

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5136

AN ACT

To establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.

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 “National Integrated
3 Drought Information System Act of 2006”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) DROUGHT.—The term “drought” means a
7 deficiency in precipitation—

8 (A) that leads to a deficiency in surface or
9 subsurface water supplies (including rivers,
10 streams, wetlands, ground water, soil moisture,
11 reservoir supplies, lake levels, and snow pack);
12 and

13 (B) that causes or may cause—

14 (i) substantial economic or social im-
15 pacts; or

16 (ii) substantial physical damage or in-
17 jury to individuals, property, or the envi-
18 ronment.

19 (2) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
20 Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce
21 for Oceans and Atmosphere.

22 **SEC. 3. NIDIS PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary, through the
24 National Weather Service and other appropriate weather
25 and climate programs in the National Oceanic and Atmos-

1 pheric Administration, shall establish a National Inte-
2 grated Drought Information System.

3 (b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated
4 Drought Information System shall—

5 (1) provide an effective drought early warning
6 system that—

7 (A) is a comprehensive system that collects
8 and integrates information on the key indica-
9 tors of drought in order to make usable, reli-
10 able, and timely drought forecasts and assess-
11 ments of drought, including assessments of the
12 severity of drought conditions and impacts;

13 (B) communicates drought forecasts,
14 drought conditions, and drought impacts on an
15 ongoing basis to—

16 (i) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
17 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of gov-
18 ernment;

19 (ii) the private sector; and

20 (iii) the public,

21 in order to engender better informed and more
22 timely decisions thereby leading to reduced im-
23 pacts and costs; and

24 (C) includes timely (where possible real-
25 time) data, information, and products that re-

1 flect local, regional, and State differences in
2 drought conditions;

3 (2) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
4 Federal research in support of a drought early warn-
5 ing system; and

6 (3) build upon existing forecasting and assess-
7 ment programs and partnerships.

8 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Under Secretary shall con-
9 sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local
10 government agencies, research institutions, and the pri-
11 vate sector in the development of the National Integrated
12 Drought Information System.

13 (d) COOPERATION FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-
14 CIES.—Each Federal agency shall cooperate as appro-
15 priate with the Under Secretary in carrying out this Act.

16 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this Act—

19 (1) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

20 (2) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

21 (3) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

22 (4) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

23 (5) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

1 (6) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

Passed the House of Representatives September 26,
2006.

Attest:

Clerk.

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