AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 376

AN ACT

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Drought Information Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM.

(a) SYSTEM AMENDMENTS.—Section 3 of the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''and continue to support'' after ''establish''; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''to better inform and provide for more timely decisionmaking to reduce drought related impacts and costs''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated Drought Information System shall—

''(1) provide an effective drought early warning system that—

''(A) collects and integrates information on the key indicators of drought and drought impacts, including water supplies and soil moisture, in order to make usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of drought, including assess-

ments of the severity of drought conditions and impacts; and

"(B) provides such information, forecasts, and assessments on both national and regional levels;

"(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis to stakeholders and entities engaged in drought planning, preparedness, and management, including—

"(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local levels of government;

"(B) the private sector; and

"(C) the public;

"(3) provide timely data, information, and products that reflect local, regional, and State differences in drought conditions;

"(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable, Federal research and monitoring in support of a drought early warning system;

"(5) build upon existing Federal, State, regional, private, public, and academic forecasting and assessment programs and partnerships; and

"(6) continue ongoing research and monitoring activities related to drought, including research activities relating to length, severity, and impacts of drought and the role of extreme weather events and climate variability in drought.".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 4 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) $12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.".

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the National Integrated Drought Information System.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the implementation of the National Integrated Drought Information System, including an assessment of how the information, forecasts, and assessments produced by such system are utilized in drought policy planning and response activities.

(B) Specific plans for continued development of the system, including future milestones.

(C) An identification of research, monitoring, and forecasting needs to enhance the predictive capability of drought early warnings that include—

(i) the length and severity of droughts;

(ii) the contribution of weather events to reducing the severity or ending drought conditions; and

(iii) regionally-specific drought impacts.

(D) A list of partners with whom the Under Secretary collaborates to implement the National Integrated Drought Information System.

(E) A description of the outreach activities conducted by the Under Secretary regarding the National Integrated Drought Information System.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report required by paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall consult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector.

Passed the Senate February 3, 2014.

Attest:

Secretary.

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