

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, S. 240, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 240

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24, 2025

Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Crow Tribe Water
5 Rights Settlement Amendments Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. CROW TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 403 of the Crow Tribe
8 Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–
9 291; 124 Stat. 3097) is amended—

1 (1) by striking paragraph (11) and inserting
2 the following:

3 “(11) MR&I PROJECT.—The term ‘MR&I
4 Project’ means an activity described in clauses (i)
5 through (iii) of section 411(e)(3)(F).”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (12)—

7 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
8 “SYSTEM” and inserting “PROJECTS”; and

9 (B) in subparagraphs (A) through (C), by
10 striking “System” each place it appears and in-
11 serting “Projects”.

12 (b) REPEAL OF MR&I SYSTEM.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 406 of the Crow
14 Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public
15 Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3102) is repealed.

16 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
17 tents for the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public
18 Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3064) is amended by strik-
19 ing the item relating to section 406.

20 (c) CROW SETTLEMENT FUND.—Section 411 of the
21 Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public
22 Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3113) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “to be admin-
24 istered by the Secretary” and inserting “to be man-
25 aged, invested, and distributed by the Secretary and

1 to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or re-
2 verted to the general fund of the Treasury, con-
3 sisting of amounts deposited in the Fund under sub-
4 section (b), together with any investment earnings,
5 including interest, earned on those amounts,”;

6 (2) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “Sys-
8 tem” and inserting “Projects”; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(5)(A) The MR&I Projects Account, to be es-
11 tablished as soon as practicable after the date of en-
12 actment of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement
13 Amendments Act of 2025, consisting of—

14 “(i) amounts made available pursuant
15 to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section
16 414(b) that are appropriated after the date
17 of enactment of the Crow Tribe Water
18 Rights Settlement Amendments Act of
19 2025; and

20 “(ii) amounts to be deposited pursu-
21 ant to section 414(h)(2).

22 “(B) Amounts deposited into the MR&I
23 Projects Account shall be further deposited into the
24 special joint signature account named ‘MR&I Ac-
25 count’ established pursuant to the agreement with

1 the Tribe dated September 13, 2012, prior to any
2 investment earnings accruing or becoming avail-
3 able.” ”;

4 (3) in subsection (e)—

5 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-
6 graph (C) and inserting the following:

7 “(C) the American Indian Trust Fund
8 Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.
9 4001 et seq.).”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
12 “through (E)” and inserting “through
13 (F)”;

14 (ii) in subparagraph (E)—

15 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
16 by striking “SYSTEM” and inserting
17 “PROJECTS”; and

18 (II) by striking “System” each
19 place it appears and inserting
20 “Projects”; and

21 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(F) MR&I PROJECTS ACCOUNT.—Funds
24 from the MR&I Projects Account shall be used

1 for expenditures by the Tribe in accordance
2 with the following:

3 “(i) PRIORITY USE OF FUNDS.—The
4 Tribe shall use funds from the MR&I
5 Projects Account—

6 “(I) to plan, permit, design, engi-
7 neer, construct, reconstruct, replace,
8 rehabilitate, operate, or repair water
9 production, treatment, or delivery in-
10 frastructure, including for domestic
11 and municipal use or wastewater in-
12 frastructure; and

13 “(II) to comply with applicable
14 environmental laws for the activities
15 described in subclause (I).

16 “(ii) OTHER USE OF FUNDS.—After
17 providing written notice to the Secretary
18 that on-Reservation MR&I projects de-
19 scribed in clause (i) are complete, the
20 Tribe may use funds remaining in the
21 MR&I Projects Account to purchase on-
22 Reservation land with water rights.”; and

23 (4) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(i) TITLE TO INFRASTRUCTURE.—Title to, control
25 over, and operation of any project constructed using funds

1 from the MR&I Projects Account shall remain in the
2 Tribe.

3 “(j) OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACE-
4 MENT.—The Federal Government shall have no obligation
5 to pay for the operation, maintenance, or replacement of
6 any MR&I Project.”.

7 (d) YELLOWTAIL DAM, MONTANA.—Subsection
8 (b)(1) of section 412 of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Set-
9 tlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat.
10 3116) is amended by striking “15 years” and inserting
11 “20 years”.

12 (e) FUNDING.—Section 414 of the Crow Tribe Water
13 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124
14 Stat. 3120) is amended in subsection (e)—

15 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “SYS-
16 TEM” and inserting “PROJECTS”; and

17 (2) by striking “System” and inserting
18 “Projects”.

19 (f) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) Section 403(9) of the Crow Tribe Water
21 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–
22 291; 124 Stat. 3098) is amended by striking “(25
23 U.S.C. 450b)” and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304)”.

24 (2) Section 410(e)(1) of the Crow Tribe Water
25 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–

1 291; 124 Stat. 3112) is amended in subparagraph
2 (C), by striking “agreements with the Tribe required
3 by sections 405(a) and 406(a)” and inserting
4 “agreement with the Tribe required by section
5 405(a)”.