

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10440

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide assistance for States, territories, areas affected by natural disasters, and water systems and schools affected by PFAS or lead, and to require the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate national primary drinking water regulations for PFAS, microcystin toxin, and 1,4-dioxane, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2024

Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. PALLONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide assistance for States, territories, areas affected by natural disasters, and water systems and schools affected by PFAS or lead, and to require the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate national primary drinking water regulations for PFAS, microcystin toxin, and 1,4-dioxane, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2024”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—INFRASTRUCTURE

- Sec. 101. Drinking water system resilience funding.
- Sec. 102. Grants for State programs.
- Sec. 103. Assistance for disadvantaged communities.
- Sec. 104. Allotments for territories.
- Sec. 105. Drinking water SRF funding.
- Sec. 106. Lead service line replacement.
- Sec. 107. Drinking water assistance to colonias.
- Sec. 108. PFAS treatment grants.
- Sec. 109. Grant program for installation of filtration stations at schools and child care programs.
- Sec. 110. Indian reservation drinking water program.
- Sec. 111. Assistance for areas affected by natural disasters.

TITLE II—SAFETY

- Sec. 201. Enabling EPA to set health protective standards for new drinking water contaminants.
- Sec. 202. Citizens’ petitions for new or revised national primary drinking water regulations.
- Sec. 203. National primary drinking water regulations for PFAS.
- Sec. 204. National primary drinking water regulations for microcystin toxin.
- Sec. 205. National primary drinking water regulations for 1,4-dioxane.
- Sec. 206. National primary drinking water regulations for chromium-6.
- Sec. 207. Elimination of small system variances.

TITLE III—AFFORDABILITY

- Sec. 301. Water affordability program.

6 **TITLE I—INFRASTRUCTURE**

7 **SEC. 101. DRINKING WATER SYSTEM RESILIENCE FUNDING.**

8 Section 1433(g) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
9 U.S.C. 300i–2(g)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and 2021”
11 and inserting “through 2034”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (6)—

2 (A) by striking “25,000,000” and inserting
3 “50,000,000”; and

4 (B) by striking “2020 and 2021” and in-
5 serting “2025 through 2034”.

6 **SEC. 102. GRANTS FOR STATE PROGRAMS.**

7 Section 1443(a)(7) of the Safe Drinking Water Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 300j–2(a)(7)) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “125,000,000” and inserting
10 “200,000,000”; and

11 (2) by striking “2020 and 2021” and inserting
12 “2025 through 2034”.

13 **SEC. 103. ASSISTANCE FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMU-**
14 **NITIES.**

15 Section 1452(d)(2)(A) of the Safe Drinking Water
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(2)(A)) is amended by striking
17 “35 percent” and inserting “40 percent”.

18 **SEC. 104. ALLOTMENTS FOR TERRITORIES.**

19 Section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
20 U.S.C. 300j–12(j)) is amended by striking “0.33 percent”
21 and inserting “1.5 percent”.

22 **SEC. 105. DRINKING WATER SRF FUNDING.**

23 Section 1452(m)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act
24 (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(m)(1)) is amended—

25 (1) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (E);

1 (2) by striking subparagraph (G);

2 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
3 paragraph (A);

4 (4) in subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated),
5 by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon; and

6 (5) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(B) \$3,250,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

8 “(C) \$3,750,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

9 “(D) \$4,140,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

10 “(E) \$4,800,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

11 and

12 “(F) \$5,500,000,000 for each of fiscal
13 years 2029 through 2034.”.

14 **SEC. 106. LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1452 of the Safe Drink-
16 ing Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) is amended by adding
17 at the end the following:

18 “(u) LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the capital-
20 ization grants to eligible States under subsection
21 (a)(1), the Administrator shall offer to enter into
22 agreements with States, Indian Tribes, and the ter-
23 ritories described in subsection (j) to make grants,
24 including letters of credit, to such States, Indian

1 Tribes, and territories under this subsection to fund
2 the replacement of lead service lines.

3 “(2) ALLOTMENTS.—

4 “(A) STATES.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds made avail-
6 able to carry out this subsection shall be—

7 “(I) subject to clause (ii), allotted
8 and reallocated to the extent prac-
9 ticable to States as if allotted or real-
10 lotted under subsection (a)(1) as a
11 capitalization grant under such sub-
12 section; and

13 “(II) deposited into the State
14 loan fund of a State receiving such
15 funds pursuant to an agreement en-
16 tered into pursuant to this subsection.

17 “(ii) STATE LEAD SERVICE LINE RE-
18 PLACEMENT NEEDS.—For purposes of ap-
19 plying the formula described in subsection
20 (a)(1)(D) under clause (i) of this subpara-
21 graph, the State needs identified in the
22 most recent survey conducted pursuant to
23 subsection (h) shall only include the State
24 needs identified for lead service line re-
25 placement in such survey.

1 “(B) INDIAN TRIBES.—The Administrator
2 shall set aside 1½ percent of the amounts
3 made available each fiscal year to carry out this
4 subsection to make grants to Indian Tribes.

5 “(C) OTHER AREAS.—Funds made avail-
6 able to carry out this subsection shall be allot-
7 ted to territories described in subsection (j) in
8 accordance with such subsection.

9 “(3) GRANTS.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
10 vision of this section, funds made available under
11 this subsection shall be used only for providing
12 grants for the full replacement of lead service lines.

13 “(4) PRIORITY.—Each State, Indian Tribe, and
14 territory that has entered into an agreement pursu-
15 ant to this subsection shall annually prepare a plan
16 that identifies the intended uses of the amounts
17 made available to such State, Indian Tribe, or terri-
18 tory under this subsection, and any such plan
19 shall—

20 “(A) not be required to comply with sub-
21 section (b)(3); and

22 “(B) provide, to the maximum extent prac-
23 ticable, that priority for the use of funds be
24 given to projects that replace lead service lines

1 serving disadvantaged communities and envi-
2 ronmental justice communities.

3 “(5) PLAN FOR REPLACEMENT.—Each State,
4 Indian Tribe, and territory that has entered into an
5 agreement pursuant to this subsection shall require
6 each recipient of funds made available pursuant to
7 this subsection to submit to the State, Indian Tribe,
8 or territory a plan to fully replace all lead service
9 lines in the applicable public water system within 10
10 years of receiving such funds, or sooner if required
11 by law.

12 “(6) AMERICAN MADE IRON AND STEEL AND
13 PREVAILING WAGES.—The requirements of para-
14 graphs (4) and (5) of subsection (a) shall apply to
15 any project carried out in whole or in part with
16 funds made available under or pursuant to this sub-
17 section.

18 “(7) LIMITATION.—

19 “(A) PROHIBITION ON PARTIAL LINE RE-
20 PLACEMENT.—No funds made available pursu-
21 ant to this subsection may be used for partial
22 lead service line replacement if, at the conclu-
23 sion of the service line replacement, drinking
24 water is delivered through a publicly or pri-
25 vately owned portion of a lead service line.

1 “(B) NO PRIVATE OWNER CONTRIBU-
2 TION.—In carrying out lead service line replace-
3 ment using a grant under this subsection, a re-
4 cipient of funds made available pursuant to this
5 subsection shall offer to replace any privately
6 owned portion of any lead service line at no cost
7 to the private owner.

8 “(8) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY ASSIST-
9 ANCE.—All funds made available pursuant to this
10 subsection to fund the replacement of lead service
11 lines may be used to replace lead service lines serv-
12 ing disadvantaged communities.

13 “(9) STATE CONTRIBUTION NOT REQUIRED.—
14 No agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph
15 (1) shall require that a State deposit, at any time,
16 in the applicable State loan fund from State moneys
17 any contribution in order to receive funds under this
18 subsection.

19 “(10) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized
21 to be appropriated to carry out this subsection
22 \$3,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
23 through 2036. Such sums shall remain available
24 until expended.

1 “(B) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—To the ex-
2 tent amounts authorized to be appropriated
3 under this subsection in any fiscal year are not
4 appropriated in that fiscal year, such amounts
5 are authorized to be appropriated in a subse-
6 quent fiscal year. Such sums shall remain avail-
7 able until expended.

8 “(11) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
9 section:

10 “(A) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.—The
11 term ‘disadvantaged community’ has the mean-
12 ing given such term in subsection (d)(3).

13 “(B) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMU-
14 NITY.—The term ‘environmental justice com-
15 munity’ means any population of color, commu-
16 nity of color, indigenous community, or low-in-
17 come community that experiences a dispropor-
18 tionate burden of the negative human health
19 and environmental impacts of pollution or other
20 environmental hazards.

21 “(C) LEAD SERVICE LINE.—The term
22 ‘lead service line’ has the meaning given such
23 term in section 1459B(a)(4).”.

24 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
25 1452(m)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.

1 300j–12(m)(1)) is amended by striking “(a)(2)(G) and
2 (t)” and inserting “(a)(2)(G), (t), and (u)”.

3 **SEC. 107. DRINKING WATER ASSISTANCE TO COLONIAS.**

4 Section 1456 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
5 U.S.C. 300j–16) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
8 paragraph (3); and

9 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
10 following new paragraph:

11 “(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
12 tity’ means each of the following:

13 “(A) A border State.

14 “(B) A local government with jurisdiction
15 over an eligible community.”;

16 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “border
17 State” and inserting “covered entity”;

18 (3) in subsection (d), by striking “shall not ex-
19 ceed 50 percent” and inserting “may not be less
20 than 80 percent”; and

21 (4) in subsection (e)—

22 (A) by striking “\$25,000,000” and insert-
23 ing “\$100,000,000”; and

24 (B) by striking “1997 through 1999” and
25 inserting “2025 through 2034”.

1 **SEC. 108. PFAS TREATMENT GRANTS.**

2 Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.
3 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing new section:

5 **“SEC. 1459H. ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY WATER SYS-**
6 **TEMS AFFECTED BY PFAS.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date of enactment of this section, the Adminis-
9 trator shall establish a program to award grants to af-
10 fected community water systems to pay for capital costs
11 associated with the implementation of eligible treatment
12 technologies.

13 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—

14 “(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 12 months
15 after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-
16 ministrator shall publish guidance describing the
17 form and timing for community water systems to
18 apply for grants under this section.

19 “(2) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—The Adminis-
20 trator shall require a community water system ap-
21 plying for a grant under this section to submit—

22 “(A) information showing the presence of a
23 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance in
24 water of the community water system; and

25 “(B) a certification that the treatment
26 technology in use by the community water sys-

1 tem at the time of application is not sufficient
2 to meet all applicable standards, and all appli-
3 cable health advisories published pursuant to
4 section 1412(b)(1)(F), for perfluoroalkyl and
5 polyfluoroalkyl substances.

6 “(c) LIST OF ELIGIBLE TREATMENT TECH-
7 NOLOGIES.—Not later than 150 days after the date of en-
8 actment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the
9 Administrator shall publish a list of treatment tech-
10 nologies that the Administrator determines are the most
11 effective at removing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl
12 substances from drinking water.

13 “(d) PRIORITY FOR FUNDING.—In awarding grants
14 under this section, the Administrator shall prioritize an
15 affected community water system that—

16 “(1) serves a disadvantaged community;

17 “(2) has an exceedance of an applicable max-
18 imum contaminant level for individual or mixture of
19 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances;

20 “(3) will provide at least a 10-percent cost
21 share for the cost of implementing an eligible treat-
22 ment technology;

23 “(4) demonstrates the capacity to maintain the
24 eligible treatment technology to be implemented
25 using the grant; or

1 “(5) is located within an area with respect to
2 which the Administrator has published a determina-
3 tion under the first sentence of section 1424(e) re-
4 lating to an aquifer that is the sole or principal
5 drinking water source for the area; and

6 “(6) has not received monies from a settlement
7 agreement or consent decree related to contamina-
8 tion by a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance
9 in water in the community water system.

10 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$500,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through
13 2034.

14 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) AFFECTED COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM.—
16 The term ‘affected community water system’ means
17 a community water system that is affected by the
18 presence of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl sub-
19 stance in water in the community water system.

20 “(2) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.—The term
21 ‘disadvantaged community’ has the meaning given
22 that term in section 1452.

23 “(3) ELIGIBLE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.—
24 The term ‘eligible treatment technology’ means a

1 treatment technology included on the list published
2 under subsection (c).

3 “(4) PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL
4 SUBSTANCE.—The term ‘perfluoroalkyl or
5 polyfluoroalkyl substance’ means any man-made
6 chemical with at least one fully fluorinated carbon
7 atom.”.

8 **SEC. 109. GRANT PROGRAM FOR INSTALLATION OF FILTRA-**
9 **TION STATIONS AT SCHOOLS AND CHILD**
10 **CARE PROGRAMS.**

11 Section 1464 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
12 U.S.C. 300j–24) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(e) GRANT PROGRAM FOR INSTALLATION AND
15 MAINTENANCE OF FILTRATION STATIONS.—

16 “(1) PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall es-
17 tablish a program to make grants to States to assist
18 local educational agencies in installation and mainte-
19 nance of filtration stations at schools and facilities
20 used by child care programs under the jurisdiction
21 of the local educational agencies or other State agen-
22 cies.

23 “(2) DIRECT GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL
24 AGENCIES.—The Administrator may make a grant
25 described in paragraph (1) directly available to—

1 “(A) any local educational agency de-
2 scribed in clause (i) or (iii) of subsection
3 (d)(1)(B) located in a State that does not par-
4 ticipate in the program established under para-
5 graph (1); or

6 “(B) any local educational agency de-
7 scribed in clause (ii) of subsection (d)(1)(B).

8 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants made under the
9 program established under this subsection may be
10 used to pay the costs of—

11 “(A) installation and maintenance of filtra-
12 tion stations at schools and facilities used by
13 child care programs; and

14 “(B) annual testing of drinking water at
15 such schools and facilities used by child care
16 programs following the installation of filtration
17 stations.

18 “(4) PRIORITY.—In making grants under the
19 program established under this subsection, the Ad-
20 ministrator shall give priority to States and local
21 educational agencies that will assist in installation
22 and maintenance of filtration stations at schools and
23 facilities used by child care programs that are in
24 low-income areas.

1 “(5) REQUIREMENT.—Filtration stations in-
2 stalled pursuant to the program established under
3 this section shall include remote performance moni-
4 toring and automatic shut-off of the filtration sta-
5 tion in the event the filtration station is not oper-
6 ating properly.

7 “(6) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
9 Administrator shall establish guidance to carry out
10 the program established under this subsection.

11 “(7) NO PRIOR TESTING REQUIRED.—The pro-
12 gram established under this subsection shall not re-
13 quire testing for lead contamination in drinking
14 water at schools and facilities used by child care pro-
15 grams prior to participation in such program.

16 “(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

17 “(A) CHILD CARE PROGRAM AND LOCAL
18 EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The terms ‘child care
19 program’ and ‘local educational agency’ have
20 the meaning given such terms in subsection (d).

21 “(B) FILTRATION STATION.—The term
22 ‘filtration station’ means an apparatus that—

23 “(i) is connected to building plumb-
24 ing;

1 “(ii) is certified to the latest version
 2 of NSF/ANSI 53 for lead reduction and
 3 NSF/ANSI 42 for particulate reduction
 4 (Class I) by a certification body accredited
 5 by the American National Standards Insti-
 6 tute National Accreditation Board;

7 “(iii) has an indicator to show filter
 8 performance;

9 “(iv) can fill bottles or containers for
 10 water consumption; and

11 “(v) allows users to drink directly
 12 from a stream of flowing water.

13 “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 14 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 15 this subsection \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 16 2025 through 2034.”.

17 **SEC. 110. INDIAN RESERVATION DRINKING WATER PRO-**
 18 **GRAM.**

19 Section 2001(g) of America’s Water Infrastructure
 20 Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–270) is amended to read
 21 as follows:

22 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 23 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program
 24 under subsection (a) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 25 2025 through 2034.”.

1 **SEC. 111. ASSISTANCE FOR AREAS AFFECTED BY NATURAL**
2 **DISASTERS.**

3 Section 2020 of America’s Water Infrastructure Act
4 of 2018 (Public Law 115–270) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “subsection
6 (e)(1)” and inserting “subsection (f)(1)”;

7 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e)
8 as subsections (d) through (f), respectively;

9 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(c) ASSISTANCE FOR TERRITORIES.—The Adminis-
12 trator may use funds made available under subsection
13 (f)(1) to make grants to Guam, the Virgin Islands, Amer-
14 ican Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands for the
15 purposes of providing assistance to eligible systems to re-
16 store or increase compliance with national primary drink-
17 ing water regulations.”; and

18 (4) in subsection (f), as so redesignated—

19 (A) in the heading, by striking “STATE
20 REVOLVING FUND CAPITALIZATION”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
23 graph (A), by inserting “and to make
24 grants under subsection (c) of this sec-
25 tion,” before “to be available”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
 2 “or subsection (c), as applicable” after
 3 “subsection (b)(1)”.

4 **TITLE II—SAFETY**

5 **SEC. 201. ENABLING EPA TO SET HEALTH PROTECTIVE** 6 **STANDARDS FOR NEW DRINKING WATER** 7 **CONTAMINANTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1412(b)(6) of the Safe
 9 Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)(6)) is repealed.

10 (b) THRESHOLD.—Section 1412(b)(1)(A) of the Safe
 11 Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)(1)(A)) is
 12 amended—

13 (1) by striking clause (iii);

14 (2) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as sub-
 15 clauses (I) and (II), respectively;

16 (3) by striking “The Administrator shall” and
 17 inserting the following:

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
 19 shall”;

20 (4) in subclause (I), as so redesignated, by
 21 striking “persons;” and inserting “persons; and”;

22 (5) by amending subclause (II), as so redesign-
 23 nated, to read as follows:

24 “(II) the contaminant is known
 25 to occur or there is a substantial like-

1 lihood that the contaminant will occur
2 at levels of public health concern in
3 public water systems serving in total
4 at least an estimated 1,000,000 per-
5 sons or more across at least 3
6 States.”; and

7 (6) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(ii) LEVEL OF PUBLIC HEALTH CON-
9 CERN.—For purposes of this subpara-
10 graph, a contaminant shall be considered
11 to occur at a level of public health concern
12 if it exceeds a health advisory published
13 under subparagraph (F) or a toxicity value
14 established by the Administrator or the
15 Administrator of the Agency for Toxic
16 Substances Disease Registry.”.

17 (c) HEALTH ADVISORY.—Section 1412(b)(1)(F) of
18 the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–
19 1(b)(1)(F)) is amended by adding at the end the following:
20 “A determination under this subsection to publish or es-
21 tablish a health advisory or toxicity value shall not be con-
22 sidered a final agency action that is subject to judicial re-
23 view.”.

1 (d) PROTECTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.—Sec-
2 tion 1412(b)(4) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
3 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)(4)) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through
5 (E) as subparagraphs (D) through (F), respectively;
6 and

7 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(C) HEALTH PROTECTION.—Notwith-
10 standing any other provision in this Act, each
11 maximum contaminant level goal and national
12 primary drinking water regulation established
13 under this subsection shall be protective of the
14 health of subpopulations at greater risk, as
15 identified in section 1458.”.

16 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1412(b)
17 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b))
18 is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (3)(C)(i)—

20 (A) by striking “paragraph (5) or (6)(A)”
21 and inserting “paragraph (5)”; and

22 (B) by striking “paragraphs (4), (5), and
23 (6)” and inserting “paragraphs (4) and (5)”;
24 and

1 (2) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “para-
2 graphs (5) and (6)” and inserting “paragraph (5)”.

3 **SEC. 202. CITIZENS’ PETITIONS FOR NEW OR REVISED NA-**
4 **TIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULA-**
5 **TIONS.**

6 Section 1412 of Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.
7 300g–1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(f) CITIZENS’ PETITIONS FOR NEW OR REVISED
9 NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person may petition
11 the Administrator to promulgate a new or revised
12 national primary drinking water regulation and max-
13 imum contaminant level goal for a contaminant in
14 accordance with this section.

15 “(2) PROCEDURES.—

16 “(A) REQUIREMENTS FOR PETITIONS.—A
17 petition under paragraph (1) shall—

18 “(i) be filed in the principal office of
19 the Administrator; and

20 “(ii) include such evidence (which
21 shall be based upon government or public
22 water system data, independent monitoring
23 conducted using certified laboratories, or
24 published, peer-reviewed literature) that

1 supports an applicable determination under
2 subparagraph (D).

3 “(B) PUBLIC HEARING, INVESTIGATION,
4 OR OTHER PROCEEDING.—The Administrator—

5 “(i) shall issue a public notice of the
6 receipt of a petition under paragraph (1)
7 not later than 5 business days after such
8 receipt; and

9 “(ii) may conduct such investigation
10 or proceeding as the Administrator deter-
11 mines appropriate, including holding a
12 public hearing, in order to determine
13 whether to grant or deny a petition filed
14 under paragraph (1).

15 “(C) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days
16 after a person files a petition in accordance
17 with subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall
18 either grant or deny the petition based on—

19 “(i) the evidence included in the peti-
20 tion; and

21 “(ii) any other evidence described in
22 subparagraph (A)(ii) that the Adminis-
23 trator may possess or that was submitted
24 to the Administrator not later than 30
25 days after the Administrator issued a pub-

1 lic notice of the receipt of the petition
2 under subparagraph (B)(i).

3 “(D) DETERMINATIONS.—

4 “(i) NEW REGULATIONS.—The Ad-
5 ministrator shall grant a petition under
6 paragraph (1) to promulgate a new na-
7 tional primary drinking water regulation
8 and maximum contaminant level goal for a
9 contaminant if the Administrator deter-
10 mines that the criteria of clauses (i), (ii),
11 and (iii) of subsection (b)(1)(A) are satis-
12 fied.

13 “(ii) REVISED REGULATIONS.—The
14 Administrator shall grant a petition under
15 paragraph (1) to promulgate a revised na-
16 tional primary drinking water regulation
17 and maximum contaminant level goal for a
18 contaminant if the Administrator deter-
19 mines a revised national primary drinking
20 water regulation and maximum contami-
21 nant level goal for the contaminant will
22 provide for greater protection of the health
23 of persons.

24 “(E) DETERMINATION TO REGULATE; REA-
25 SONS FOR DENIAL.—If the Administrator

1 grants a petition under subparagraph (D), such
2 decision shall be considered a determination to
3 regulate a contaminant under subsection
4 (b)(1)(B) for purposes of subsection (b)(1)(E).
5 If the Administrator denies a petition under
6 subparagraph (D), the Administrator shall pub-
7 lish in the Federal Register the Administrator's
8 reasons for such denial.

9 “(F) CIVIL ACTIONS.—

10 “(i) DENIED PETITIONS.—The denial
11 of a petition filed under this subsection
12 shall be considered an action pertaining to
13 the establishment of national primary
14 drinking water regulations under section
15 1448(a)(1).

16 “(ii) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Ad-
17 ministrator fails to grant or deny a peti-
18 tion filed under this subsection by the 180-
19 day deadline described in subparagraph
20 (C), the petitioner may commence a civil
21 action under section 1449(a)(2) to order
22 the Administrator to grant or deny the pe-
23 tition.”.

1 **SEC. 203. NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULA-**
2 **TIONS FOR PFAS.**

3 Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
4 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)) is amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(16) PERFLUOROALKYL AND
7 POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.—

8 “(A) DETERMINATION.—Notwithstanding
9 any other deadline established in this sub-
10 section, the Administrator shall make a deter-
11 mination under paragraph (1)(A), using the cri-
12 teria described in clauses (i) through (iii) of
13 that paragraph, whether to publish a maximum
14 contaminant level goal and promulgate a na-
15 tional primary drinking water regulation for a
16 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or
17 class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl sub-
18 stances not later than 18 months after the later
19 of—

20 “(i) the date on which the
21 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance
22 or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl
23 substances is listed on the list of contami-
24 nants for consideration of regulation under
25 paragraph (1)(B)(i); and

26 “(ii) the date on which—

1 “(I) the Administrator has re-
2 ceived the results of monitoring under
3 section 1445(a)(2)(B) for the
4 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl sub-
5 stance or class of perfluoroalkyl or
6 polyfluoroalkyl substances; or

7 “(II) the Administrator has re-
8 ceived reliable water data or water
9 monitoring surveys for the
10 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl sub-
11 stance or class of perfluoroalkyl or
12 polyfluoroalkyl substances from a
13 Federal or State agency that the Ad-
14 ministrator determines to be of a
15 quality sufficient to make a deter-
16 mination under paragraph (1)(A).

17 “(B) PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULA-
18 TIONS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
20 any other deadline established in this sub-
21 section, for each perfluoroalkyl or
22 polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of
23 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances
24 that the Administrator determines to regu-

1 late under subparagraph (A), the Adminis-
2 trator—

3 “(I) not later than 18 months
4 after the date on which the Adminis-
5 trator makes the determination, shall
6 propose a national primary drinking
7 water regulation for the perfluoroalkyl
8 or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class
9 of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl
10 substances; and

11 “(II) may publish the proposed
12 national primary drinking water regu-
13 lation described in subclause (I) con-
14 currently with the publication of the
15 determination to regulate the
16 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl sub-
17 stance or class of perfluoroalkyl or
18 polyfluoroalkyl substances.

19 “(ii) DEADLINE.—

20 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwith-
21 standing any other deadline estab-
22 lished in this subsection, not later
23 than 1 year after the date on which
24 the Administrator publishes a pro-
25 posed national primary drinking water

1 regulation under clause (i)(I) and sub-
2 ject to subclause (II) of this clause,
3 the Administrator shall take final ac-
4 tion on the proposed national primary
5 drinking water regulation.

6 “(II) EXTENSION.—The Admin-
7 istrator, on publication of notice in
8 the Federal Register, may extend the
9 deadline under subclause (I) by not
10 more than 6 months.

11 “(C) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
13 year after the validation by the Adminis-
14 trator of an equally effective quality con-
15 trol and testing procedure to ensure com-
16 pliance with a national primary drinking
17 water regulation promulgated under this
18 paragraph to measure the levels described
19 in clause (ii) or other methods to detect
20 and monitor perfluoroalkyl or
21 polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking
22 water, the Administrator shall add the pro-
23 cedure or method as an alternative to the
24 quality control and testing procedure de-
25 scribed in such national primary drinking

1 water regulation by publishing the proce-
2 dure or method in the Federal Register in
3 accordance with section 1401(1)(D).

4 “(ii) LEVELS DESCRIBED.—The levels
5 referred to in clause (i) are—

6 “(I) the level of a perfluoroalkyl
7 or polyfluoroalkyl substance;

8 “(II) the total levels of
9 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl sub-
10 stances; and

11 “(III) the total levels of organic
12 fluorine.

13 “(D) MONITORING.—When establishing
14 monitoring requirements for public water sys-
15 tems as part of a national primary drinking
16 water regulation under this paragraph, the Ad-
17 ministrator shall tailor the monitoring require-
18 ments for public water systems that do not de-
19 tect or are reliably and consistently below the
20 maximum contaminant level (as defined in sec-
21 tion 1418(b)(2)(B)) for the perfluoroalkyl or
22 polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of
23 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances sub-
24 ject to the national primary drinking water reg-
25 ulation.

1 “(E) HEALTH RISK REDUCTION AND COST
2 ANALYSIS.—In meeting the requirements of
3 paragraph (3)(C), the Administrator may rely
4 on information available to the Administrator
5 with respect to one or more specific
6 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances to
7 extrapolate reasoned conclusions regarding the
8 health risks and effects of a class of
9 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances of
10 which the specific perfluoroalkyl or
11 polyfluoroalkyl substances are a part.

12 “(F) HEALTH ADVISORY.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
14 (ii), the Administrator shall publish a
15 health advisory under paragraph (1)(F) for
16 a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl sub-
17 stance or class of perfluoroalkyl or
18 polyfluoroalkyl substances not subject to a
19 national primary drinking water regulation
20 not later than 1 year after the later of—

21 “(I) the date on which the Ad-
22 ministrator finalizes a toxicity value
23 for the perfluoroalkyl or
24 polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of

1 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl sub-
2 stances; and

3 “(II) the date on which the Ad-
4 ministrator validates an effective qual-
5 ity control and testing procedure for
6 the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl
7 substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or
8 polyfluoroalkyl substances.

9 “(ii) WAIVER.—The Administrator
10 may waive the requirements of clause (i)
11 with respect to a perfluoroalkyl or
12 polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of
13 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl sub-
14 stances if the Administrator determines
15 that there is a substantial likelihood that
16 the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl sub-
17 stance or class of perfluoroalkyl or
18 polyfluoroalkyl substances will not occur in
19 drinking water with sufficient frequency to
20 justify the publication of a health advisory,
21 and publishes such determination, includ-
22 ing the information and analysis used, and
23 basis for, such determination, in the Fed-
24 eral Register.

1 “(G) PERFLUOROALKYL OR
 2 POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE DEFINED.—In
 3 this paragraph, the term ‘perfluoroalkyl or
 4 polyfluoroalkyl substance’ means any man-made
 5 chemical with at least one fully fluorinated car-
 6 bon atom.”.

7 **SEC. 204. NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULA-**
 8 **TIONS FOR MICROCYSTIN TOXIN.**

9 Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
 10 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)) is further amended by adding at the
 11 end the following:

12 “(17) MICROCYSTIN TOXIN.—Notwithstanding
 13 any other deadline established in this subsection, not
 14 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the
 15 Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2024,
 16 the Administrator shall publish a maximum contami-
 17 nant level goal and promulgate a national primary
 18 drinking water regulation for microcystin toxin.”.

19 **SEC. 205. NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULA-**
 20 **TIONS FOR 1,4-DIOXANE.**

21 Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
 22 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)) is further amended by adding at the
 23 end the following:

24 “(18) 1,4-DIOXANE.—Notwithstanding any
 25 other deadline established in this subsection, not

1 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the
2 Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2024,
3 the Administrator shall publish a maximum contami-
4 nant level goal and promulgate a national primary
5 drinking water regulation for 1,4-dioxane.”.

6 **SEC. 206. NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULA-**
7 **TIONS FOR CHROMIUM-6.**

8 Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
9 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)) is further amended by adding at the
10 end the following:

11 “(19) CHROMIUM-6.—Notwithstanding any
12 other deadline established in this subsection, not
13 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the
14 Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2024,
15 the Administrator shall publish a maximum contami-
16 nant level goal and promulgate a national primary
17 drinking water regulation for chromium-6.”.

18 **SEC. 207. ELIMINATION OF SMALL SYSTEM VARIANCES.**

19 (a) SMALL SYSTEM VARIANCES.—Section 1415 (42
20 U.S.C. 300g–4) of the Safe Drinking Water Act is amend-
21 ed by striking subsection (e).

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

23 (1) Section 1412(b)(15) of the Safe Drinking
24 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)(15)) is amended by
25 striking subparagraph (D).

1 (2) Section 1414(c)(1)(B) of the Safe Drinking
 2 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–3(c)(1)(B)) is amended
 3 by striking “, (a)(2), or (e)” and inserting “or
 4 (a)(2)”.

5 (3) Section 1416(b)(2) of the Safe Drinking
 6 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–5(b)(2)) is amended by
 7 striking subparagraph (D).

8 (4) Section 1445(h) of the Safe Drinking Water
 9 Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–4(h)) is amended—

10 (A) by striking “sections 1412(b)(4)(E)
 11 and 1415(e) (relating to small system variance
 12 program)” and inserting “section
 13 1412(b)(4)(E)”;

14 (B) by striking “guidance under sections
 15 1412(b)(4)(E) and 1415(e)” and inserting
 16 “guidance under section 1412(b)(4)(E)”.

17 **TITLE III—AFFORDABILITY**

18 **SEC. 301. WATER AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part E of the Safe Drinking
 20 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is further amended
 21 by adding at the end the following:

22 **“SEC. 1459I. WATER AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM.**

23 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall es-
 24 tablish a program to annually provide to States and Indian
 25 Tribes grants to develop and carry out drinking water ac-

1 cess programs to assist eligible households in improving
2 or maintaining access to affordable drinking water.

3 “(b) GRANTS TO STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

4 “(1) APPLICATIONS.—Each fiscal year a State
5 or Indian Tribe may apply for a grant provided
6 under the program established under subsection (a)
7 by submitting to the Administrator an application,
8 which shall be in such form as the Administrator
9 shall require and shall contain assurances that the
10 State or Indian Tribe will establish a program that
11 meets the requirements of subsection (c)(1).

12 “(2) FORMULA.—The Administrator shall de-
13 termine the amount of a grant provided under the
14 program established under subsection (a) based
15 on—

16 “(A) the number of eligible households in
17 the State or under the jurisdiction of the Indian
18 Tribe;

19 “(B) the number of households in the
20 State, or under the jurisdiction of the Indian
21 Tribe, with an income equal to or less than 150
22 percent of the poverty level; and

23 “(C) the number of households in the
24 State, or under the jurisdiction of the Indian

1 Tribe, that spend more than 30 percent of the
2 monthly income of the household on housing.

3 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—

4 “(A) WATER CONSERVATION.—Not more
5 than 15 percent of any grant provided under
6 the program established under subsection (a)
7 may be used to support efforts to improve
8 water conservation and reduce water usage.

9 “(B) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not
10 more than 15 percent of any grant provided
11 under the program established under subsection
12 (a) may be used to pay for the administrative
13 expenses of carrying out a drinking water ac-
14 cess program under subsection (c)(1).

15 “(4) NONCOMPLIANCE AND POTENTIAL REDIS-
16 TRIBUTION.—

17 “(A) NONCOMPLIANCE.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Adminis-
19 trator determines that a State or Indian
20 Tribe is not using a grant in accordance
21 with this section, the Administrator shall
22 provide to the State or Indian Tribe writ-
23 ten notice that describes the noncompli-
24 ance. Not later than 60 days of receiving
25 such written notice, the State or Indian

1 Tribe shall provide to the Administrator a
2 plan to remedy the noncompliance de-
3 scribed in the written notice.

4 “(ii) NONCOMPLIANCE OF COMMUNITY
5 WATER SYSTEM.—If a State or Indian
6 Tribe determines that a community water
7 system with which the State or Indian
8 Tribe entered into a contract or other
9 agreement under subsection (c)(2) is not
10 using a grant in accordance with this sec-
11 tion, the State or Indian Tribe shall pro-
12 vide to the community water system writ-
13 ten notice that describes the noncompli-
14 ance. If such community water system fails
15 to remedy the noncompliance by not later
16 than 90 days after receiving such written
17 notice, the State or Indian Tribe shall ter-
18 minate the contract or other agreement en-
19 tered into under subsection (c)(2) and im-
20 plement the drinking water access program
21 on behalf of the community water system.

22 “(B) POTENTIAL REDISTRIBUTION.—The
23 Administrator may withhold a grant to be pro-
24 vided to a State or Indian Tribe that has failed
25 to remedy any noncompliance described in writ-

1 ten notice provided under subparagraph (A)
2 and distribute such grant among the remaining
3 Indian Tribes in accordance with the formula
4 described under paragraph (2).

5 “(c) DRINKING WATER ACCESS PROGRAMS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian Tribe
7 that receives a grant under the program established
8 under subsection (a) shall use such grant to carry
9 out a program to assist eligible households in im-
10 proving or maintaining access to affordable drinking
11 water. Each such drinking water access program
12 shall—

13 “(A) provide covered assistance to eligible
14 households to be used to improve or maintain
15 access by such households to affordable drink-
16 ing water services;

17 “(B) provide for timely and meaningful
18 public participation in the development and im-
19 plementation of the program, including an op-
20 portunity for public comment;

21 “(C) subject to the requirement of sub-
22 paragraph (H), ensure that such covered assist-
23 ance is distributed in a manner that ensures ge-
24 ographic distribution of such assistance in pro-
25 portion to the geographic distribution of eligible

1 households within the State or under the juris-
2 diction of the Indian Tribe;

3 “(D) utilize efficient methods for deter-
4 mining eligibility of households, including—

5 “(i) to the maximum extent feasible,
6 sharing of data from other income-quali-
7 fied assistance programs carried out by the
8 State (including any local government of
9 the State), the Indian Tribe, or the Fed-
10 eral Government to facilitate automatic en-
11 rollment; and

12 “(ii) allowance for self-attestation of
13 income qualification;

14 “(E) carry out outreach and provide edu-
15 cation to eligible households to ensure that eli-
16 gible households are made aware of the covered
17 assistance provided under the drinking water
18 access program;

19 “(F) support efforts to improve water con-
20 servation and reduce water usage in residences
21 occupied by eligible households, including
22 through installation of water efficient fixtures
23 and leak repairs;

1 “(G) use effective methods to promote ac-
2 cess to covered assistance provided under the
3 drinking water access program—

4 “(i) including by allowing utilities to
5 receive funds for debt reduction and di-
6 rectly apply them to customer accounts,
7 and by allowing for electronic signature;
8 and

9 “(ii) which may not include requiring
10 in-person enrollment appointments or asset
11 tests;

12 “(H) coordinate activities carried out
13 under the drinking water access program with
14 activities carried out under similar programs
15 administered by the Federal Government,
16 States, and Indian Tribes, including programs
17 related to low-income energy assistance; and

18 “(I) if such program is carried out by a
19 State, each fiscal year, provide as covered as-
20 sistance not less than 20 percent of such grant
21 to eligible households that are served by small
22 systems within such State.

23 “(2) CONTRACTS WITH COMMUNITY WATER
24 SYSTEMS.—A State or Indian Tribe may enter into
25 a contract or other agreement with a community

1 water system under which the community water sys-
2 tem, in accordance with the applicable requirements
3 of paragraph (1), carries out the drinking water ac-
4 cess program of the State or Indian Tribe with re-
5 spect to the customers of the community water sys-
6 tem. A contract or other agreement entered into
7 under this paragraph shall include terms or condi-
8 tions that the community water system—

9 “(A) shall maintain a—

10 “(i) a long-term financial plan;

11 “(ii) an asset management plan;

12 “(iii) a capital improvement plan; and

13 “(iv) a fiscal management plan; and

14 “(B) shall demonstrate capacity to create
15 and implement an effective community outreach
16 plan to inform eligible households of the avail-
17 ability of covered assistance under the drinking
18 water access program.

19 “(3) INCOME VERIFICATION.—In determining
20 the income of a household for purposes of deter-
21 mining whether the household is an eligible house-
22 hold, a State, Indian Tribe, or community water sys-
23 tem may use procedures and policies consistent with
24 procedures and policies used by other low-income as-
25 sistance programs.

1 “(4) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—As a condi-
2 tion of receiving a grant under the program estab-
3 lished under subsection (a), a State or Indian Tribe
4 shall submit to the Administrator, in a manner de-
5 termined by the Administrator, information regard-
6 ing the drinking water access program the State or
7 Indian Tribe carries out under paragraph (1) (in-
8 cluding any part of such program carried out pursu-
9 ant to a contract or other agreement entered into
10 under paragraph (2)), including—

11 “(A) the design and implementation of the
12 drinking water access program, including—

13 “(i) the type of covered assistance
14 provided;

15 “(ii) sources of funding other than
16 such grant;

17 “(iii) the number of eligible house-
18 holds that received covered assistance
19 under the drinking water access program,
20 disaggregated by type of covered assistance
21 received; and

22 “(iv) drinking water access program
23 costs;

24 “(B) the impacts of the drinking water ac-
25 cess program on community water systems and

1 eligible households that received covered assist-
2 ance under the drinking water access program,
3 including—

4 “(i) the average amount of covered as-
5 sistance provided to such eligible house-
6 holds, disaggregated by type of covered as-
7 sistance;

8 “(ii) the percentage of eligible house-
9 holds that received covered assistance
10 under the drinking water access program;

11 “(iii) the average amount of bill debt
12 carried by such households before and
13 after enrollment in the drinking water ac-
14 cess program;

15 “(iv) the number of annual service
16 disconnections for nonpayment;

17 “(v) the resources from community
18 water systems used to resolve delinquent
19 bills; and

20 “(vi) the percent of on-time bill pay-
21 ments;

22 “(C) barriers to eligible households receiv-
23 ing covered assistance under the drinking water
24 access program; and

1 “(D) any other relevant information the
2 Administrator may require.

3 “(5) PROHIBITION.—A community water sys-
4 tem that receives funding from a drinking water ac-
5 cess program (directly as covered assistance or indi-
6 rectly from an eligible household that received cov-
7 ered assistance and is a customer of such system)
8 may not disconnect or interrupt the service of any
9 eligible household as a result of nonpayment or ar-
10 rearages during any period of one year that begins
11 on the date on which the eligible household receives
12 covered assistance under the drinking water access
13 program.

14 “(6) NON-DISCRIMINATION.—No person shall
15 on the ground of race, color, national origin, or sex
16 be excluded from participation in, be denied the ben-
17 efits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any
18 drinking water access program funded in whole or in
19 part with funds made available under this section.
20 Any prohibition against discrimination on the basis
21 of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 or
22 with respect to an otherwise qualified handicapped
23 individual as provided in section 504 of the Rehabili-
24 tation Act of 1973 also shall apply to any such
25 drinking water access program.

1 “(7) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER EXISTING LAW
2 AND PROGRAMS.—

3 “(A) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Cov-
4 ered assistance provided under a drinking water
5 access program carried out under paragraph
6 (1)—

7 “(i) may not be used to replace funds
8 for any existing, similar local program to
9 assist households in maintaining access to
10 affordable drinking water; and

11 “(ii) may be used to supplement or
12 enhance such a local program.

13 “(B) EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX.—
14 For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of
15 1986, in the case of any individual who is a
16 member of an eligible household, gross income
17 shall not include assistance provided to such in-
18 dividual pursuant to this section.

19 “(C) NO EFFECT ON OTHER BENEFITS OR
20 ASSISTANCE.—Assistance provided to an eligible
21 household pursuant to this section shall not be
22 taken into account as income, and shall not be
23 taken into account as resources for the month
24 of receipt and the following 12 months, for pur-
25 poses of determining the eligibility of such

1 household for benefits or assistance, or the
2 amount or extent of benefits or assistance,
3 under any Federal program or under any State
4 or local program financed in whole or in part
5 with Federal funds.

6 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall,
8 subject to the availability of appropriations, provide
9 technical assistance to States, Indian Tribes, and
10 community water systems that entered into a con-
11 tract or other agreement with a State or Indian
12 Tribe under this section to support the implementa-
13 tion of this section. Not more than 1 percent of the
14 amount made available to carry out this section for
15 a fiscal year may be used to provide technical assist-
16 ance under this paragraph.

17 “(2) GRANTS.—The Administrator may award
18 grants to nonprofit organizations to provide tech-
19 nical assistance under paragraph (1). Each non-
20 profit organization receiving a grant under this
21 paragraph shall consult with the State, Indian Tribe,
22 or community water system to which the technical
23 assistance is to be provided before using the grant.
24 The Administrator shall prioritize awarding grants
25 under this paragraph to nonprofit organizations

1 that, as determined by the Administrator, are the
2 most qualified and experienced in providing technical
3 assistance to community water systems.

4 “(e) GUIDANCE.—The Administrator shall provide
5 guidance to States, Indian Tribes, and community water
6 systems to carry out an effective drinking water access
7 program in accordance with subsection (c), including ef-
8 fective methods to inform eligible households of the avail-
9 ability of covered assistance under such a program.

10 “(f) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
11 on which grants are first provided to a State or Indian
12 Tribe under the program established under subsection (a),
13 and each year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit
14 to Congress a report on the results of such program.

15 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 “(1) COVERED ASSISTANCE.—The term ‘cov-
17 ered assistance’ means each of the following:

18 “(A) Direct financial assistance.

19 “(B) A lifeline rate.

20 “(C) Bill discounting.

21 “(D) Special hardship provisions.

22 “(E) A percentage-of-income payment
23 plan.

24 “(F) A payment made directly to a cus-
25 tomer account of arrearages or fees from non-

1 payment for services provided by a community
2 water system.

3 “(G) Any other form of assistance identi-
4 fied by the Administrator.

5 “(2) HOUSEHOLD.—The term ‘household’
6 means any individual or group of individuals who
7 are living together as 1 economic unit.

8 “(3) ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLD.—The term ‘eligi-
9 ble household’ means a household—

10 “(A) that includes an individual who is—

11 “(i) the holder of an account for
12 drinking water service that is provided to
13 that household by a community water sys-
14 tem; or

15 “(ii) separately billed by a landlord
16 that holds an account with a community
17 water system for the cost of drinking water
18 service provided to that household; and

19 “(B)(i) that has an income that, as deter-
20 mined by the State in which the household is lo-
21 cated, does not exceed the greater of—

22 “(I) an amount equal to 150 percent
23 of the poverty level; and

1 “(II) an amount equal to 60 percent
2 of the State median income for that State;
3 or

4 “(ii) in which 1 or more individuals are re-
5 ceiving—

6 “(I) assistance under a State program
7 funded under part A of title IV of the So-
8 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

9 “(II) supplemental security income
10 payments under title XVI of the Social Se-
11 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

12 “(III) assistance under the Low-In-
13 come Home Energy Assistance Act of
14 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.);

15 “(IV) supplemental nutrition assist-
16 ance program benefits under the Food and
17 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
18 seq.); or

19 “(V) payments under—

20 “(aa) section 1315, 1521, 1541,
21 or 1542 of title 38, United States
22 Code; or

23 “(bb) section 306 of the Vet-
24 erans’ and Survivors’ Pension Im-

1 provement Act of 1978 (38 U.S.C.
2 1521 note; Public Law 95–588).

3 “(4) POVERTY LEVEL.—The term ‘poverty
4 level’ means, with respect to a household in a State,
5 the income described in the poverty guidelines issued
6 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
7 pursuant to section 673 of the Community Services
8 Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902), as applicable to
9 the household.

10 “(5) SMALL SYSTEM.—The term ‘small system’
11 means a community water system that serves fewer
12 than 10,000 people.

13 “(6) STATE MEDIAN INCOME.—The term ‘State
14 median income’ has the meaning given that term in
15 section 2603 of the Low-Income Home Energy As-
16 sistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8622).

17 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
19 appropriated \$1,500,000,000 for each of fiscal years
20 2025 through 2034 to carry out this section.

21 “(2) SET-ASIDE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—The Ad-
22 ministrator shall ensure that not less than 3 percent
23 of the amounts made available to carry out this sec-
24 tion are provided as grants to Indian Tribes.”.

25 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) RURAL AND LOW-INCOME WATER ASSIST-
2 ANCE PILOT PROGRAM.—The Infrastructure Invest-
3 ment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) is amended
4 by striking section 50109.

5 (2) DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.—Section
6 1401(14) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
7 U.S.C. 300f(14)) is amended by striking “and
8 1459B” and inserting “1459B, and 1459I”.

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