

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3957

To increase research, development, education, and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices at the Environmental Protection Agency.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 24, 2007

Mr. MATHESON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

A BILL

To increase research, development, education, and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices at the Environmental Protection Agency.

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 “Water Use Efficiency
5 and Conservation Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Between 1950 and 2000, the United States
2 population increased nearly 90 percent. In that same
3 period, public demand for water increased 209 per-
4 cent. Americans now use an average of 100 gallons
5 of water per person each day. This increased de-
6 mand has put additional stress on water supplies
7 and distribution systems, threatening both human
8 health and the environment.

9 (2) Thirty six States are anticipating local, re-
10 gional, or statewide water shortages by 2013. In ad-
11 dition, climate change related effects are expected to
12 exacerbate already scarce water resources in many
13 areas of the country.

14 (3) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
15 Change's 2007 assessment states that water stored
16 in glaciers and snow cover is projected to decline, re-
17 ducing water availability to one-sixth of the world's
18 population that relies upon meltwater from major
19 mountain ranges. The Intergovernmental Panel on
20 Climate Change also predicts droughts will become
21 more severe and longer lasting in a number of re-
22 gions.

23 (4) Water conservation should be a national
24 goal and the Environmental Protection Agency
25 should work with nongovernmental partners to

1 achieve that goal. The Environmental Protection
2 Agency should support the research, development,
3 and dissemination of technologies and processes that
4 will achieve greater water use efficiency.

5 (5) WaterSense is a voluntary public-private
6 partnership program established by the Environ-
7 mental Protection Agency to promote water effi-
8 ciency by helping consumers identify water-efficient
9 products and practices. The Environmental Protec-
10 tion Agency estimates that if all United States
11 households installed water-efficient appliances, the
12 country would save more than 3,000,000,000,000
13 gallons of water and more than \$17,000,000,000 per
14 year.

15 (6) The WaterSense program has developed a
16 network of partners, and therefore can disseminate
17 the results of research on technologies and processes
18 that achieve greater water use efficiency.

19 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Administrator for
21 Research and Development of the Environmental Protec-
22 tion Agency (in this Act referred to as the “Assistant Ad-
23 ministrator”) shall establish a research and development
24 program to promote water use efficiency and conservation,
25 including—

1 (1) technologies and processes that enable the
2 collection, treatment, and reuse of rainwater and
3 greywater;

4 (2) water storage and distribution systems; and

5 (3) behavioral, social, and economic barriers to
6 achieving greater water use efficiency.

7 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In planning and imple-
8 menting the program the Assistant Administrator shall
9 consider—

10 (1) research needs identified by water resource
11 managers, State and local governments, and other
12 interested parties; and

13 (2) technologies and processes likely to achieve
14 the greatest increases in water use efficiency.

15 **SEC. 4. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.**

16 The Assistant Administrator, building on the results
17 of the activities of the program established under section
18 3, shall—

19 (1) facilitate the adoption of technology and
20 processes to increase water use, water efficiency, and
21 conservation; and

22 (2) collect and disseminate information on tech-
23 nologies and processes to increase water use and
24 conservation, including information on—

- 1 (A) incentives and impediments to develop-
2 ment and commercialization;
3 (B) best practices; and
4 (C) anticipated increases in water use effi-
5 ciency resulting from the implementation of
6 specific technologies and processes.

7 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

8 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment
9 of this Act, and once every 2 years thereafter, the Assist-
10 ant Administrator shall transmit to Congress a report
11 which details the progress being made by the Environ-
12 mental Protection Agency with regard to—

- 13 (1) research projects initiated by the Agency;
14 and
15 (2) outreach and communication activities con-
16 ducted by the Agency.

17 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There are authorized to be appropriated to the As-
19 sistant Administrator for carrying out this Act such sums
20 as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009
21 through 2013.

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