

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 957

To amend section 118 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for certain exceptions from rules for determining contributions in aid of construction, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 1995

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut (for herself, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. JACOBS, and Mr. JEFFERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend section 118 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for certain exceptions from rules for determining contributions in aid of construction, 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. TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF**  
4 **CONSTRUCTION.**

5 (a) TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CON-  
6 STRUCTION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 118 of the Internal  
2 Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to contributions to  
3 the capital of a corporation) is amended—

4           (A) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
5 section (e), and

6           (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the  
7 following new subsections:

8           “(c) SPECIAL RULES FOR WATER AND SEWAGE DIS-  
9 POSAL UTILITIES.—

10           “(1) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of this  
11 section, the term ‘contribution to the capital of the  
12 taxpayer’ includes any amount of money or other  
13 property received from any person (whether or not  
14 a shareholder) by a regulated public utility which  
15 provides water or sewerage disposal service if—

16           “(A) such amount is a contribution in aid  
17 of construction,

18           “(B) in the case of contribution of prop-  
19 erty other than water or sewerage disposal fa-  
20 cilities, such amount meets the requirements of  
21 the expenditure rule of paragraph (2), and

22           “(C) such amount (or any property ac-  
23 quired or constructed with such amount) is not  
24 included in the taxpayer’s rate base for rate-  
25 making purposes.

1           “(2) EXPENDITURE RULE.—An amount meets  
2 the requirements of this paragraph if—

3           “(A) an amount equal to such amount is  
4 expended for the acquisition or construction of  
5 tangible property described in section  
6 1231(b)—

7           “(i) which is the property for which  
8 the contribution was made or is of the  
9 same type as such property, and

10           “(ii) which is used predominantly in  
11 the trade or business of furnishing water  
12 or sewerage disposal services,

13           “(B) the expenditure referred to in sub-  
14 paragraph (A) occurs before the end of the sec-  
15 ond taxable year after the year in which such  
16 amount was received, and

17           “(C) accurate records are kept of the  
18 amounts contributed and expenditures made,  
19 the expenditures to which contributions are al-  
20 located, and the year in which the contributions  
21 and expenditures are received and made.

22           “(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purpose of this sub-  
23 section—

24           “(A) CONTRIBUTION IN AID OF CONSTRUC-  
25 TION.—The term ‘contribution in aid of con-

1 construction' shall be defined by regulations pre-  
2 scribed by the Secretary, except that such term  
3 shall not include amounts paid as service  
4 charges for starting or stopping services.

5 “(B) PREDOMINANTLY.—The term ‘pre-  
6 dominantly’ means 80 percent or more.

7 “(C) REGULATED PUBLIC UTILITY.—The  
8 term ‘regulated public utility’ has the meaning  
9 given such term by section 7701(a)(33), except  
10 that such term shall not include any utility  
11 which is not required to provide water or sewer-  
12 age disposal services to members of the general  
13 public in its service area.

14 “(4) DISALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTIONS AND IN-  
15 VESTMENT CREDIT; ADJUSTED BASIS.—Notwith-  
16 standing any other provision of this subtitle, no de-  
17 duction or credit shall be allowed for, or by reason  
18 of, any expenditure which constitutes a contribution  
19 in aid of construction to which this subsection ap-  
20 plies. The adjusted basis of any property acquired  
21 with contributions in aid of construction to which  
22 this subsection applies shall be zero.

23 “(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—If the taxpayer for  
24 any taxable year treats an amount as a contribution to

1 the capital of the taxpayer described in subsection (c),  
2 then—

3 “(1) the statutory period for the assessment of  
4 any deficiency attributable to any part of such  
5 amount shall not expire before the expiration of 3  
6 years from the date the Secretary is notified by the  
7 taxpayer (in such manner as the Secretary may pre-  
8 scribe) of—

9 “(A) the amount of the expenditure re-  
10 ferred to in subparagraph (A) of subsection  
11 (c)(2),

12 “(B) the taxpayer’s intention not to make  
13 the expenditures referred to in such subpara-  
14 graph, or

15 “(C) a failure to make such expenditure  
16 within the period described in subparagraph  
17 (B) of subsection (c)(2); and

18 “(2) such deficiency may be assessed before the  
19 expiration of such 3-year period notwithstanding the  
20 provisions of any other law or rule of law which  
21 would otherwise prevent such assessment.”

22 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
23 118(b) of such Code is amended by inserting “except  
24 as provided in subsection (c),” before “the term”.

1 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
2 by this subsection shall apply to amounts received  
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 (b) RECOVERY METHOD AND PERIOD FOR WATER  
5 UTILITY PROPERTY.—

6 (1) REQUIREMENT TO USE STRAIGHT LINE  
7 METHOD.—Section 168(b)(3) of the Internal Reve-  
8 nue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end  
9 the following new subparagraph:

10 “(F) Water utility property described in  
11 subsection (e)(5).”

12 (2) 25-YEAR RECOVERY PERIOD.—The table  
13 contained in section 168(c)(1) of such Code is  
14 amended by inserting the following item after the  
15 item relating to 20-year property.

“Water utility property ..... 25 years”.

16 (3) WATER UTILITY PROPERTY.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 168(e) of such  
18 Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
19 lowing new paragraph:

20 “(5) WATER UTILITY PROPERTY.—The term  
21 ‘water utility property’ means property—

22 “(A) which is an integral part of the gath-  
23 ering, treatment, or commercial distribution of  
24 water, and

1           “(B) which, without regard to this para-  
2           graph, would be 20-year property.”

3           (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subpara-  
4           graph (F) of section 168(e)(3) of such Code is  
5           amended by adding at the end the following  
6           new sentence: “Such term does not include  
7           water utility property.”

8           (4) ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM.—Clause (iv) of sec-  
9           tion 168(g)(2)(C) of such Code is amended by in-  
10          serting “, water utility property,” and “grading”.

11          (5) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
12          by this subsection shall apply to property placed in  
13          service after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
14          other than property placed in service pursuant to a  
15          binding contract in effect on such date and at all  
16          times thereafter before the property is placed in  
17          service.

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