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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants for nitrate and arsenic reduction projects, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. TORRES of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants for nitrate and arsenic reduction projects, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Removing Nitrate and  
5 Arsenic in Drinking Water Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NITRATE AND ARSENIC REDUCTION GRANT PRO-**

2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part E of the Safe Drinking  
4 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is amended by insert-  
5 ing after section 1459G the following:

6 **“SEC. 1459H. NITRATE AND ARSENIC REDUCTION GRANT**

7 **PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) ARSENIC REDUCTION PROJECT.—The term  
10 ‘arsenic reduction project’ means a project or activ-  
11 ity the primary purpose of which is to reduce the  
12 concentration of arsenic in water for human con-  
13 sumption.

14 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
15 tity’ means—

16 “(A) a community water system;

17 “(B) a nontransient noncommunity water  
18 system;

19 “(C) a qualified nonprofit organization  
20 with experience in nitrate or arsenic reduction,  
21 as determined by the Administrator; and

22 “(D) a municipality or State, interstate, or  
23 intermunicipal agency, including a special-pur-  
24 pose unit of local government.

25 “(3) NITRATE REDUCTION PROJECT.—The  
26 term ‘nitrate reduction project’ means a project or

1       activity the primary purpose of which is to reduce  
2       the concentration of nitrate in water for human con-  
3       sumption.

4           “(4) LOW-INCOME.—The term ‘low-income’,  
5       with respect to assistance under subsection (b)(4),  
6       has such meaning as may be given the term by the  
7       Governor of the State in which the eligible entity is  
8       located, based upon the affordability criteria estab-  
9       lished by the State under section 1452(d)(3).

10          “(5) NONTRANSIENT NONCOMMUNITY WATER  
11       SYSTEM.—The term ‘nontransient noncommunity  
12       water system’ means a noncommunity water system  
13       that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons  
14       over a 6 month period, or more, per year.

15          “(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

16           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the avail-  
17       ability of appropriations, the Administrator shall es-  
18       tablish a grant program to provide assistance to eli-  
19       gible entities for nitrate or arsenic reduction projects  
20       in the United States.

21           “(2) PRECONDITION.—As a condition of receipt  
22       of assistance under this subsection, an eligible entity  
23       shall take steps to identify—

1                   “(A) the source of nitrate or arsenic, as  
2                   applicable, in the public water system that is  
3                   subject to human consumption; and

4                   “(B) the means by which the proposed ni-  
5                   trate or arsenic reduction project would mean-  
6                   ingfully reduce the concentration of nitrate or  
7                   arsenic in water provided for human consump-  
8                   tion by the applicable public water system.

9                   “(3) PRIORITY APPLICATION.—In providing  
10                   grants under this subsection, the Administrator shall  
11                   give priority to an eligible entity that the Adminis-  
12                   trator determines, based on affordability criteria es-  
13                   tablished by the State under section 1452(d)(3), to  
14                   be a disadvantaged community and—

15                   “(A) has not been in compliance with the  
16                   maximum contaminant level of nitrate or ar-  
17                   senic, as applicable, at any time during the 3-  
18                   year period preceding the date of submission of  
19                   the application of such eligible entity; or

20                   “(B) proposes to address nitrate or arsenic  
21                   levels, as applicable, in water for human con-  
22                   sumption at a school, daycare, or other facility  
23                   that primarily serves children or other vulner-  
24                   able human subpopulation described in section  
25                   1458(a)(1).

1           “(4) LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE.—An eligible en-  
2        tity may use a grant provided under this subsection  
3        to purchase and install treatment technology that re-  
4        duces the amount of nitrate or arsenic, as applica-  
5        ble, in drinking water, with first priority given to as-  
6        sisting disadvantaged communities based on the af-  
7        fordability criteria established by the applicable  
8        State under section 1452(d)(3), low-income home-  
9        owners, and landlords or property owners providing  
10      housing to low-income renters.

11        “(c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Not more  
12      than 4 percent of funds made available for grants under  
13      this section may be used to pay the administrative costs  
14      of the Administrator.

15        “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
16      is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—  
17           “(1) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and  
18           “(2) \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year there-  
19        after.”.

20        (b) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the Environ-  
21      mental Protection Agency shall conduct a review on the  
22      extent the nitrate and arsenic reduction grant program  
23      under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et  
24      seq.), as added by subsection (a), takes into consideration  
25      equity to improve equity outcomes, including taking into

- 1 consideration the diverse needs of economically disadvantaged and underserved populations.
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