change and extreme weather; and

18 (B) the impacts of climate change and ex-
19 treme weather on such electric utilities; and

20 (2) recommendations and technical assistance,
21 as appropriate, to assist such electric utilities in pre-
22 paring for climate change and extreme weather.

23 **SEC. 4. DEFINITION.**

24 In this Act, the term “Ohio River Basin” means the
25 Ohio River Basin as identified in the Corps of Engineers’

1 study titled “Ohio River Basin-Formulating Climate
2 Change Mitigation/Adaptation Strategies through Re-
3 gional Collaboration with the ORB Alliance” (May 2017).

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