

116TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 8728

To require that royalties derived from the production of sodium compounds and related products are disbursed to the State in which production occurred and to the Secretary of Education for educational grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Mr. Cook introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require that royalties derived from the production of sodium compounds and related products are disbursed to the State in which production occurred and to the Secretary of Education for educational grants, 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,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be referred to as the "Soda Ash Fund-
- 5 ing for Education Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. DISPOSITION OF REVENUES.

- 2 (a) Deposit of Funds From Royalties on So-
- 3 DIUM COMPOUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision
- 4 of law, royalties collected on the quantity or gross value
- 5 of the output of sodium compounds and related products
- 6 (as such term is used in the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction
- 7 Act of 2006 (30 U.S.C. 262 note)) from Federal land shall
- 8 be paid into the Treasury of the United States.
- 9 (b) Use of Funds.—Of funds deposited in the
- 10 Treasury under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treas-
- 11 ury shall—
- 12 (1) disburse 50 percent to the State within
- which such leased land is located; and
- 14 (2) deposit 50 percent in the Fund.
- 15 (c) Soda Ash Educational Equalization
- 16 Fund.—
- 17 (1) Establishment.—There is established in
- the Treasury a fund, to be known as the "Soda Ash
- 19 Education Equalization Fund", to be administered
- 20 by the Secretary of Education to provide resources
- 21 to local educational agencies (as such term is defined
- in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
- 23 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) impacted
- by changes in sodium royalty rates or changes in
- soda ash production levels.

- 1 (2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary of
 2 Education shall use funds available in the Fund to
 3 provide grants to local school districts that meet the
 4 following conditions:
 - (A) The Secretary determines such school has received not less than 50 percent of its annual budget from payments attributable to sodium royalty payments for at least 2 of the previous 5 fiscal years.
 - (B) The Secretary determines that funding for the school for the current fiscal year attributable to royalties on sodium compounds and related products has fallen below the average payment for the past 5 years, determined by dropping the highest and lowest year from the average.
 - (3) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary of Education may not issue a grant to a school for an amount in excess of the average calculated in paragraph (2)(B).
 - (4) Investment of fund.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as such Secretary determines appropriate in interest-bearing obligations of the United States. The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemp-

- tion of, any obligation held in the Fund shall becredited to and form a part of the Fund.
- 3 (5) Fund.—In this section, the term "Fund" 4 means the Soda Ash Education Equalization Fund 5 established in paragraph (1).

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