

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5216

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, 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 “Western South Dakota
5 Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) RECLAMATION FEASIBILITY STANDARDS.—

2 The term “reclamation feasibility standards” means
3 the eligibility criteria and feasibility study require-
4 ments described in section 106 of the Reclamation
5 Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 2405).

6 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the
8 Commissioner of Reclamation.

9 (3) WESTERN DAKOTA REGIONAL WATER SYS-
10 TEM.—The term “Western Dakota Regional Water
11 System” means the Western Dakota Regional Water
12 System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation established and
13 operated substantially in accordance with the rec-
14 lamation feasibility standards to serve as a non-Fed-
15 eral project entity for purposes of the cooperative
16 agreement entered into under section 3(b).

17 **SEC. 3. WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA WATER SUPPLY**
18 **PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

19 (a) STUDY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
21 tion with the West Dakota Water Development Dis-
22 trict, through a cooperative agreement, may under-
23 take a study to determine the feasibility of con-
24 structing a project to supply municipal, rural, and

1 industrial water from the Missouri River to the
2 Western Dakota Regional Water System.

3 (2) REQUIREMENT.—The study under para-
4 graph (1) shall comply with the reclamation feasi-
5 bility standards.

6 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary de-
7 termines that the study under subsection (a) does not
8 comply with the reclamation feasibility standards, the Sec-
9 retary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the
10 Western Dakota Regional Water System to complete addi-
11 tional work to ensure that the study under that subsection
12 complies with the reclamation feasibility standards.

13 (c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the
14 total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under this
15 section shall not exceed 50 percent.

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
18 out this section \$10,000,000.

19 (e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority
20 provided by this section expires on the date that is 10
21 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

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