

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 726
OFFERED BY MR. DOWNING OF MONTANA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

4 SEC. 2. CROW TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT.

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

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

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

13 (2) in paragraph (12)—

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

16 (B) in subparagraphs (A) through (C), by
17 striking “System” each place it appears and in-
18 serting “Projects”.

1 (b) REPEAL OF MR&I SYSTEM.—

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4 Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3102) is repealed.

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

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

12 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “to be admin-
13 istered by the Secretary” and inserting “to be man-
14 aged, invested, and distributed by the Secretary and
15 to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or re-
16 verted to the general fund of the Treasury, con-
17 sisting of amounts deposited in the Fund under sub-
18 section (b), together with any investment earnings,
19 including interest, earned on those amounts,”;

20 (2) in subsection (c)—

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

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

24 “(5)(A) The MR&I Projects Account, to be es-
25 tablished as soon as practicable after the date of en-

1 actment of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement
2 Amendments Act of 2025, consisting of—

3 “(i) amounts made available pursuant
4 to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section
5 414(b) that are appropriated after the date
6 of enactment of the Crow Tribe Water
7 Rights Settlement Amendments Act of
8 2025; and

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

11 “(B) Amounts deposited into the MR&I
12 Projects Account shall be further deposited into the
13 special joint signature account named ‘MR&I Ac-
14 count’ established pursuant to the agreement with
15 the Tribe dated September 13, 2012, prior to any
16 investment earnings accruing or becoming avail-
17 able.’”;

18 (3) in subsection (e)—

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

21 “(C) the American Indian Trust Fund
22 Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.
23 4001 et seq.).”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “through (E)” and inserting “through
3 (F)”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (E)—

5 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
6 by striking “SYSTEM” and inserting
7 “PROJECTS”; and

8 (II) by striking “System” each
9 place it appears and inserting
10 “Projects”; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(F) MR&I PROJECTS ACCOUNT.—Funds
14 from the MR&I Projects Account shall be used
15 for expenditures by the Tribe in accordance
16 with the following:

17 “(i) PRIORITY USE OF FUNDS.—The
18 Tribe shall use funds from the MR&I
19 Projects Account—

20 “(I) to plan, permit, design, engi-
21 neer, construct, reconstruct, replace,
22 rehabilitate, operate, or repair water
23 production, treatment, or delivery in-
24 frastructure, including for domestic

1 and municipal use or wastewater in-
2 frastructure; and

3 “(II) to comply with applicable
4 environmental laws for the activities
5 described in subclause (I).

6 “(ii) OTHER USE OF FUNDS.—After
7 providing written notice to the Secretary
8 that on-Reservation MR&I projects de-
9 scribed in clause (i) are complete, the
10 Tribe may use funds remaining in the
11 MR&I Projects Account to purchase on-
12 Reservation land with water rights.”; and

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

14 “(i) TITLE TO INFRASTRUCTURE.—Title to, control
15 over, and operation of any project constructed using funds
16 from the MR&I Projects Account shall remain in the
17 Tribe.

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

22 (d) YELLOWTAIL DAM, MONTANA.—Subsection
23 (b)(1) of section 412 of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Set-
24 tlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat.

1 3116) is amended by striking “15 years” and inserting
2 “20 years”.

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

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

8 (2) by striking “System” and inserting
9 “Projects”.

10 (f) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11 (1) Section 403(9) of the Crow Tribe Water
12 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–
13 291; 124 Stat. 3098) is amended by striking “(25
14 U.S.C. 450b)” and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304)”.

15 (2) Section 410(e)(1) of the Crow Tribe Water
16 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–
17 291; 124 Stat. 3112) is amended in subparagraph
18 (C), by striking “agreements with the Tribe required
19 by sections 405(a) and 406(a)” and inserting
20 “agreement with the Tribe required by section
21 405(a)”.

