

**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 BRACK-**
2 **ISH GROUNDWATER AND DESALINATION ON**
3 **FEDERAL LANDS.**

4 (a) REVIEW AND IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than
5 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary concerned shall review lands under the jurisdiction
7 of the Forest Service and the jurisdiction of the Bureau
8 of Land Management, as applicable, to identify parcels of
9 such lands that are well-suited for brackish groundwater
10 extraction and desalination efforts, including projects in-
11 volving reverse osmosis, membrane filtration, or other de-
12 salination technologies, taking into consideration factors
13 such as brackish water resource availability, energy access,
14 and compatibility with existing land uses.

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

19 (1) establish clear and simple permitting proc-
20 esses for brackish groundwater and desalination

1 projects on parcels identified under subsection (a),
2 including processes to facilitate (to the extent prac-
3 ticable)—

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

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

11 (2) ensure, to the extent practicable, that each
12 process established under paragraph (1) minimizes
13 regulatory burdens, provides for categorical exclu-
14 sions or streamlined environmental assessments, and
15 promotes collaboration with State and local entities
16 to expand brackish groundwater and desalination ef-
17 forts.

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

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

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

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

