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(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6489

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HALL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information
System.

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 Reauthorization Act of
6 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. NIDIS PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.**

2 Section 3 of the National Integrated Drought Infor-
3 mation System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) in subsection (a) by inserting before the pe-
6 riod at the end the following: “to better inform and
7 provide for more timely decisionmaking to reduce
8 drought related impacts and costs”;

9 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated
12 Drought Information System shall—

13 “(1) provide an effective drought early warning
14 system that—

15 “(A) collects and integrates information on
16 the key indicators of drought in order to make
17 usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of drought,
18 including assessments of the severity of drought
19 conditions and impacts; and

20 “(B) provides such information, forecasts,
21 and assessments on both national and regional
22 levels;

23 “(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought
24 conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis
25 to—

1 “(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
2 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of govern-
3 ment;

4 “(B) the private sector; and

5 “(C) the public;

6 “(3) provide timely data, information, and
7 products that reflect local, regional, and State dif-
8 ferences in drought conditions;

9 “(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
10 Federal research in support of a drought early warn-
11 ing system;

12 “(5) build upon existing forecasting and assess-
13 ment programs and partnerships; and

14 “(6) continue ongoing research activities related
15 to drought.”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(e) REPORT.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
19 after the date of enactment of the National Inte-
20 grated Drought Information System Reauthorization
21 Act of 2012, the Under Secretary shall transmit to
22 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
23 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
24 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
25 ate a report that contains—

1 “(A) an analysis of the implementation of
2 the National Integrated Drought Information
3 System program, including how the informa-
4 tion, forecasts, and assessments are utilized in
5 drought policy planning and response activities;

6 “(B) specific plans for continued develop-
7 ment of such program, including future mile-
8 stones; and

9 “(C) an identification of research, moni-
10 toring, and forecasting needs to enhance the
11 predictive capability of—

12 “(i) drought early warnings;

13 “(ii) the length and severity of
14 droughts; and

15 “(iii) the contribution of weather
16 events to reducing the severity or ending
17 drought conditions.

18 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report
19 under paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall con-
20 sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal,
21 and local government agencies, research institutions,
22 and the private sector.”.

23 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 Section 4 of such Act is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$13,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through
4 2017.”.