To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2013

Mr. HALL (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Integrated
Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of
2013”.

SEC. 2. NIDIS PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.

Section 3 of the National Integrated Drought Infor-
mination System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amend-
(1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “to better inform and provide for more timely decisionmaking to reduce drought related impacts and costs”;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated Drought Information System shall—

“(1) provide an effective drought early warning system that—

“(A) collects and integrates information on the key indicators of drought and drought impacts in order to make usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of drought, including assessments of the severity of drought conditions and impacts; and

“(B) provides such information, forecasts, and assessments on both national and regional levels;

“(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis to public and private entities engaged in drought planning and preparedness, including—
“(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local levels of government;

“(B) the private sector; and

“(C) the public;

“(3) provide timely data, information, and products that reflect local, regional, and State differences in drought conditions;

“(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable, Federal research and monitoring in support of a drought early warning system;

“(5) build upon existing forecasting and assessment programs and partnerships, including through the designation of one or more cooperative institutes to assist with National Integrated Drought Information System functions; and

“(6) continue ongoing research and monitoring activities related to drought.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013, the Under Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives, for each fiscal year the report required under section 324h of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 437g).
the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that contains—

“(A) an analysis of the implementation of the National Integrated Drought Information System program, including how the information, forecasts, and assessments are utilized in drought policy planning and response activities;

“(B) specific plans for continued development of such program, including future milestones; and

“(C) an identification of research, monitoring, and forecasting needs to enhance the predictive capability of drought early warnings that include—

“(i) the length and severity of droughts;

“(ii) the contribution of weather events to reducing the severity or ending drought conditions; and

“(iii) regionally specific drought impacts.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report under paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall consult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal,
and local government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector.”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 4 of such Act is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $13,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.”.