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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee introduced the following bill; which was referred
to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To implement a National Water Research and Development
Initiative, 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 “National Water Re-
5 search and Development Initiative Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
7 **INITIATIVE.**

8 (a) INITIATIVE AND PURPOSE.—The President shall
9 implement a National Water Research and Development

1 Initiative (in this Act referred to as the “Initiative”). The
2 purpose of the Initiative is to improve the Federal Govern-
3 ment’s role in designing and implementing Federal water
4 research, development, demonstration, data collection and
5 dissemination, education, and technology transfer activi-
6 ties to address changes in water use, supply, and demand
7 in the United States, including providing additional sup-
8 port to increase water supply through greater efficiency
9 and conservation.

10 (b) INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 months
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Presi-
13 dent shall establish, or designate, an interagency
14 committee to implement the Initiative under sub-
15 section (a). The Office of Science and Technology
16 Policy shall chair the interagency committee.

17 (2) COMPOSITION.—The interagency committee
18 shall include a representative from each agency that
19 conducts research related to water or has authority
20 over resources that affect water supply, as well as a
21 representative from the Office of Management and
22 Budget.

23 (3) FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERAGENCY COM-
24 MITTEE.—The interagency committee shall—

1 (A) develop a National Water Research
2 and Assessment Plan (in this Act referred to as
3 the “plan”) in accordance with subsection (c);

4 (B) coordinate all Federal research, devel-
5 opment, demonstration, data collection and dis-
6 semination, education, and technology transfer
7 activities pertaining to water;

8 (C) encourage cooperation among Federal
9 agencies with respect to water-related research,
10 development, and technological innovation ac-
11 tivities to avoid duplication of effort and to en-
12 sure optimal use of resources and expertise; and

13 (D) facilitate technology transfer, commu-
14 nication, and opportunities for information ex-
15 change with non-governmental organizations,
16 State and local governments, industry, and
17 other members of the stakeholder community
18 through the office established in paragraph (4).

19 (4) NATIONAL WATER INITIATIVE COORDINA-
20 TION OFFICE.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3
22 months after the date of enactment of this Act,
23 the President shall establish a National Water
24 Initiative Coordination Office (in this Act re-

1 ferred to as the “Office”), with full-time staff,
2 to—

3 (i) provide technical and administra-
4 tive support to the interagency committee;

5 (ii) serve as a point of contact on
6 Federal water activities for government
7 agencies, organizations, academia, indus-
8 try, professional societies, and others to ex-
9 change technical and programmatic infor-
10 mation; and

11 (iii) communicate with the public on
12 the findings and recommendations of the
13 interagency committee based on the activi-
14 ties conducted pursuant to the Initiative.

15 (B) FUNDING.—The operation of the Of-
16 fice shall be supported by funds contributed
17 from each agency represented on the inter-
18 agency committee.

19 (c) NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT
20 PLAN.—

21 (1) PLAN DEVELOPMENT.—The plan required
22 under subsection (b)(3)(A) shall establish the prior-
23 ities for Federal water research, including federally-
24 funded research, and assessment for the 4-year pe-
25 riod beginning in the year in which the plan is sub-

1 mitted to Congress. In the development of the plan,
2 the Committee shall consider and utilize rec-
3 ommendations and information in reports that have
4 addressed water research needs, including the 2007
5 report issued by the Subcommittee on Water Avail-
6 ability and Quality (SWAQ) of the National Science
7 and Technology Council's Committee on Environ-
8 ment and Natural Resources and recommendations
9 of the National Academy of Sciences.

10 (2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—The plan
11 shall—

12 (A) identify each current program and ac-
13 tivity of each Federal agency related to the Ini-
14 tiative;

15 (B) identify funding levels for the previous
16 fiscal year for each program and, if applicable,
17 each activity identified in subparagraph (A);

18 (C) set forth a strategy and a timeline to
19 achieve the outcomes described in subsection
20 (d) and shall describe—

21 (i) each activity required of each
22 agency responsible for contributing to each
23 such outcome;

24 (ii) the funding levels necessary to
25 achieve each such outcome; and

1 (iii) the distribution of funds between
2 each agency based on such agency's role in
3 carrying out such activity;

4 (D) be subject to a 90-day public comment
5 period and shall address suggestions received
6 and incorporate public input received, as appro-
7 priate; and

8 (E) be submitted to Congress not later
9 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
10 Act.

11 (d) WATER RESEARCH OUTCOMES.—The plan shall
12 outline and direct agencies under the interagency com-
13 mittee to work to achieve the following outcomes:

14 (1) Implementation of a National Water Cen-
15 sus, which shall include the collection of data on na-
16 tional water resources to create a comprehensive
17 database that includes information about the quan-
18 tity, availability, and quality of ground water and
19 surface water resources.

20 (2) Development of a new generation of water
21 monitoring techniques.

22 (3) Development of technologies for enhancing
23 reliable water supply.

1 (4) Development of innovative technologies and
2 tools to enhance water-use efficiency and tools to en-
3 courage public acceptance of such technologies.

4 (5) Development of tools and processes to facili-
5 tate resolution of conflicts over water resources.

6 (6) Improvement of understanding of water-re-
7 lated ecosystem services and ecosystem needs for
8 water.

9 (7) Improvement of hydrologic prediction mod-
10 els and their applications.

11 (8) Analyses of the energy required to provide
12 reliable water supplies and the water required to
13 provide reliable energy supplies throughout the
14 United States.

15 (e) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The President shall es-
16 tablish, or designate, an advisory committee to advise the
17 interagency committee established under subsection (b).

18 **SEC. 3. BUDGET COORDINATION.**

19 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall provide guid-
20 ance to each Federal agency participating in the Initiative
21 with respect to the preparation of requests for appropria-
22 tions for activities related to the plan.

23 (b) **CONSIDERATION IN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDG-**
24 **ET.**—The President shall submit, at the time of the Presi-
25 dent's annual budget request to Congress, a description

1 of those items in each agency's budget which are elements
2 of the plan or help to achieve the outcomes of the plan.

3 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.**

4 Concurrent with the annual submission of the Presi-
5 dent's budget to Congress, the President shall submit to
6 Congress a report that describes the activities and results
7 of the Initiative during the previous fiscal year and out-
8 lines the objectives for the next fiscal year. The report
9 shall include detailed information on all programs and ac-
10 tivities involved in the Initiative, including an analysis of
11 progress towards achieving the outcomes listed in section
12 2(d).