

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 9022, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MS. STANSBURY OF NEW MEXICO**

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

1 SEC. ____.

2 (a) In this section:

3 (1) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The term “Advisory Committee” means the Advisory Committee on
4 Water Information established by subsection (d).
5

6 (2) **COUNCIL.**—The term “Council” means the
7 Water Data Council established under subsection
8 (c).

9 (3) **DATA STANDARDS.**—The term “data standards” means standards relating to the manner in
10 which data are to be structured, populated, and en-
11 coded in machine-readable formats, and made inter-
12 operable for data exchange.
13

14 (4) **DEPARTMENTS.**—The term “Departments”
15 means each of the following:

16 (A) The Department of Agriculture.

17 (B) The Department of Commerce.

18 (C) The Department of Defense.

19 (D) The Department of Energy.

1 (E) The Department of Health and
2 Human Services.

3 (F) The Department of Homeland Secu-
4 rity.

5 (G) The Department of the Interior.

6 (H) The Environmental Protection Agency.

7 (I) The National Aeronautics and Space
8 Administration.

9 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
10 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
11 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
12 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

13 (6) NATIONAL WATER DATA FRAMEWORK.—
14 The term “National Water Data Framework” means
15 the national water data framework developed under
16 subsection (b).

17 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of the Interior.

19 (8) WATER DATA.—The term “water data”
20 means measurements of basic properties relating to
21 the planning and management of water resources,
22 including streamflow, precipitation, groundwater,
23 soil moisture, snow, evaporation, water quality, and
24 water use in agriculture, industry, natural systems,
25 and municipal uses.

1 (9) WATER DATA GRANT PROGRAM.—The term
2 “Water Data Grant Program” means the water data
3 grant program established under subsection (e).

4 (10) WATER DATA INFRASTRUCTURE.—The
5 term “water data infrastructure” means an inte-
6 grated system of information technologies that in-
7 cludes common standards, formats, and tools to
8 make water data easy to find, access, and share on-
9 line.

10 (b) NATIONAL WATER DATA FRAMEWORK.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of improv-
12 ing water resources management and access across
13 the United States, including addressing drought,
14 floods, and other water management challenges, the
15 heads of the Departments shall jointly develop and
16 implement a national water data framework for inte-
17 grating, sharing, and using water data.

18 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing and imple-
19 menting the National Water Data Framework, the
20 Departments shall—

21 (A) identify and prioritize key water data
22 needed to support water resources management
23 and planning, including—

24 (i) water data sets, types, and associ-
25 ated metadata; and

1 (ii) water data infrastructure, tech-
2 nologies, and tools;

3 (B) develop and adopt common national
4 water data standards for collecting, sharing,
5 and integrating water data, infrastructure,
6 technologies, and tools in consultation with
7 States, Indian Tribes, local governments, and
8 relevant bodies;

9 (C) ensure that Federal water data are
10 made findable, accessible, interoperable, and re-
11 usable in accordance with the standards devel-
12 oped and adopted pursuant to this section;

13 (D) integrate water data and tools through
14 common approaches to data infrastructure,
15 platforms, models, and tool development;

16 (E) establish a common, national
17 geospatial index for publishing and linking
18 water data from Federal, State, Tribal, and
19 other non-Federal sources for online discovery;

20 (F) harmonize and align policies, pro-
21 grams, protocols, budgets, and funding pro-
22 grams relating to water data to achieve the pur-
23 poses of this section to the maximum extent
24 practicable;

1 (G) participate in and coordinate water
2 data activities with the Council; and

3 (H) support the adoption of new tech-
4 nologies and the development of tools for water
5 data collection, sharing, and standardization by
6 Federal, State, Tribal, local, and other entities.

7 (c) WATER DATA COUNCIL.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of the Depart-
9 ments shall establish an interagency Council, to be
10 known as the “Water Data Council”, to support the
11 development and implementation of the National
12 Water Data Framework.

13 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

14 (A) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—The Sec-
15 retary shall—

16 (i) serve as the Chair of the Council;

17 (ii) in collaboration with the Office of
18 Science and Technology Policy, convene
19 the Council not less frequently than 4
20 times each year; and

21 (iii) provide staff support for the
22 Council through the United States Geologi-
23 cal Survey.

24 (B) MEMBERS.—Council Members shall in-
25 clude the heads of the following entities:

- 1 (i) The Departments.
- 2 (ii) Bureaus and offices of the De-
- 3 partments that have a significant role or
- 4 interest in water data, including—
- 5 (I) the Corps of Engineers;
- 6 (II) the Bureau of Indian Af-
- 7 fairs;
- 8 (III) the Bureau of Reclamation;
- 9 (IV) the Federal Emergency
- 10 Management Agency;
- 11 (V) the Federal Energy Regu-
- 12 latory Commission;
- 13 (VI) the United States Fish and
- 14 Wildlife Service;
- 15 (VII) the Indian Health Service;
- 16 (VIII) the Forest Service;
- 17 (IX) the National Laboratories;
- 18 (X) the Natural Resources Con-
- 19 servation Service;
- 20 (XI) the National Oceanic and
- 21 Atmospheric Administration;
- 22 (XII) the Rural Development
- 23 program of the Department of Agri-
- 24 culture; and

1 (XIII) the United States Geologi-
2 cal Survey.

3 (iii) Offices of the Executive Office of
4 the President, including—

5 (I) the Council on Environmental
6 Quality;

7 (II) the Office of Management
8 and Budget; and

9 (III) the Office of Science and
10 Technology Policy.

11 (iv) Other Federal entities that the
12 Chair and a majority of the members of
13 the Council described in subparagraphs
14 (A) through (C) determine to be appro-
15 priate.

16 (3) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

17 (A) support the development and imple-
18 mentation of the National Water Data Frame-
19 work; and

20 (B) facilitate communication and collabo-
21 ration among members of the Council—

22 (i) to establish, adopt, and implement
23 common national water data standards;

1 (ii) to promote water data sharing
2 and integration across Federal depart-
3 ments and agencies, including—

4 (I) water data collection, docu-
5 mentation, maintenance, distribution,
6 and preservation strategies; and

7 (II) development and use of
8 water data infrastructure, tools, and
9 technologies to support water manage-
10 ment and planning;

11 (iii) to align the policies, programs,
12 protocols, budgets, and funding programs
13 relating to water data of the members of
14 the Council; and

15 (iv) to promote partnerships across
16 Federal entities and non-Federal entities—

17 (I) to advance innovation and so-
18 lutions in water data, technology,
19 tools, planning, and management; and

20 (II) to develop guidelines for data
21 sharing and protecting data privacy.

22 (4) WATER DATA COUNCIL REPORTS.—Not
23 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
24 this section, and annually thereafter, in conjunction
25 with the annual budget submission of the President

1 to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31,
2 United States Code, the Secretary, acting on behalf
3 of the Council, shall submit to members of the
4 Council and the appropriate committees of Congress
5 and make available publicly online a report that de-
6 scribes—

7 (A) the National Water Data Framework;

8 (B) the actions undertaken by the Depart-
9 ments to implement this Act pursuant to sub-
10 section (b);

11 (C) key water data sets, types, and infra-
12 structure needed to support water management
13 and planning;

14 (D) goals, targets, and actions to carry out
15 the National Water Data Framework in the
16 subsequent fiscal year;

17 (E) a summary and evaluation of the
18 progress of the Departments in achieving any
19 prior goals, targets, and actions to carry out
20 the National Water Data Framework;

21 (F) actions needed to align policies, pro-
22 grams, and budgetary resources to carry out
23 the National Water Data Framework in the
24 subsequent fiscal year;

1 (G) grants and assistance provided to
2 State, Tribal, and local entities toward the de-
3 velopment and adoption of new technologies and
4 tools;

5 (H) opportunities to develop and
6 incentivize the deployment of promising next-
7 generation technologies, including new water
8 data technologies and tools, in partnership with
9 the private sector and others to accomplish the
10 purposes of this section; and

11 (I) metrics for achieving the National
12 Water Data Framework.

13 (d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WATER INFORMA-
14 TION.—

15 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
16 within the Department of the Interior an advisory
17 committee, to be known as the “Advisory Committee
18 on Water Information”, to advise the Secretary, De-
19 partments, and Council on the development and im-
20 plementation of the National Water Data Frame-
21 work.

22 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 (A) COMPOSITION.—The Advisory Com-
24 mittee shall be composed of members, to be ap-

1 pointed by the Secretary in a manner that pro-
2 vides for—

3 (i) balanced representation among
4 various entities involved in water-related
5 activities; and

6 (ii) consideration for a geographic bal-
7 ance of individuals representing localities
8 across the United States.

9 (B) SELECTION.—Members of the Advi-
10 sory Committee shall be selected by the Sec-
11 retary from among entities involved in water-re-
12 lated activities, including—

13 (i) States;

14 (ii) Indian Tribes;

15 (iii) local governments;

16 (iv) Federal entities;

17 (v) water agencies, utilities, conserva-
18 tion districts, irrigation districts, acequias,
19 and other water user associations;

20 (vi) organizations that facilitate col-
21 laboration across States and multi-state in-
22 strumentalities;

23 (vii) educational institutions;

24 (viii) professional organizations;

- 1 (ix) water data and technology-related
2 experts, professionals, and industries;
3 (x) private sector entities; and
4 (xi) nonprofit organizations.

5 (C) TERM.—Members of the Advisory
6 Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary
7 for a term not to exceed 4 years.

8 (3) CHAIR.—The Secretary shall serve as the
9 Chair of the Advisory Committee.

10 (4) STAFF SUPPORT.—The United States Geo-
11 logical Survey shall provide support services for the
12 Advisory Committee.

13 (5) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall
14 meet at the call of the Chair, but not less frequently
15 than 4 times each year.

16 (6) DUTIES.—The duties of the Advisory Com-
17 mittee are to advise the Secretary, Departments,
18 and Council on—

19 (A) the development and implementation of
20 the National Water Data Framework;

21 (B) efforts to operate a cost-effective na-
22 tional network of water data collection and
23 analysis that meets the priority water informa-
24 tion needs of the Federal Government and, to
25 the extent practicable using available resources,

1 the needs of the non-Federal community that
2 are tied to national interests;

3 (C) efforts to develop uniform standards,
4 guidelines, and procedures for the collection,
5 analysis, management, and dissemination of
6 water information to improve quality, consist-
7 ency, and accessibility nationwide; and

8 (D) the effectiveness of existing water in-
9 formation programs and recommended modi-
10 fications needed to respond to changes in legis-
11 lation, technology, and other conditions.

12 (7) APPLICABILITY OF FACa.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
14 paragraph (2), the Federal Advisory Committee
15 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Advisory
16 Committee.

17 (B) NO TERMINATION.—Section 14(a)(2)
18 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5
19 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory
20 Committee.

21 (e) WATER DATA GRANT PROGRAM.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
23 a water data grant program under which the Sec-
24 retary shall award grants—

1 (A) to support non-Federal entities in
2 making water data sets findable, accessible,
3 interoperable, and reusable in accordance with
4 the water data standards established under this
5 section;

6 (B) to advance the development of water
7 data infrastructure, tools, and technologies to
8 facilitate the sharing and use of water data;

9 (C) to support programs and projects that
10 facilitate water data sharing and use in water
11 resources management and the implementation
12 of the National Water Data Framework; and

13 (D) to provide a prize for accelerating in-
14 novation and developing next-generation water
15 data tools and technologies.

16 (2) COORDINATION WITH THE COUNCIL.—The
17 Secretary shall consult and coordinate with the
18 Council in creating and implementing the Water
19 Data Grant Program to ensure that—

20 (A) the Water Data Grant Program is
21 aligned with and carries out the purposes of
22 this section; and

23 (B) grants and programs are harmonized
24 across the Departments and members of the
25 Council to achieve the purposes of this section.

1 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible for
2 a grant under the Water Data Grant Program—

3 (A) shall demonstrate significant needs or
4 capabilities for advancing water data sharing
5 and tools with a significant public benefit; and

6 (B) may include—

7 (i) a State, multistate instrumentality,
8 Indian Tribe, or other unit of local govern-
9 ment;

10 (ii) a water agency, utility, conserva-
11 tion district, irrigation district, acequia,
12 mutual domestic association, or other enti-
13 ty organized pursuant to Federal, Tribal,
14 or local laws for the purpose of water-re-
15 lated activities;

16 (iii) an educational institution or non-
17 profit organization; and

18 (iv) in the case of carrying out activi-
19 ties described in paragraph (1)(D)—

20 (I) an individual who is a citizen
21 or legal resident of the United States;

22 or

23 (II) an entity that is incorporated
24 and maintains the primary place of

1 business of the entity in the United
2 States.

3 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (A) DATA SHARING AND STANDARDS.—

5 Any project funded through the Water Data
6 Grant Program shall be implemented in accord-
7 ance with the water data standards established
8 under subsection (b).

9 (B) USE OF EXISTING WATER DATA IN-
10 FRASTRUCTURE.—The recipient of a grant
11 shall, to the extent practicable, leverage existing
12 water data and water data infrastructure.

13 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
14 date of enactment of this section, and annually
15 thereafter, in conjunction with the annual budget
16 submission of the President to Congress under sec-
17 tion 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the
18 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that de-
19 scribes the implementation of the Water Data Grant
20 Program, including—

21 (A) a description of the use and deploy-
22 ment of amounts made available under the
23 Water Data Grant Program;

1 (B) an accounting of all grants awarded
2 under the Water Data Grant Program, includ-
3 ing a description of—

4 (i) each grant recipient; and

5 (ii) each project funded under the
6 Water Data Grant Program;

7 (C) an assessment of the success of the
8 Water Data Grant Program in advancing the
9 purposes of this section; and

10 (D) a plan for the subsequent fiscal year
11 to achieve the purposes of this section.

12 (6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
14 retary to carry out the Water Data Grant Program
15 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
16 2032, to remain available until expended.

17 (7) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the funds au-
18 thorized to be appropriated under paragraph (6),
19 not more than 3 percent may be used by the Sec-
20 retary for administrative costs.

21 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
23 out subsections (b) through (d) \$15,000,000 for each of

- 1 fiscal years 2027 through 2032, to remain available until
- 2 expended.

