



(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 with respect to the total amount of Federal assistance for projects in States experiencing severe drought, regionally and nationally significant projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 with respect to the total amount of Federal assistance for projects in States experiencing severe drought, regionally and nationally significant projects, 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 “Drought Relief Ob-
5 tained Using Government Help Today Act of 2026” or
6 the “DROUGHT Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN WATER INFRA-**
2 **STRUCTURE PROJECTS.**

3 Section 5029(b)(9) of the Water Infrastructure Fi-
4 nance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908(b)(9))
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(D) EXCEPTIONS FOR CERTAIN
7 PROJECTS.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
9 subparagraph (A), the total amount of
10 Federal assistance for a covered project for
11 which assistance is provided under this
12 subtitle shall not exceed 90 percent of the
13 total project cost.

14 “(ii) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this
15 section, the Secretary or the Adminis-
16 trator, as applicable shall prioritize financ-
17 ing for covered projects.

18 “(iii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
19 graph, the term ‘covered project’ means a
20 project described in paragraph (6) or (7)
21 of section 5026—

22 “(I) that is located in—

23 “(aa) a State that has been
24 designated as D2 (severe
25 drought) or greater according to
26 the United States Drought Mon-

1 itor for a minimum of 4 weeks
2 during the 5-year period pre-
3 ceding the date on which assist-
4 ance is provided for the project
5 under this subtitle; or

6 “(bb) a county for which a
7 drought emergency has been de-
8 clared by the applicable Governor
9 at any time during such period;

10 “(II) that serves—

11 “(aa) an area in which, on
12 the date on which assistance is
13 provided for the project under
14 this subtitle, the average house-
15 hold income is at or below 200
16 percent of the poverty threshold
17 established by the Bureau of the
18 Census; or

19 “(bb) an area that meets the
20 affordability criteria established
21 by a State pursuant to section
22 1452(d)(3) of the Safe Drinking
23 Water Act (42 U.S.C.
24 300j12(d)(3)) or section
25 603(i)(2) of the Federal Water

1 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
2 1383(i)(2)); or

3 “(III) that the Secretary or the
4 Administrator, as applicable, has des-
5 ignated to be a project of regional or
6 national significance because the
7 project demonstrably—

8 “(aa) increases drinking
9 water supply capacity or reli-
10 ability;

11 “(bb) enhances water reuse
12 or recycling;

13 “(cc) reduces regional water
14 usage;

15 “(dd) lowers costs to rate-
16 payers; or

17 “(ee) provides substantial
18 public health or environmental
19 benefits.”.