



WATER STRATEGIES LLC

4 E Street SE, Washington, DC 20003 ▪ (202) 698-0690 phone ▪ (202) 698-0694 fax

DATE: June 12, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ed Gerak, IEDA
FROM: Water Strategies, LLC
SUBJECT: House Natural Resources Full Committee Markup

On Wednesday, June 12, Water Strategies virtually attended the House Natural Resources Committee Markup which considered the following pieces of legislation:

- H.R. 1395 (Rep. Fitzpatrick), “Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2023”;
- H.R. 1437 (Rep. Rose), “Black Vulture Relief Act of 2023” ;
- H.R. 1647 (Rep. Moulton), “Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act”;
- H.R. 3119 (Rep. Soto), To provide for the issuance of a Manatee Semipostal Stamp;
- H.R. 5441 (Rep. LaLota), “Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023”;
- H.R. 6395 (Rep. Curtis), “Recognizing the Importance of Critical Minerals in Healthcare Act of 2023”;
- H.R. 7776 (Rep. Lee of NV), “Help Hoover Dam Act”;
- H.R. 7872 (Rep. Curtis), “Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act”;
- H.R. 8446 (Rep. Ciscomani), To amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, and for other purposes; and
- H.R. 8450 (Rep. Cammack), “Phosphate and Potash Protection Act of 2024”.

For the purposes of this memo, only activities for H.R. 7776, the Help Hoover Dam Act, and H.R. 7872, the Colorado River Salinity Control Act are covered. Below is a summary of each bill:

H.R. 7776 – Help Hoover Dam Act. This bill would amend the Boulder Canyon Project Act (43 U.S.C. 617) to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to access funds for any authorized activity, including operations, maintenance, investigations, and cleanup actions within the Boulder Canyon Project at Hoover Dam. Bill text is available [HERE](#).

H.R. 7872 – Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act. This bill would modify the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act (Public Law 93-320) by increasing the federal cost share for salinity control units within the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. Bill text is available [HERE](#).

During his opening statement, Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) described how many of the bills being debated today support the production of critical minerals. Chairman Westerman neglected to comment on either H.R. 7872 or H.R. 7776.

Next, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez (D-NY), serving as the substitute Ranking Member in lieu of Rep. Raúl Grijalva's (D-AZ) absence, discussed oil and gas leases and the recently reported collusion with OPEC. Rep. Ocasio Cortez neglected to comment on H.R. 7872 or H.R. 7776.

Next, Rep. John Curtis (R-UT) spoke in favor of H.R. 7872, the Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act, noting that it would continue to address salinity in the Colorado River and would modernize the original Act.

Following this, both H.R. 7872 and H.R. 7776 were favorably reported out of Committee by unanimous consent. Next, H.R. 7872 and H.R. 7776 must be included on the House Calendar to receive consideration by the full House of Representatives.

A hearing memo prepared by the House Committee on Natural Resources majority staff, which provides background information on each bill, is available [HERE](#).

Water Strategies will continue to monitor relevant hearings conducted by the House Committee on Natural Resources throughout the 118th Congress.

Should you have any questions or want additional information, please feel free to contact our office by phoning (202) 698-0690 or Kris Polly directly at (703) 517-3962. We can also be contacted by e-mail at kris.polly@waterstrategies.com.