

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1955

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for nutrient removal technologies to States in the Great Lakes System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for nutrient removal technologies to States in the Great Lakes System.

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 “Great Lakes Nutrient
5 Removal Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) ineffective wastewater treatment is one of
9 the most common sources of water pollution;

1 (2) nutrient pollution, particularly phosphorus
2 loading, continues to be one of the most significant
3 water quality issues facing the Great Lakes System;

4 (3) limiting phosphorus loads is key to control-
5 ling excessive algal growth, and a coordinated Great
6 Lakes System-wide strategy to change how nutrients
7 are discharged is urgent; and

8 (4) nutrient removal technology is one of the
9 most reliable, cost effective, and direct methods for
10 reducing the flow of phosphorus and other harmful
11 nutrients from point sources in the Great Lakes
12 System.

13 **SEC. 3. NUTRIENT REMOVAL TECHNOLOGY GRANT PRO-**
14 **GRAM.**

15 Section 118 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
16 Act (33 U.S.C. 1268) is amended by adding at the end
17 the following new subsection:

18 “(i) NUTRIENT REMOVAL TECHNOLOGY GRANT PRO-
19 GRAM.—

20 “(1) GRANT PROGRAM.—

21 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1
22 year after the date of enactment of this sub-
23 section, the Administrator shall establish a pro-
24 gram within the Environmental Protection
25 Agency to make grants to Great Lakes States,

1 and municipalities thereof, to install, at eligible
2 facilities, nutrient removal technologies that are
3 designed to reduce total nutrients in discharged
4 wastewater.

5 “(B) PRIORITY.—In making a grant under
6 this subsection, the Administrator shall—

7 “(i) consult with the Program Office;

8 and

9 “(ii) give priority to eligible facilities
10 at which the installation of nutrient re-
11 moval technologies would—

12 “(I) produce the greatest nutri-
13 ent load reductions at points of dis-
14 charge;

15 “(II) result in the greatest envi-
16 ronmental benefits to the Great Lakes
17 System; and

18 “(III) help meet the objectives
19 related to nutrients outlined in Annex
20 4 of the Great Lakes Water Quality
21 Protocol of 2012.

22 “(C) APPLICATION.—A Great Lakes State,
23 or municipality thereof, may submit to the Ad-
24 ministrator an application for a grant under
25 this subsection in such form, and including

1 such information, as the Administrator may
2 prescribe.

3 “(D) GRANT.—If the Administrator ap-
4 proves an application submitted under this sub-
5 section, the Administrator may make a grant to
6 the applicant in an amount not to exceed 55
7 percent of the cost of installing the nutrient re-
8 moval technologies at the eligible facility with
9 respect to which the application was submitted.

10 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

11 “(A) GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY PRO-
12 TOCOL OF 2012.—The term ‘Great Lakes Water
13 Quality Protocol of 2012’ means the Great
14 Lakes Water Quality Protocol of 2012, signed
15 at Washington on September 7, 2012 (further
16 amending the Great Lakes Water Quality
17 Agreement).

18 “(B) ELIGIBLE FACILITY.—The term ‘eli-
19 gible facility’ means a municipal wastewater
20 treatment facility that—

21 “(i) as of the date of enactment of
22 this subsection, has a permitted design ca-
23 pacity to treat an annual average of at
24 least 500,000 gallons of wastewater per
25 day; and

1 “(ii) is located within the Great Lakes
2 System in any of the Great Lakes States.

3 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other
5 amounts authorized under this section, there is
6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this
7 subsection \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years
8 2016 through 2020. Such sums shall remain
9 available until expended.

10 “(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Ad-
11 ministrator may use not to exceed 4 percent of
12 any amount made available under subparagraph
13 (A) to pay administrative costs incurred in car-
14 rying out this subsection.”.

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