

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5770

To provide for a study by the National Academy of Sciences of potential impacts of climate change on water resources and water quality.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2008

Mr. HALL of New York (for himself, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Ms. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for a study by the National Academy of Sciences of potential impacts of climate change on water resources and water quality.

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. STUDY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE**
4 **CHANGE ON WATER RESOURCES AND WATER**
5 **QUALITY.**

6 (a) NATIONAL ACADEMY STUDY.—Not later than 60
7 days after funds are appropriated to carry out this Act,

1 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agen-
2 cy shall enter into an arrangement with the National
3 Academy of Sciences under which the Academy shall pre-
4 pare a 2-part study that includes the following:

5 (1) HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.—One
6 part of the study shall consist of—

7 (A) an identification of the potential im-
8 pacts of climate change on—

9 (i) the Nation’s watersheds and water
10 resources, including the potential for im-
11 pacts to wetlands, shoreline erosion, and
12 saltwater intrusion as a result of sea level
13 rise, and other hydrological and ecological
14 impacts;

15 (ii) significant regional variation in
16 precipitation events from historic patterns,
17 and the resulting impacts on watersheds,
18 water resources, and water quality; and

19 (iii) water quality, including the ex-
20 tent to which Federal and State efforts
21 under the Federal Water Pollution Control
22 Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) and other
23 ocean and coastal protection laws may be
24 affected by climate change; and

1 (B) information, analyses, and data that
2 identify, to the maximum extent practicable,
3 hydrological and temperature changes by water-
4 shed in the United States and that support the
5 findings made under subparagraph (A).

6 (2) POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.—Another part of
7 the study shall consist of—

8 (A) an identification of the scientific con-
9 sensus, assumptions, and uncertainties related
10 to predictions of climate change in the United
11 States;

12 (B) an assessment of the extent to which
13 Federal and State efforts under the Federal
14 Water Pollution Control Act and other ocean
15 and coastal laws may be affected by climate
16 change;

17 (C) an identification of steps to assess
18 emerging information and identifying the ap-
19 propriate response actions to meet the require-
20 ments of such Act, including provisions to at-
21 tain or maintain water quality standards and
22 for adequate stream flows for wetlands and
23 aquatic resources; and

24 (D) recommendations, if necessary, of po-
25 tential legislative or regulatory changes to ad-

1 dress impacts of global climate change on ef-
2 forts to restore and maintain the chemical,
3 physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's
4 waters.

5 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
7 mit a report of the results of the study in subsection (a),
8 together with any additional comments of the Adminis-
9 trator, to the Committee on Environment and Public
10 Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transpor-
11 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

12 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000 to carry out this
14 Act.

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