

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 3427
OFFERED BY MR. TAYLOR OF OHIO

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Water Resources Tech-
3 nical Assistance Review Act”.

4 SEC. 2. GAO REPORT ON CLEAN WATER TECHNICAL ASSIST-
5 ANCE.

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
8 of the United States shall initiate a comprehensive review
9 of all covered technical assistance.

10 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Comptroller General shall
11 include in the review required under subsection (a) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (1) A description of all covered technical assist-
14 ance available to States, Tribes, local governments,
15 and non-governmental organizations, including—

16 (A) the regions and populations that are
17 served through the provision of technical assist-
18 ance; and

1 (B) a summary of the activities and ac-
2 tions carried out through covered technical as-
3 sistance during the 5-year period preceding this
4 Act.

5 (2) A comprehensive review of how the Admin-
6 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,
7 through the Water Technical Assistance initiative
8 (known as “WaterTA initiative”), identifies, selects,
9 and partners with technical assistance providers to
10 support communities, including—

11 (A) a description of the criteria, evaluation
12 process, and contracting mechanisms used for
13 selecting such providers;

14 (B) a description of the extent of coordina-
15 tion with State, Tribal, and regional partners in
16 the selection and deployment of such providers;

17 (C) a description of how such providers are
18 matched to meet the needs of local commu-
19 nities, including any pre-engagement scoping
20 activities or community consultations;

21 (D) a description of how such providers
22 identify communities in need of technical assist-
23 ance, including economically distressed commu-
24 nities, and conduct outreach to such commu-
25 nities;

1 (E) a description of the scope and types of
2 assistance delivered through such initiative; and

3 (F) a list of communities that received
4 technical assistance support through such ini-
5 tiative, including the type and cost of assistance
6 received by each such community and a sum-
7 mary of the outcomes associated with the provi-
8 sion of such assistance.

9 (3) An analysis of any duplication of covered
10 technical assistance available through multiple pro-
11 grams of the Environmental Protection Agency.

12 (4) An evaluation of how the provision of cov-
13 ered technical assistance builds capacity in commu-
14 nities to access other water infrastructure programs
15 carried out by the Administrator.

16 (5) An assessment of the needs of economically
17 distressed communities eligible to receive assistance
18 under a clean water infrastructure program carried
19 out by the Administrator that are not addressed
20 through covered technical assistance.

21 (6) An evaluation of how the Administrator car-
22 ries out covered technical assistance in coordination
23 with other Federal agencies providing technical as-
24 sistance related to water infrastructure.

1 (7) An evaluation of how covered technical as-
2 sistance supports communities in understanding,
3 identifying, and implementing alternative and cost-
4 effective technologies and features of treatment
5 works that achieve long-term savings and improved
6 outcomes in addressing water quality challenges.

7 (c) REPORT.—Upon the completion of the review con-
8 ducted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall
9 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
10 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
11 mittee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate
12 a report containing—

13 (1) the findings of such review; and

14 (2) any recommendations to improve covered
15 technical assistance.

16 (d) PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 90 days
17 after the Comptroller General submits the report required
18 under subsection (c), and annually thereafter for a period
19 of 5 years, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-
20 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
21 of Representatives and the Committee on Environment
22 and Public Works of the Senate a plan detailing any ac-
23 tions the Administrator has taken to comply with the rec-
24 ommendations contained in such a report.

1 (e) COVERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—
2 In this section, the term “covered technical assistance”
3 means a technical assistance authority, initiative, or pro-
4 gram of the Environmental Protection Agency that is re-
5 lated to clean water infrastructure.

