To exempt from the Lacey Act and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers between any of the States of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2016

Mr. Gohmert (for himself, Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas, Mr. Weber of Texas, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Boustany, Mr. Westerman, Mr. Babin, and Mr. Ratcliffe) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To exempt from the Lacey Act and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers between any of the States of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Public Water Supply Invasive Species Compliance Act of 2016”.

5

(a) EXEMPTION.—Section 42 of title 18, United States Code (popularly known as the Lacey Act), and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) shall not apply with respect to any covered water transfer, if—

(1)(A) all prohibited species in the water transferred are located in both of the public water supplies between which the water is transferred; and

(B) the water is transferred directly between such public water supplies; or

(2) the water is transferred in a closed conveyance system directly to treatment facilities where all prohibited species contained in the water transferred will be extirpated.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED WATER TRANSFER.—The term “covered water transfer” means a transfer between public water supplies located on, along, or across the State boundaries between any of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana, of water containing a prohibited species.

(2) PROHIBITED SPECIES.—The term “prohibited species” means any species—
(A) the shipment of which is otherwise prohibited by section 42 of title 18, United States Code; or

(B) the transfer of which is otherwise prohibited by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.).

(3) PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.—The term ‘‘public water supply’’ means any body of water, including any river, lake, or stream, the water of which is available or made available to the public.