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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. TAYLOR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, 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 “Water Resources Tech-
5 nical Assistance Review Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GAO REPORT ON CLEAN WATER TECHNICAL ASSIST-**
2 **ANCE.**

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

7 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Comptroller General shall
8 include in the review required under subsection (a) the fol-
9 lowing:

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

13 (A) the regions and populations that are
14 served through the provision of technical assist-
15 ance; and

16 (B) a summary of the activities and ac-
17 tions carried out through covered technical as-
18 sistance during the 5-year period preceding this
19 Act.

20 (2) A comprehensive review of how the Admin-
21 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,
22 through the Water Technical Assistance initiative
23 (known as “WaterTA initiative”), identifies, selects,
24 and partners with technical assistance providers to
25 support communities, including—

1 (A) a description of the criteria, evaluation
2 process, and contracting mechanisms used for
3 selecting such providers;

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

7 (C) a description of how such providers are
8 matched to meet the needs of local commu-
9 nities, including any pre-engagement scoping
10 activities or community consultations;

11 (D) a description of how such providers
12 identify communities in need of technical assist-
13 ance, including economically distressed commu-
14 nities, and conduct outreach to such commu-
15 nities;

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

18 (F) a list of communities that received
19 technical assistance support through such ini-
20 tiative, including the type and cost of assistance
21 received by each such community and a sum-
22 mary of the outcomes associated with the provi-
23 sion of such assistance.

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

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

8 (5) An assessment of the needs of economically
9 distressed communities eligible to receive assistance
10 under a clean water infrastructure program carried
11 out by the Administrator that are not addressed
12 through covered technical assistance.

13 (6) An evaluation of how the Administrator car-
14 ries out covered technical assistance in coordination
15 with other Federal agencies providing technical as-
16 sistance related to water infrastructure.

17 (c) REPORT.—Upon the completion of the review con-
18 ducted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall
19 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
20 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
21 mittee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate
22 a report containing—

23 (1) the findings of such review; and

24 (2) any recommendations to improve covered
25 technical assistance.

1 (d) **PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE.**—Not later than 90 days
2 after the Comptroller General submits the report required
3 under subsection (c), and annually thereafter for a period
4 of 5 years, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-
5 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
6 of Representatives and the Committee on Environment
7 and Public Works of the Senate a plan detailing any ac-
8 tions the Administrator has taken to comply with the rec-
9 ommendations contained in such a report.

10 (e) **COVERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DEFINED.**—
11 In this section, the term “covered technical assistance”
12 means a technical assistance authority, initiative, or pro-
13 gram of the Environmental Protection Agency that is re-
14 lated to clean water infrastructure.