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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To make competitive awards to national estuary programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. POSEY (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To make competitive awards to national estuary programs, 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 cited as the “Estuary Urgent Needs
5 Priority Program Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**

2 Section 320(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
3 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(g)) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 “(4) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made
7 available under subsection (i), the Adminis-
8 trator shall make competitive awards under this
9 paragraph.

10 “(B) APPLICATION FOR AWARDS.—The
11 Administrator shall solicit applications for
12 awards under this paragraph from State, inter-
13 state, and regional water pollution control agen-
14 cies and entities, State coastal zone manage-
15 ment agencies, interstate agencies, other public
16 or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, orga-
17 nizations, and individuals.

18 “(C) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—In se-
19 lecting award recipients under this paragraph,
20 the Administrator shall select recipients that
21 are best able to address urgent and challenging
22 issues that threaten the economic and ecological
23 well-being of coastal areas. Such issues shall in-
24 clude—

1 “(i) extensive seagrass habitat losses
2 resulting in significant impacts on fisheries
3 and water quality;

4 “(ii) recurring harmful algae blooms,
5 unusual marine mammal mortalities;

6 “(iii) invasive exotic species which can
7 threaten wastewater systems and cause
8 other damage; or

9 “(iv) jellyfish proliferation limiting
10 community access to water during peak
11 tourism seasons.

12 “(D) PRIORITY.—The Administrator shall
13 give priority for the competitive awards de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (A) to national estuary
15 programs that are not part of the Geographic
16 Programs as described in the explanatory state-
17 ment referred to in section 4 of the Consoli-
18 dated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law
19 113–76; 128 Stat. 7 and printed on page H978
20 of the Congressional Record on January 15,
21 2014).

22 “(E) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
23 TIONS.—From the amounts made available
24 under subsection (i), 15 percent shall be made

- 1 available for the competitive awards program
- 2 under this subsection.”.