

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2339

To encourage research, development, and demonstration of technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

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## A BILL

To encourage research, development, and demonstration of technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, 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 “Produced Water Utili-  
5        zation Act of 2007”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        The Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) The population of the United States is in-  
2           creasing, and as the population increases, additional  
3           potable water supplies are required to sustain indi-  
4           viduals, agricultural production, and industrial  
5           users, particularly in the Mountain West and desert  
6           Southwest, where water resources are scarce.

7           (2) During the development of domestic energy  
8           sources, including coalbed methane, oil, and natural  
9           gas, water may be extracted from underground  
10          sources and brought to the surface, often increasing  
11          energy production from subsurface geological forma-  
12          tions in the process.

13          (3) Produced water frequently contains in-  
14          creased levels of potentially harmful dissolved solids,  
15          rendering much of the water nonpotable and unsuit-  
16          able for agricultural or industrial uses, and encour-  
17          aging reinjection of the water to subsurface geologi-  
18          cal formations to safely dispose of it, which may lead  
19          to reduced production of domestic energy resources  
20          and increased costs to producers.

21          (4) Increasing environmentally responsible sur-  
22          face utilization of produced water would—

23                  (A) increase water supplies available for  
24                  agricultural and industrial use;

1 (B) reduce the amount of produced water  
2 returned to underground formations; and

3 (C) increase domestic energy production by  
4 reducing costs associated with reinjection of  
5 produced water to the subsurface.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **EXISTING PROGRAM.**—The term “existing  
9 program” means a program at the Department of  
10 Energy which is engaged in research, development,  
11 demonstration, and commercial application of tech-  
12 nologies for unconventional domestic natural gas  
13 production and other domestic petroleum production  
14 as of the date of enactment of this Act.

15 (2) **PRODUCED WATER.**—The term “produced  
16 water” means water from an underground source  
17 that is brought to the surface as part of the process  
18 of exploration for or development of coalbed meth-  
19 ane, oil, natural gas, or any other substance to be  
20 used as an energy source.

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

23 **SEC. 4. PURPOSES.**

24 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out  
25 under this Act, in conjunction with an existing program,

1 a program of research, development, and demonstration  
2 of technologies for environmentally sustainable utilization  
3 of produced water for use for agriculture, irrigation, mu-  
4 nicipal, or industrial uses, or other environmentally sus-  
5 tainable purposes. The program shall be designed to maxi-  
6 mize the utilization of produced water in the United States  
7 by increasing the quality of produced water and reducing  
8 the environmental impacts of produced water.

9 (b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The program under this  
10 Act shall address the following areas, including improving  
11 safety and minimizing environmental impacts of activities  
12 within each area:

13 (1) Produced water recovery, including research  
14 for desalination and demineralization to reduce total  
15 dissolved solids in the produced water.

16 (2) Produced water utilization for agricultural,  
17 irrigation, municipal, or industrial uses, or other en-  
18 vironmentally sustainable purposes.

19 (3) Reinjection of produced water into sub-  
20 surface geological formations to increase energy pro-  
21 duction.

22 (c) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—The program  
23 under this Act shall be administered by a consortium, ad-  
24 ministering an existing program, whose members have col-  
25 lectively demonstrated capabilities and experience in plan-

1 ning and managing research, development, demonstration,  
2 and commercial application programs for unconventional  
3 natural gas and other petroleum production and produced  
4 water utilization.

5 (d) ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL ENERGY TECH-  
6 NOLOGY LABORATORY.—The Secretary, through the Na-  
7 tional Energy Technology Laboratory, shall carry out a  
8 program of research, development, and demonstration ac-  
9 tivities complementary to and supportive of the research,  
10 development, and demonstration programs under sub-  
11 section (b).

12 (e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this Act, the  
13 Secretary shall consult regularly with the Secretary of the  
14 Interior and the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-  
15 tection Agency.

16 **SEC. 5. SUNSET.**

17 The authority provided by this Act shall terminate  
18 on September 30, 2016.

19 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

20 (a) ALLOCATION.—Amounts appropriated for this  
21 Act for each fiscal year shall be allocated as follows:

22 (1) 75 percent shall be for activities under sec-  
23 tion 4(a), (b), and (c).

24 (2) 25 percent shall be for activities under sec-  
25 tion 4(d) and other activities under section 4, includ-

1       ing administrative functions such as program direc-  
2       tion, overall program oversight, and contract man-  
3       agement.

4       (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
5       are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act  
6       \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2016.

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