

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1709

To provide favorable treatment for certain projects in response to Hurricane Katrina, with respect to revolving loans under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To provide favorable treatment for certain projects in response to Hurricane Katrina, with respect to revolving loans under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 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 “Gulf Coast Emergency
5 Water Infrastructure Assistance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LOANS.**

2 (a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—In this
3 section, the term “eligible project” means a project—

4 (1) to repair or rebuild a publicly-owned treat-
5 ment works (as defined in section 212 of the Federal
6 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292)) in
7 an area affected by Hurricane Katrina or a related
8 condition; or

9 (2) that is a water quality project directly re-
10 lated to relief efforts in response to Hurricane
11 Katrina or a related condition, as determined by the
12 State in which the project is located.

13 (b) ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIZATION.—For the 2-year
14 period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a
15 State may provide additional subsidization to an eligible
16 project that receives funds through a revolving loan under
17 section 603 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
18 (33 U.S.C. 1383), including—

19 (1) forgiveness of the principal of the revolving
20 loan; or

21 (2) a zero-percent interest rate on the revolving
22 loan.

23 (c) EXTENDED TERMS.—For the 2-year period be-
24 ginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State may
25 extend the term of a revolving loan under section 603 of

1 that Act (33 U.S.C. 1383) for an eligible project described
2 in subsection (b), if the extended term—

3 (1) terminates not later than the date that is
4 30 years after the date of completion of the project
5 that is the subject of the loan; and

6 (2) does not exceed the expected design life of
7 the project.

8 **SEC. 3. INTENDED USE PLANS.**

9 (a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section, the term
10 “State” means—

11 (1) the State of Alabama;

12 (2) the State of Louisiana; and

13 (3) the State of Mississippi.

14 (b) PROJECTS BY STATES.—For the 2-year period
15 beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a State
16 may provide assistance to a public water system that is
17 not included on the intended use plan of the State under
18 section 1452(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
19 U.S.C. 300j–12(b)), if the project—

20 (1) involves damage caused by Hurricane
21 Katrina or a related condition; and

22 (2) is in accordance with section 1452(b)(3)(A)
23 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(b)(3)(A)).

1 **SEC. 4. TESTING OF PRIVATELY-OWNED DRINKING WATER**
2 **WELLS.**

3 On receipt of a request from a homeowner, the Ad-
4 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may
5 conduct a test of a drinking water well owned or operated
6 by the homeowner that is, or may be, contaminated as a
7 result of Hurricane Katrina or a related condition.

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