

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

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

To codify certain sections of Executive Order 14181 relating to emergency measures to provide water resources in California and improve disaster response in certain areas.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. GRAY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To codify certain sections of Executive Order 14181 relating to emergency measures to provide water resources in California and improve disaster response in certain areas.

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 “Water Agency and  
5       Transparency Enhancement Review (WATER) Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLANS TO ADDRESS REGULATORY HURDLES FOR**  
2 **MAJOR WATER-SUPPLY AND STORAGE**  
3 **PROJECTS.**

4 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR WATER-SUPPLY AND  
5 STORAGE PROJECTS.—The Secretary of the Interior and  
6 the Secretary of Commerce shall identify all ongoing or  
7 potential major water-supply and storage projects (includ-  
8 ing surface and ground water storage projects, aquifer re-  
9 charge projects, and State conveyance projects) within the  
10 State of California for which they have joint responsibility  
11 under section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973  
12 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)) or individual responsibilities under  
13 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.  
14 4321 et seq.).

15 (b) PLANS.—

16 (1) DESIGNATION OF COMPLIANCE OFFI-  
17 CIALS.—With respect to the projects identified under  
18 subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior and the  
19 Secretary of Commerce shall each designate one  
20 Federal official to coordinate each agency's respec-  
21 tive compliance responsibilities under the National  
22 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321  
23 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973  
24 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

25 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF REGULATORY HUR-  
26 DLES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of en-

1 actment of this section, each Federal official des-  
2 ignated under paragraph (1) shall—

3 (A) identify any regulatory hurdles that  
4 unduly burden each project identified under  
5 subsection (a);

6 (B) identify any recent changes in applica-  
7 ble State or Federal law that may impact such  
8 projects from a regulatory perspective, includ-  
9 ing changes made by the Fiscal Responsibility  
10 Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5); and

11 (C) develop a proposed plan, for review by  
12 the Secretaries, to appropriately suspend, re-  
13 vise, or rescind any regulations or procedures  
14 that unduly burden such projects and are not  
15 necessary to protect the public interest or oth-  
16 erwise comply with the law.

17 (3) COORDINATION.—In carrying out para-  
18 graph (2), each Federal official designated under  
19 paragraph (1) shall coordinate and share all appro-  
20 priate information that will enable improved effi-  
21 ciencies.

22 (c) UNDULY BURDEN DEFINED.—In this section, the  
23 term “unduly burden” means to unnecessarily obstruct,  
24 delay, curtail, impede, or otherwise impose significant

- 1 costs on the permitting, utilization, transmission, delivery,
- 2 or supply of water resources and water infrastructure.