

Section-by-Section

H.R. 6654 (Rep. Raul Grijalva) *To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends, and for other purposes.* “Climate Adaptation Science Centers Act” or the “CASC Act”

Section 1. Short Title

Section 2. Definitions

Section 3. Establishment and Duties.

This section establishes the framework and duties for the National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers.

The Chief of the National Center will be a United States Geological Survey (USGS) employee. Each Regional Center will have a Federal Director, a USGS employee, and a Host Institution Director who work collaboratively.

In collaboration with other Federal agencies, states, tribes, and other partner organizations, the National Center will serve as the national office for the Regional Centers, providing leadership, facilitating coordination, and conducting research on cross-regional climate science priorities.

Subject to the availability of appropriations, the National Center will provide a stable base of funding for no fewer than nine Regional Centers. The Regional Centers will be hosted at a university or consortium of universities within the designated region. The Chief of the National Center will establish guidelines for merit reviews of the Regional Centers and host institutions. The Chief of the National Center can add or remove a consortium member at any time to address regional and national priorities.

The duties of the Regional Centers are to collaborate with local and regional stakeholders, including Federal and State agencies, tribes, and other partner organizations within the region, to develop research, education, training, and advisory services regarding the impacts of climate change on natural and cultural resource management.

Section 4. General Authority to Enter into Contracts, Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Interagency Agreements.

This section grants general authority for USGS to enter into contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and interagency agreements with a host institution or consortium institution. Any Federal agency may participate in any cooperative agreement by contributing funds through the National Center.

Section 5. Interagency Cooperation.

This section allows for Federal departments or agencies with authorities over issues relating to natural resources, cultural resources, or climate change, to work with the CASCs. They can make

personnel, services, facilities, and data available to the CASCs, and may transfer funding, facilities, or other resources to the CASCs to aid collaborative work.

Section 6. Committees.

This section establishes procedures for advisory committees and working groups, as well as for the facilitation of public participation in the advisory process. This section sets up an Advisory Committee on Climate and Natural Resources that can include employees of Indian Tribes, tribal organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, State and local government, host institutions, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, and organizations in the private sector.

The Secretary of the Interior may establish procedures to facilitate public participation in the advisory process, which informs science priorities.

Section 7. Authorization of Appropriations.

This section authorizes appropriations for FY 2023-FY 2027 at the following levels.

- \$97,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;
- \$109,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;
- \$121,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
- \$133,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and
- \$145,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.