

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative, and  
for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee introduced the following bill; which was referred  
to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To implement a National Water Research and Development  
Initiative, 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 cited as the “National Water Re-  
5 search and Development Initiative Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**  
7 **INITIATIVE.**

8 (a) INITIATIVE AND PURPOSE.—The President shall  
9 implement a National Water Research and Development

1 Initiative (in this Act referred to as the “Initiative”). The  
2 purpose of the Initiative is to improve the Federal Govern-  
3 ment’s role in designing and implementing Federal water  
4 research, development, demonstration, education, and  
5 technology transfer activities to address changes in water  
6 use, supply, and demand in the United States, including  
7 providing additional support to increase water supply  
8 through greater efficiency and conservation.

9 (b) INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 months  
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Presi-  
12 dent shall establish, or designate, an interagency  
13 committee to implement the Initiative under sub-  
14 section (a). The Office of Science and Technology  
15 Policy shall chair the interagency committee.

16 (2) COMPOSITION.—The interagency committee  
17 shall include a representative from each agency that  
18 conducts research related to water or has authority  
19 over resources that affect water supply, as well as a  
20 representative from the Office of Management and  
21 Budget.

22 (3) FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERAGENCY COM-  
23 MITTEE.—The interagency committee shall—

24 (A) develop a National Water Availability  
25 Research and Assessment Plan (in this Act re-

1           ferred to as the “plan”) in accordance with sub-  
2           section (e);

3           (B) coordinate all Federal activities per-  
4           taining to water; and

5           (C) ensure cooperation among Federal  
6           agencies with respect to water-related manage-  
7           ment and research activities to avoid duplica-  
8           tion of effort and to ensure optimal use of re-  
9           sources and expertise.

10           (4) NATIONAL WATER INITIATIVE OUTREACH  
11           OFFICE.—

12           (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3  
13           months after the date of enactment of this Act,  
14           the President shall establish a National Water  
15           Initiative Outreach Office (in this Act referred  
16           to as the “Office”), with full-time staff, to—

17           (i) provide technical and administra-  
18           tive support to the interagency committee;

19           (ii) serve as a point of contact on  
20           Federal water activities for government  
21           agencies, organizations, academia, indus-  
22           try, professional societies, and others to ex-  
23           change technical and programmatic infor-  
24           mation; and

1 (iii) conduct public outreach, including  
2 the dissemination of findings and rec-  
3 ommendations of the interagency com-  
4 mittee based on the activities conducted  
5 pursuant to the Initiative.

6 (B) FUNDING.—The operation of the Of-  
7 fice shall be supported by funds contributed  
8 from each agency represented on the inter-  
9 agency committee.

10 (c) NATIONAL WATER AVAILABILITY RESEARCH AND  
11 ASSESSMENT PLAN.—

12 (1) PLAN DEVELOPMENT.—The plan required  
13 under subsection (b)(3)(A) shall establish the prior-  
14 ities for Federal water research and assessment for  
15 the 4-year period beginning in the year in which the  
16 plan is submitted to Congress and shall utilize up-  
17 dated recommendations from the 2007 report issued  
18 by the Subcommittee on Water Availability and  
19 Quality (SWAQ) of the National Science and Tech-  
20 nology Council's Committee on Environment and  
21 Natural Resources.

22 (2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—The plan  
23 shall—

1 (A) identify each current program and ac-  
2 tivity of each Federal agency related to the Ini-  
3 tiative;

4 (B) identify funding levels for the previous  
5 fiscal year for each program and, where appli-  
6 cable, each activity identified in subparagraph  
7 (A);

8 (C) set forth a strategy to achieve the out-  
9 comes described in subsection (d) and shall de-  
10 scribe—

11 (i) each activity required of each  
12 agency responsible for contributing to each  
13 such outcome;

14 (ii) the funding levels necessary to  
15 achieve each such outcome; and

16 (iii) the distribution of funds between  
17 each agency based on such agency's role in  
18 carrying out such activity;

19 (D) be subject to a 90-day public comment  
20 period and shall reflect suggestions received  
21 from the public in the form of changes to the  
22 plan; and

23 (E) be submitted to Congress not later  
24 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this  
25 Act.

1 (d) WATER RESEARCH OUTCOMES.—The plan shall  
2 outline and direct agencies under the interagency com-  
3 mittee to work to achieve the following outcomes:

4 (1) Implementation of a National Water Cen-  
5 sus, which shall include the collection of water data  
6 to create a comprehensive water database that in-  
7 cludes information about the availability and quality  
8 of ground water and surface water resources.

9 (2) Development of a new generation of water  
10 monitoring techniques.

11 (3) Development and expansion of technologies  
12 for enhancing reliable water supply.

13 (4) Development of innovative water-use tech-  
14 nologies and tools to enhance public acceptance of  
15 such technologies.

16 (5) Development of collaborative tools and proc-  
17 esses for United States water solutions.

18 (6) Improvement of understanding of water-re-  
19 lated ecosystem services and ecosystem needs for  
20 water.

21 (7) Improvement of hydrologic prediction mod-  
22 els and their applications.

23 (8) Analyses of the energy needs required to  
24 provide reliable water supplies throughout the  
25 United States.

1 **SEC. 3. BUDGET COORDINATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall provide guid-  
3 ance to each Federal agency participating in the Initiative  
4 with respect to the preparation of requests for appropria-  
5 tions for activities related to the plan.

6 (b) CONSIDERATION IN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDG-  
7 ET.—The President shall submit, at the time of the Presi-  
8 dent's annual budget request to Congress, a description  
9 of those items in each agency's budget which are elements  
10 of the plan or help to achieve the outcomes of the plan.

11 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.**

12 Concurrent with the annual submission of the Presi-  
13 dent's budget to Congress, the President shall submit to  
14 Congress a report that describes the activities and results  
15 of the Initiative during the previous fiscal year and out-  
16 lines the objectives for the next fiscal year. The report  
17 shall include detailed information on all programs and ac-  
18 tivities involved in the Initiative, including an analysis of  
19 progress towards achieving the outcomes listed in section  
20 2(d). The report shall contain information on economic,  
21 demographic, climatic, and technological changes that  
22 have contributed to changes in our Nation's water avail-  
23 ability and quality.