

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3954

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2023

Mr. BUCK (for himself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency.

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 “Water and Agriculture  
5 Tax Reform Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. FACILITATE WATER LEASING AND WATER TRANS-**  
2 **FERS TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND EF-**  
3 **FICIENCY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (12) of section 501(c)  
5 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by add-  
6 ing at the end the following new subparagraph:

7 “(K) TREATMENT OF MUTUAL DITCH IRRI-  
8 GATION COMPANIES.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a  
10 mutual ditch or irrigation company or of a  
11 like organization to a mutual ditch or irri-  
12 gation company, subparagraph (A) shall be  
13 applied without taking into account—

14 “(I) any income received or ac-  
15 crued from the sale, lease, or ex-  
16 change of fee or other interests in real  
17 and personal property, including inter-  
18 ests in water,

19 “(II) any income received or ac-  
20 crued from the sale or exchange of  
21 stock in a mutual ditch or irrigation  
22 company (or in a like organization to  
23 a mutual ditch or irrigation company)  
24 or contract rights for the delivery or  
25 use of water, or

1                   “(III) any income received or ac-  
2                    crued from the investment of income  
3                    described in subclause (I) or (II),  
4                    except that any income described in sub-  
5                    clause (I), (II), or (III) which is distrib-  
6                    uted or expended for expenses (other than  
7                    for operations, maintenance, and capital  
8                    improvements) of the mutual ditch or irri-  
9                    gation company or of the like organization  
10                  to a mutual ditch or irrigation company  
11                  (as the case may be) shall be treated as  
12                  nonmember income in the year in which it  
13                  is distributed or expended. For purposes of  
14                  the preceding sentence, expenses (other  
15                  than for operations, maintenance, and cap-  
16                  ital improvements) include expenses for the  
17                  construction of conveyances designed to de-  
18                  liver water outside of the system of the  
19                  mutual ditch or irrigation company or of  
20                  the like organization.

21                  “(ii) TREATMENT OF ORGANIZA-  
22                  TIONAL GOVERNANCE.—In the case of a  
23                  mutual ditch or irrigation company or of a  
24                  like organization to a mutual ditch or irri-  
25                  gation company, where State law provides

1           that such a company or organization may  
2           be organized in a manner that permits vot-  
3           ing on a basis which is pro rata to share  
4           ownership on corporate governance mat-  
5           ters, subparagraph (A) shall be applied  
6           without taking into account whether its  
7           member shareholders have one vote on cor-  
8           porate governance matters per share held  
9           in the corporation. Nothing in this clause  
10          shall be construed to create any inference  
11          about the requirements of this subsection  
12          for companies or organizations not in-  
13          cluded in this clause.”.

14          (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
15          subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after  
16          the date of the enactment of this Act.

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