

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5136

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

Received

NOVEMBER 13, 2006

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

AN ACT

To establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Integrated
3 Drought Information System Act of 2006”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) DROUGHT.—The term “drought” means a
7 deficiency in precipitation—

8 (A) that leads to a deficiency in surface or
9 subsurface water supplies (including rivers,
10 streams, wetlands, ground water, soil moisture,
11 reservoir supplies, lake levels, and snow pack);
12 and

13 (B) that causes or may cause—

14 (i) substantial economic or social im-
15 pacts; or

16 (ii) substantial physical damage or in-
17 jury to individuals, property, or the envi-
18 ronment.

19 (2) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
20 Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce
21 for Oceans and Atmosphere.

22 **SEC. 3. NIDIS PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary, through the
24 National Weather Service and other appropriate weather
25 and climate programs in the National Oceanic and Atmos-

1 pheric Administration, shall establish a National Inte-
2 grated Drought Information System.

3 (b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated
4 Drought Information System shall—

5 (1) provide an effective drought early warning
6 system that—

7 (A) is a comprehensive system that collects
8 and integrates information on the key indica-
9 tors of drought in order to make usable, reli-
10 able, and timely drought forecasts and assess-
11 ments of drought, including assessments of the
12 severity of drought conditions and impacts;

13 (B) communicates drought forecasts,
14 drought conditions, and drought impacts on an
15 ongoing basis to—

16 (i) decisionmakers at the Federal, re-
17 gional, State, tribal, and local levels of gov-
18 ernment;

19 (ii) the private sector; and

20 (iii) the public,

21 in order to engender better informed and more
22 timely decisions thereby leading to reduced im-
23 pacts and costs; and

24 (C) includes timely (where possible real-
25 time) data, information, and products that re-

1 flect local, regional, and State differences in
2 drought conditions;

3 (2) coordinate, and integrate as practicable,
4 Federal research in support of a drought early warn-
5 ing system; and

6 (3) build upon existing forecasting and assess-
7 ment programs and partnerships.

8 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Under Secretary shall con-
9 sult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local
10 government agencies, research institutions, and the pri-
11 vate sector in the development of the National Integrated
12 Drought Information System.

13 (d) COOPERATION FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-
14 CIES.—Each Federal agency shall cooperate as appro-
15 priate with the Under Secretary in carrying out this Act.

16 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this Act—

19 (1) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

20 (2) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

21 (3) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

22 (4) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

23 (5) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

1 (6) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

 Passed the House of Representatives September 26,
2006.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.