



115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information
System, 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 “National Integrated
5 Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of
6 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION**
2 **SYSTEM PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the National Inte-
4 grated Drought Information System Act of 2006 (15
5 U.S.C. 313d) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “in
8 order to make usable, reliable, and timely fore-
9 casts of drought, including” and inserting “in-
10 cluding, precipitation, soil moisture, and evapo-
11 rative demand, in order to make usable, reli-
12 able, and timely forecasts of drought and”;

13 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “water-
14 shed,” after “regional,”;

15 (C) in paragraph (4)—

16 (i) by inserting “, through interagency
17 agreements” after “integrate”; and

18 (ii) by inserting “information” after
19 “warning”;

20 (D) by amending paragraph (5) to read as
21 follows:

22 “(5) utilize existing forecasting and assessment
23 programs and partnerships, including forecast com-
24 munication coordinators and cooperative institutes,
25 and improvements in seasonal, subseasonal, and low
26 flow water prediction; and”;

1 (E) in paragraph (6), by inserting “the
2 prediction,” after “relating to”;

3 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e)
4 as subsections (d) through (f), respectively;

5 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—The National Integrated
8 Drought Information System may—

9 “(1) engage with the private sector to improve
10 drought forecast and communication if the Under
11 Secretary determines the partnership is appropriate,
12 cost-effective, and beneficial to the public and deci-
13 sionmakers described in subsection (b)(2)(A); and

14 “(2) facilitate the development of 1 or more
15 academic cooperative partnerships to assist with Na-
16 tional Integrated Drought Information System func-
17 tions.”;

18 (4) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by insert-
19 ing “and sustainment” after “development”; and

20 (5) by striking subsection (f), as redesignated,
21 and inserting the following:

22 “(f) SOIL MOISTURE.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of enactment of the National Integrated Drought
24 Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018, the
25 Under Secretary, acting through the National Integrated

1 Drought Information System, shall develop a strategy for
2 a national coordinated soil moisture monitoring network.”.

3 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section
4 4 of the National Integrated Drought Information System
5 Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 **“SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
9 this Act—

10 “(1) \$13,500,000 for fiscal year 2018;

11 “(2) \$14,500,000 for fiscal year 2019;

12 “(3) \$15,500,000 for fiscal year 2020;

13 “(4) \$16,500,000 for fiscal year 2021;

14 “(5) \$17,500,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

15 “(6) \$18,500,000 for fiscal year 2023.”.

16 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE IN-**
17 **FORMATION IN AGRICULTURE.**

18 Section 1762(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (15
19 U.S.C. 8521(j)) is amended to read as follows:

20 “(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activi-
22 ties under this section—

23 “(1) \$26,500,000 for fiscal year 2018;

24 “(2) \$27,500,000 for fiscal year 2019;

25 “(3) \$28,500,000 for fiscal year 2020;

- 1 “(4) \$29,500,000 for fiscal year 2021;
- 2 “(5) \$30,500,000 for fiscal year 2022; and
- 3 “(6) \$31,500,000 for fiscal year 2023.”.