

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3898, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS OF ARIZONA

Add at the end the following:

1 SEC. ____. **IDENTIFICATION AND PERMITTING FOR WATER**
2 RECHARGE ON FEDERAL LANDS.

3 (a) REVIEW AND IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than
4 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
5 retary concerned shall review lands under the jurisdiction
6 of the Forest Service and the jurisdiction of the Bureau
7 of Land Management, as applicable, to identify parcels of
8 such lands that are hydrologically and geologically well-
9 suited for water recharge efforts, including aquifer re-
10 charge, surface water infiltration, or managed aquifer re-
11 charge projects, taking into consideration factors such as
12 soil permeability, proximity to water sources, and minimal
13 environmental impact.

14 (b) STREAMLINED PERMITTING PROCESS.—The Sec-
15 retary concerned shall, in consultation with the Adminis-
16 trator of the Environmental Protection Agency and each
17 relevant State water resource agency—

18 (1) establish clear and simple permitting proc-
19 esses for water recharge projects on parcels of land
20 identified by the Secretary under subsection (a), in-

1 including a process to facilitate (to the extent prac-
2 ticable)—

3 (A) the actions of the Secretary of the
4 Army under section 17 applicable to such
5 projects; and

6 (B) the expedited issuance of a permit
7 under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollu-
8 tion Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as amended
9 by this Act, relating to such projects; and

10 (2) ensure, to the extent practicable, that each
11 process established under paragraph (1) minimizes
12 regulatory burdens, provides for categorical exclu-
13 sions or streamlined environmental assessments, and
14 promotes collaboration with State and local entities
15 to expand water recharge efforts.

16 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
17 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
18 retary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior
19 shall each submit to Congress a report detailing the par-
20 cels identified by the Secretary under subsection (a) and
21 each permitting process established by the Secretary
22 under subsection (b).

23 (d) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this sec-
24 tion, the term “Secretary concerned” means—

1 (1) with respect to lands under the jurisdiction
2 of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture,
3 acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

4 (2) with respect to lands under the jurisdiction
5 of the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary
6 of the Interior, acting through the Director of the
7 Bureau of Land Management.

