

AMENDMENT TO H.R. _____
OFFERED BY MS. MUCARSEL-POWELL OF
FLORIDA

Page 175, after line 19, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 332. LAKE OKEECHOBEE REGULATION SCHEDULE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall optimize the
3 operation of Lake Okeechobee during the dry season to
4 balance—

5 (1) reducing ecological harm to Everglades Na-
6 tional Park and the Water Conservation Areas, in-
7 cluding reducing the risk of wildfires and soil loss;

8 (2) reducing the likelihood of releasing harmful
9 algal blooms and ecologically damaging water flows
10 during the wet season from Lake Okeechobee to
11 coastal estuaries;

12 (3) contributing to ecologically beneficial dry
13 season flows to the Caloosahatchee Estuary;

14 (4) protecting the integrity of the Herbert Hoo-
15 ver Dike;

16 (5) protecting water supply, including sup-
17 porting the recharge of the surficial aquifer system;
18 and

1 (6) supporting the maintenance of water levels
2 in coastal canal systems to address the threat of
3 saltwater intrusion.

4 (b) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out
5 the review of the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule
6 pursuant to section 1106 of the Water Resources Develop-
7 ment Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3773), the Secretary shall
8 evaluate the implications of prohibiting releases from Lake
9 Okeechobee through the S-308 and S-80 lock and dam
10 structures—

11 (1) on the operation of the lake in accordance
12 with authorized purposes; and

13 (2) on the integrity of the Herbert Hoover
14 Dike.

15 (c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall, to the
16 maximum extent practicable, coordinate with Federal and
17 State agencies responsible for monitoring and notification
18 of water quality pollutants, including cyanobacteria levels,
19 in Lake Okeechobee.

20 (d) CONSIDERATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall
21 be construed to—

22 (1) limit the authority of the State of Florida
23 to allocate water under State law or restrict the au-
24 thority of the State of Florida to prioritize and dis-
25 tribute water while in the water shortage manage-

1 ment band or range identified in the Lake Okeechobee operating regulations, manuals, or plans;

2 (2) affect the obligations of the State of Florida
3 to meet water quality standards in the Everglades
4 Protection Area or on tribal lands;

5 (3) affect the obligations of the State of Florida
6 under the Water Rights Compact Among Seminole
7 Tribe of Florida, the State of Florida and the South
8 Florida Water Management District;

9 (4) affect the obligations of the Secretary under
10 Federal environmental laws; or

11 (5) affect the obligations of the Secretary to
12 provide flood protection under existing authorities.
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