The 2025
Water Infrastructure,
Distribution & Storage Act

Contact: Michael Ross
ssorleahcim@comcast.net

Problem(s):

1. **Inadequate Resource and Water Management**: National efforts to improve water capture, delivery, and conservation have been minimal, leading to an inefficient management of water resources.
2. **Regional Disparities**: Some states experience excess water, while others face shortages, exacerbating the issue of water distribution across the nation.
3. **Societal and Economic Consequences**: These imbalances have led to a range of economic and societal problems, including flooding, property damage, and rising costs for food, water, and electricity.
4. **Financial Burden on State and Local Governments**: The lack of effective water management has also placed significant financial strain on various state and local governments.

Examples:

1. **California's Water Crisis**: As a major agricultural producer, California has struggled with water-related challenges for decades. Despite efforts to conserve and purchase water from other regions, little has been done to improve the state's water collection, delivery, and storage systems.
2. **Insufficient Water Storage**: Even during periods of abundant rainfall, California faces water shortages for several reasons, including:
    - Population growth,
    - Failure to fully replenish groundwater supplies,
    - Inadequate infrastructure for water storage,
    - Increased water consumption due to industrial and agricultural demands.
3. **Consequences of Water Scarcity**: This results in expensive and dangerous problems such as:
    - Difficulty in fighting wildfires,
    - Structural issues such as collapsed underground caverns and earthquakes.
4. **Northern U.S. Water Waste**: In contrast, some northern states with significant snow accumulation fail to capture water from snowmelt, leading to wasted resources and flooding.
5. **Economic Impact**: These water-related challenges affect both governmental bodies and private businesses across the nation, creating economic strain.

Solution:

Revamping America's water capture, storage, and delivery infrastructure can be achieved efficiently and cost-effectively through the creation of a national pipeline system to redistribute excess water to areas in need. This system would function like a network of sprinklers, distributing water where and when it's needed. Estimated to cost less than 0.005% of the total infrastructure bill (roughly $6 billion), this solution will benefit the nation as a whole by optimizing water use.

An ideal model for this system is the nation's **Interstate Highway System (IHS)**. The proposed pipeline could follow the IHS, utilizing the land already owned by the government. This approach reduces costs by avoiding land acquisition and minimizing environmental concerns. The pipeline would be designed to transport water efficiently, providing a solution to regional water imbalances.

Proposed Test Pipeline:

A test pipeline should be constructed along **Interstate 80** for the following reasons:

1. Land ownership by the federal government reduces costs.
2. Environmental impact concerns are minimal due to the existing infrastructure along the highway and the clean nature of water.
3. The project can be planned in one year and constructed in two years, with an estimated construction period of three years.

Additional benefits of the pipeline system:

- Generates and stores electricity through solar and turbine generation.
- Allows for easy expansion across the country, creating jobs and enhancing water conservation efforts.

Supporters:

- **Environmentalists**: This project conserves natural resources, reduces environmental impact, and promotes sustainability.
- **Consumers**: By ensuring a steady supply of water, this policy will reduce food and utility costs, protect homes from flooding, and save money in the long term.
- **Budget Watchers**: The project will ultimately pay for itself through water sales, transportation fees, and energy generation.
- **Water-Origin States**: States that sell water will benefit financially, enabling them to invest in other critical infrastructure.
- **Water Companies**: Water suppliers will gain profits through water storage and distribution.
- **Farmers**: Agricultural producers will have access to more water at reduced costs, benefiting both producers and consumers.

Opposition:

- **Environmentalists**: Concerns about the visual impact on landscapes, potential damage to habitats, and the risk of water spills.
- **Consumers**: Fears over water quality, taste, and potential cost increases.
- **Budget Concerns**: Skepticism about the long-term sustainability of water pricing and the financial feasibility of the project.

- **Water-Origin States**: Resistance to selling water, which they view as a valuable, income-generating resource.
- **Water Companies**: Concerns about oversupply of water potentially lowering prices and hurting profits.
- **Farmers**: Fear of increased competition from other agricultural producers leading to reduced profits.
- **Opponents of Food Costs**: Skepticism about the impact of California's water problems on food prices.

Publicity:

- **National and Regional Awareness**: Highlighting this innovative infrastructure project will draw attention to its potential to improve water distribution, create jobs, and conserve resources.
- **Thematic Focus**: Emphasizing how this project will benefit California and Western states by delivering water to drought-stricken regions, while providing economic growth through job creation.

History:

This proposal is novel in its approach to leveraging existing infrastructure (the Interstate Highway System) for water distribution and storage. It is unclear if similar concepts have been proposed previously, but this is a unique combination of water management and infrastructure reuse.

Fiscal Impact:

1. **Initial Investment**: While the project will require upfront funding (estimated at $4 billion for the first phase), it will pay for itself through usage fees, water sales, and job creation.
2. **Long-Term Savings**: Reduced flooding, stabilized food prices, and minimized property destruction will result in significant savings for governments at all levels.
3. **Economic Stimulus**: Construction will create jobs and stimulate the economy, leading to higher tax revenue.

Legislative Proposal:

Title: The Water Infrastructure, Distribution, and Storage Act of 2022

Intent: To enhance the nation's water management system, improving water capture, delivery, and conservation to address regional water imbalances and their associated societal and economic impacts.

Section 1: The Department of ____ is authorized to study which interstate freeway will best serve as the test location for a pipeline water delivery system.

Section 2: Potential highways for the first project include:

- I-80 (2,899.54 miles, coast to coast)
- I-10 (2,460.34 miles, southern border)
- I-40 (2,555.10 miles, east to west coast)

Section 3: The Department of ____ will produce a report within six months outlining the best route for the pipeline. A budget of $2.5 million will be allocated for this report.

Section 4: After one year, the Department of ____ will solicit proposals for the construction of the first test pipeline, with construction to begin in the second year.

Section 5: The sum of $___ billion will be allocated over the next five federal budgets to fund the construction and management of the project.

Section 6: The Department of ____ will oversee the construction and operation of the project.

Section 7: Operational policies and fees associated with the project will be approved by the Department of ____.

Section 8: Public hearings will be held to discuss policies related to the project.