

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3725

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the capacity and reach of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc. (doing business as “Lewis & Clark Regional Water System”), in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2026

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the capacity and reach of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc. (doing business as “Lewis & Clark Regional Water System”), in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Lewis & Clark Re-
3 gional Water System Expansion Feasibility Study Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITY.**—The
7 term “non-Federal project entity” means—

8 (A) the Lewis and Clark Rural Water Sys-
9 tem, Inc. (doing business as “Lewis & Clark
10 Regional Water System”); and

11 (B) any nonprofit successor entity to the
12 corporation described in subparagraph (A).

13 (2) **PROPOSED RURAL WATER SUPPLY**
14 **PROJECT.**—The term “proposed rural water supply
15 project” means the proposed project to supply mu-
16 nicipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the ca-
17 pacity and reach of the Lewis & Clark Regional
18 Water System in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and
19 South Dakota.

20 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of the Interior.

22 **SEC. 3. LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM EXPAN-**
23 **SION FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

24 (a) **STUDY.**—

25 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in coordina-
26 tion with the non-Federal project entity, shall carry

1 out a study to determine the feasibility of the pro-
2 posed rural water supply project.

3 (2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—After completion of
4 the feasibility study for the proposed rural water
5 supply project under paragraph (1), the Secretary
6 shall—

7 (A) develop a feasibility report that in-
8 cludes a recommendation of the Secretary on—

9 (i) whether the proposed rural water
10 supply project should be authorized for
11 construction; and

12 (ii) the appropriate non-Federal share
13 of construction costs, which shall be—

14 (I) at least 25 percent of the
15 total construction costs; and

16 (II) determined based on an
17 analysis of the financial capability-to-
18 pay the allocated construction and op-
19 erations, maintenance, and replace-
20 ment costs of the recommended plan;

21 (B) submit the report under subparagraph

22 (A) to the Committee on Energy and Natural
23 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on
24 Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
25 tives; and

1 (C) make the report under subparagraph
2 (A) publicly available, along with associated fea-
3 sibility study documents.

4 (3) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—In ad-
5 dition to the non-Federal project entity, the Sec-
6 retary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate
7 Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local authorities
8 during the conduct of the feasibility study and devel-
9 opment of the feasibility report under this sub-
10 section.

11 (b) COST-SHARING AGREEMENT FOR FEASIBILITY
12 STUDY COSTS.—The Secretary shall enter into a cost-
13 sharing agreement (or an appropriate financial assistance
14 agreement, as determined by the Secretary) with the non-
15 Federal project entity to conduct a study under subsection
16 (a) that complies with the reclamation feasibility stand-
17 ards.

18 (c) FEDERAL SHARE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY
19 COSTS.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying
20 out the feasibility study under subsection (a) shall not ex-
21 ceed 50 percent.

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
24 out this section \$10,000,000.

1 (e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority
2 provided by this section expires on the date that is 10
3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

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