

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5907

To authorize the provision of water and waste facility direct loans and grants to communities with greater populations under certain circumstances.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2021

Mr. VELA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize the provision of water and waste facility direct loans and grants to communities with greater populations under certain circumstances.

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 Infrastructure
5 for Rural and Impoverished Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE WATER AND WASTE**
7 **FACILITY DIRECT LOANS AND GRANTS TO**
8 **COMMUNITIES WITH GREATER POPULATIONS**
9 **UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.**

10 (a) LIST OF PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
3 Agriculture shall generate a list of all counties in the
4 United States that are persistent poverty counties.

5 (2) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTY.—In sub-
6 section (a), the term “persistent poverty county”
7 means a county that has had 20 percent or more of
8 its population living in poverty over the past 30
9 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial
10 censuses, and the 2007–2011 American Community
11 Survey 5-year average, or any territory or possession
12 of the United States.

13 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 306(a) of the Consoli-
14 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
15 1926(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (6) the
16 following:

17 “(7)(A) In the making of direct loans and grants for
18 community waste disposal and water facilities under para-
19 graphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, using any funds
20 made available to the State in which the communities are
21 located for the direct loans or grants for the fiscal year
22 that remain available after June 30 of the fiscal year—

23 “(i) section 343(a)(13)(B) shall be applied by
24 substituting ‘not less than 10,000 and not more

1 than 30,000 inhabitants’ for ‘no more than 10,000
2 inhabitants’; and

3 “(ii) the Secretary shall prioritize the making of
4 the direct loans and grants to communities in per-
5 sistent poverty counties.

6 “(B) In subparagraph (A), the term ‘persistent pov-
7 erty county’ means a county that has had 20 percent or
8 more of its population living in poverty over the past 30
9 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial cen-
10 suses, and the 2007–2011 American Community Survey
11 5-year average, or any territory or possession of the
12 United States.”.

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