

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3736

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 the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System service area in the States of South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2026

Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. THUNE) 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 the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System service area in the States of South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota, 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 “Dakota Mainstem
5 Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) DAKOTA MAINSTEM REGIONAL WATER SYS-
 4 TEM.—The term “Dakota Mainstem Regional Water
 5 System” means the Dakota Mainstem Regional
 6 Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation estab-
 7 lished and operated substantially in accordance with
 8 the reclamation feasibility standards to serve as a
 9 non-Federal project entity for purposes of the coop-
 10 erative agreement entered into under section
 11 3(a)(1).

12 (2) RECLAMATION FEASIBILITY STANDARDS.—
 13 The term “reclamation feasibility standards” means
 14 the eligibility criteria and feasibility study require-
 15 ments described in part 404 of title 43, Code of
 16 Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

17 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 18 the Secretary of the Interior.

19 **SEC. 3. DAKOTA MAINSTEM WATER SUPPLY PROJECT FEA-**
 20 **SIBILITY STUDY.**

21 (a) STUDY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
 23 tion with the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water Sys-
 24 tem, through a cooperative agreement, may under-
 25 take a study to determine the feasibility of con-
 26 structing a project to supply municipal, rural, and

1 industrial water to the Dakota Mainstem Regional
2 Water System service area in the States of South
3 Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota.

4 (2) REQUIREMENT.—The study under para-
5 graph (1) shall comply with the reclamation feasi-
6 bility standards.

7 (b) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the
8 total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under this
9 section shall not exceed 50 percent.

10 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
12 out this section \$10,000,000.

13 (d) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority
14 provided by this section expires on the date that is 10
15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

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