

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7978

To reauthorize the Cooperative Watershed Management Program, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2026

Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To reauthorize the Cooperative Watershed Management
Program, 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 “Cooperative Watershed
5 Management Program Reauthorization Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. COOPERATIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 6001 of the Omnibus
9 Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 1015)
10 is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
2 (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8), respectively;

3 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’
6 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
7 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
8 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”; and

9 (3) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), in
10 subparagraph (B)(v)—

11 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “or” at
12 the end;

13 (B) in subclause (II), by inserting “or”
14 after the semicolon; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(III) has ancestral lands within
17 the watershed;”.

18 (b) PROGRAM.—Section 6002 of the Omnibus Public
19 Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 1015a) is
20 amended—

21 (1) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1)(B)—

23 (i) in clause (i), by striking “interests;
24 or” and inserting “interests, including In-
25 dian tribes;”;

(ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) demonstrate significant need due to drought, wildfire, or other natural disaster; or”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “\$100,000” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “\$150,000 each year for a period of not less than 3 years, subject to the sufficiency of applications submitted and the availability of appropriations.”;

(ii) by striking clause (iii);

(iii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) CONTINUATION AND EXTENSION.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, at the discretion of the

1 Secretary, issue a continuation of the
2 first-phase grant for not more than 2
3 additional years if the recipient of the
4 first-phase grant has demonstrated
5 satisfactory performance with imple-
6 mentation of the proposal under the
7 initial grant, as determined by the
8 Secretary.

9 “(II) AMOUNTS.—A grant con-
10 tinued pursuant to subclause (I) shall
11 be in an amount not greater than
12 \$150,000 each year, as determined to
13 be appropriate by the Secretary.”;

14 (C) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), by striking
15 “quantity.” and inserting the following: “quan-
16 tity, including—

17 “(I) grant writing;

18 “(II) project management; and

19 “(III) technical assistance, such
20 as feasibility, design, preliminary envi-
21 ronmental review, and engineering.”;

22 and

23 (D) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(4) CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT.—The Sec-
25 retary shall—

1 “(A) make funding opportunities for the
2 program available on a regular basis; and

3 “(B) allow applications for grants under
4 the program to be submitted and evaluated
5 multiple times during a calendar year.”;

6 (2) in subsection (f), in the matter preceding
7 paragraph (1), by inserting “, and make available to
8 the public,” after “House of Representatives”; and

9 (3) by striking subsection (g) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

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