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The Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2023

Water efficiency is the most cost-effective way to ensure clean, affordable drinking water for communities across the country. Much like energy efficiency measures, improving water efficiency saves consumers money, reduces demand, decreases strain on water supply systems, and saves energy.

However, federal spending on energy efficiency and renewable energy has outpaced spending on water efficiency and water reuse by approximately 80 to 1 since 2000, resulting in millions of gallons of water wasted each year that could otherwise be stored or utilized.

As the Western United States, and much of the Southeast, enters another year of historic drought, investing in resilient water supplies is an increasingly urgent priority for states, water systems, and families facing rising water rates. In a survey completed as part of a 2014 GAO report, 40 out of 50 state water managers expected water shortages in some portion of their state in the next decade.

The “Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2023” would create a suite of options to address water inefficiencies and losses in public water systems.

- *Water Efficiency and Conservation Grant Program:* Provides funding to States, municipalities, and water systems to carry out water efficiency incentive and direct installation programs. These programs already exist at many water systems across the country and have helped achieve savings from residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. Authorized at \$50M/year for 5 years.
- *Sustainable Water Loss Control Program:* Provides funding and technical assistance to conduct annual water audits, implement controls to address losses, and establish water loss control programs. Managing water loss is a cost-effective way to reduce the need for upgrades and expansions. Water loss control programs include a range of interventions, from fixing leaky pipes to improving metering systems. Authorized at \$40M/year for 5 years.
- *Assistance for Water Efficient Plumbing Code Adoption:* Provides funding to State, local, and Tribal governments to assist in the voluntary adoption and implementation of model water-efficient plumbing codes. Similar Federal assistance has been provided for the adoption of energy efficient building codes. Authorized at \$20M/year for 5 years.

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