

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 50

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 8, 2019

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Columbia River In-
3 Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SANITATION AND SAFETY CONDITIONS AT CERTAIN**
5 **BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FACILITIES.**

6 (a) ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of
7 the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
8 in consultation with the affected Columbia River Treaty
9 tribes, may assess current sanitation and safety conditions
10 on lands held by the United States for the benefit of the
11 affected Columbia River Treaty tribes, including all per-
12 manent Federal structures and improvements on those
13 lands, that were set aside to provide affected Columbia
14 River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds—

15 (1) in accordance with the Act of March 2,
16 1945 (59 Stat. 10, chapter 19) (commonly known as
17 the “River and Harbor Act of 1945”); or

18 (2) in accordance with title IV of Public Law
19 100–581 (102 Stat. 2944).

20 (b) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORIZATION; CONTRACTS.—The
21 Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of
22 Indian Affairs—

23 (1) subject to paragraph (2)(B), shall be the
24 only Federal agency authorized to carry out the ac-
25 tivities described in this section; and

1 (2) may delegate the authority to carry out ac-
2 tivities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of sub-
3 section (d)—

4 (A) through one or more contracts entered
5 into with an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
6 tion under the Indian Self-Determination and
7 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et
8 seq.); or

9 (B) to include other Federal agencies that
10 have relevant expertise.

11 (c) DEFINITION OF AFFECTED COLUMBIA RIVER
12 TREATY TRIBES.—In this section, the term “affected Co-
13 lumbia River Treaty tribes” means the Nez Perce Tribe,
14 the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation,
15 the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
16 of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the
17 Yakama Nation.

18 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the
20 Interior such sums as are necessary, to remain available
21 until expended—

22 (1) for improvements to existing structures and
23 infrastructure to improve sanitation and safety con-
24 ditions assessed under subsection (a); and

1 (2) to improve access to electricity, sewer, and
2 water infrastructure, where feasible, to reflect needs
3 for sanitary and safe use of facilities referred to in
4 subsection (a).

5 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT AC-**
6 **TIVITIES.**

7 The Comptroller General of the United States, in
8 consultation with the Committee on Indian Affairs of the
9 Senate, shall—

10 (1) conduct a study to evaluate whether the
11 sanitation and safety conditions on lands held by the
12 United States for the benefit of the affected Colum-
13 bia River Treaty tribes (as defined in section 2(c))
14 have improved as a result of the activities authorized
15 in section 2; and

16 (2) prepare and submit to the Committee on
17 Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
18 Natural Resources of the House of Representatives
19 a report containing the results of that study.

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