

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2978

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## AN ACT

To allow the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation to enter into a lease or other temporary conveyance of water rights recognized under the Fort Peck-Montana Compact for the purpose of meeting the water needs of the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Incorporated, 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. MONTANA INDIAN TRIBES; AGREEMENT WITH**  
4                   **DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION,**  
5                   **INCORPORATED.**

6       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes  
7 of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation (referred to in this  
8 section as the “Tribes”) may, with the approval of the  
9 Secretary of the Interior, enter into a lease or other tem-  
10 porary conveyance of water rights recognized under the  
11 Fort Peck-Montana Compact (Montana Code Annotated  
12 85–20–201) for the purpose of meeting the water needs  
13 of the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Incorporated  
14 (or any successor entity), in accordance with section 5 of  
15 the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of  
16 2000 (Public Law 106–382; 114 Stat. 1454).

17       (b) CONDITIONS OF LEASE.—With respect to a lease  
18 or other temporary conveyance described in subsection  
19 (a)—

20               (1) the term of the lease or conveyance shall  
21 not exceed 100 years;

22               (2) the lease or conveyance may be approved by  
23 the Secretary of the Interior without monetary com-  
24 pensation to the Tribes; and

1           (3) the Secretary of the Interior shall not be  
2           subject to liability for any claim or cause of action  
3           relating to the compensation or consideration re-  
4           ceived by the Tribes under the lease or conveyance.

5           (c) NO PERMANENT ALIENATION OF WATER.—Noth-  
6           ing in this section authorizes any permanent alienation of  
7           any water by the Tribes.

          Passed the House of Representatives May 16, 2006.

          Attest:

*Clerk.*

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