

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8728

To require that royalties derived from the production of sodium compounds and related products are disbursed to the State in which production occurred and to the Secretary of Education for educational grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Mr. COOK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 require that royalties derived from the production of sodium compounds and related products are disbursed to the State in which production occurred and to the Secretary of Education for educational grants, 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 referred to as the “Soda Ash Fund-
5 ing for Education Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISPOSITION OF REVENUES.**

2 (a) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS FROM ROYALTIES ON SO-
3 DIUM COMPOUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision
4 of law, royalties collected on the quantity or gross value
5 of the output of sodium compounds and related products
6 (as such term is used in the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction
7 Act of 2006 (30 U.S.C. 262 note)) from Federal land shall
8 be paid into the Treasury of the United States.

9 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Of funds deposited in the
10 Treasury under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treas-
11 ury shall—

12 (1) disburse 50 percent to the State within
13 which such leased land is located; and

14 (2) deposit 50 percent in the Fund.

15 (c) SODA ASH EDUCATIONAL EQUALIZATION
16 FUND.—

17 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in
18 the Treasury a fund, to be known as the “Soda Ash
19 Education Equalization Fund”, to be administered
20 by the Secretary of Education to provide resources
21 to local educational agencies (as such term is defined
22 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
23 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) impacted
24 by changes in sodium royalty rates or changes in
25 soda ash production levels.

1 (2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary of
2 Education shall use funds available in the Fund to
3 provide grants to local school districts that meet the
4 following conditions:

5 (A) The Secretary determines such school
6 has received not less than 50 percent of its an-
7 nual budget from payments attributable to so-
8 dium royalty payments for at least 2 of the pre-
9 vious 5 fiscal years.

10 (B) The Secretary determines that funding
11 for the school for the current fiscal year attrib-
12 utable to royalties on sodium compounds and
13 related products has fallen below the average
14 payment for the past 5 years, determined by
15 dropping the highest and lowest year from the
16 average.

17 (3) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary
18 of Education may not issue a grant to a school for
19 an amount in excess of the average calculated in
20 paragraph (2)(B).

21 (4) INVESTMENT OF FUND.—The Secretary of
22 the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund
23 as such Secretary determines appropriate in inter-
24 est-bearing obligations of the United States. The in-
25 terest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemp-

1 tion of, any obligation held in the Fund shall be
2 credited to and form a part of the Fund.

3 (5) FUND.—In this section, the term “Fund”
4 means the Soda Ash Education Equalization Fund
5 established in paragraph (1).

○