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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into negotiations with interested local water and power providers for the transfer of ownership, control, and operation of the New Melones Unit, Central Valley Project, and for other purposes

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into negotiations with interested local water and power providers for the transfer of ownership, control, and operation of the New Melones Unit, Central Valley Project, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. TRANSFER THE NEW MELONES UNIT, CENTRAL**
2 **VALLEY PROJECT TO INTERESTED PRO-**
3 **VIDERS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act, the
5 following terms apply:

6 (1) INTERESTED LOCAL WATER AND POWER
7 PROVIDERS.—The term “interested local water and
8 power providers” includes the Calaveras County
9 Water District, Central San Joaquin Water Con-
10 servation District, Modesto Irrigation District,
11 Oakdale Irrigation District, Stockton East Water
12 District, South San Joaquin Irrigation District,
13 Tuolumne Utilities District, Turlock Irrigation Dis-
14 trict, and Union Public Utilities District.

15 (2) NEW MENLONES UNIT, CENTRAL VALLEY
16 PROJECT.—The term “New Melones Unit, Central
17 Valley project” means all Federal reclamation
18 projects located within or diverting water from or to
19 the watershed of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin
20 rivers and their tributaries as authorized by the Act
21 of August 26, 1937 (50 Stat. 850) and all Acts
22 amendatory or supplemental thereto, including the
23 Act of October 23, 1962 (76 Stat.1173).

24 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 (b) NEGOTIATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
2 vision of law, the Secretary shall enter into negotiations
3 with interested local water and power providers for the
4 transfer ownership, control, and operation of the New
5 Melones Unit, Central Valley Project to interested local
6 water and power providers within the State of California.

7 (c) TRANSFER.—The Secretary shall transfer the
8 New Melones Unit, Central Valley project in accordance
9 with an agreement reached pursuant to negotiations con-
10 ducted under subsection (b).

11 **SEC. 2. REPORT.**

12 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
13 ment of this Act, and every 6 months thereafter, the Sec-
14 retary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
15 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
16 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
17 a report that describes, in detail—

18 (1) if an agreement is reached pursuant to ne-
19 gotiations conducted under section 1(b), the terms of
20 that agreement;

21 (2) the status of formal discussions with inter-
22 ested local water and power providers for the trans-
23 fer of ownership, control, and operation of the New
24 Melones Unit, Central Valley Project to interested
25 local water and power providers;

1 (3) all unresolved issues regarding the negotia-
2 tions of an agreement for the transfer of ownership,
3 control, and operation of the New Melones Unit,
4 Central Valley project;

5 (4) an analysis and review of studies, reports,
6 discussions, hearing transcripts, negotiations, and
7 other information about past and present formal dis-
8 cussions that—

9 (A) have an impact on the progress of the
10 formal discussions;

11 (B) explain or provide information about
12 the issues that prevent progress or finalization
13 of formal discussions; or

14 (C) are, in whole or in part, preventing
15 execution of an agreement for the transfer; and

16 (5) any actions the Secretary recommends that
17 the United States should take to finalize an agree-
18 ment for that transfer.