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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To ensure appropriate judicial review of Federal Government actions by amending the prohibition on the exercise of jurisdiction by the United States Court of Federal Claims of certain claims pending in other courts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DESANTIS (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To ensure appropriate judicial review of Federal Government actions by amending the prohibition on the exercise of jurisdiction by the United States Court of Federal Claims of certain claims pending in other courts.

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 “Ensuring Access to
5 Justice for Claims Against the United States Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. JURISDICTION OF UNITED STATES COURT OF FED-**
2 **ERAL CLAIMS.**

3 (a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28, UNITED STATES
4 CODE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1500 of title 28,
6 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 **“§ 1500. Presumption of stay**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

9 “(1) the term ‘court’ means any of the courts
10 described in section 610; and

11 “(2) the term ‘Court of Federal Claims’ means
12 the United States Court of Federal Claims.

13 “(b) PRESUMPTION OF STAY.—Except as provided in
14 subsection (d), if a civil action is pending in, or on appeal
15 from, the Court of Federal Claims, and the plaintiff or
16 assignee of the plaintiff also has pending in any other
17 court a civil action that includes a claim against the
18 United States or an agency or officer of the United States
19 arising from substantially the same set of operative facts,
20 the court presiding over the action that was filed later
21 shall stay the action, in whole or in part, until the action
22 that was filed first is no longer pending.

23 “(c) DETERMINING FIRST-FILED ACTION.—

24 “(1) APPEALS.—For purposes of subsection
25 (b), the date of filing for a civil action that is pend-
26 ing on appeal from the Court of Federal Claims is

1 the date on which the action was filed in the Court
2 of Federal Claims.

3 “(2) ACTIONS OR APPEALS FILED ON SAME
4 DAY.—For purposes of subsection (b), if the actions
5 described in subsection (b) were filed on the same
6 day, without regard to the time of day, the action
7 that is pending in, or on appeal from, the Court of
8 Federal Claims shall be treated as having been filed
9 first.

10 “(d) EXCEPTIONS.—The requirement to stay an ac-
11 tion under subsection (b) shall not apply if—

12 “(1) the parties in each of the actions that in-
13 clude a claim based on substantially the same set of
14 operative facts otherwise agree; or

15 “(2) the required stay is not, or ceases to be,
16 in the interests of justice.”.

17 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
18 MENT.—The table of sections for chapter 91 of title
19 28, United States Code, is amended by striking the
20 item relating to section 1500 and inserting the fol-
21 lowing:

“1500. Presumption of stay.”.

22 (b) APPLICABILITY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1500 of title 28,
24 United States Code, as amended by subsection (a),
25 shall apply to any action pending on, or filed on or

1 after, the date of the enactment of this Act, but does
2 not apply in a case in which the action filed later (as
3 determined in accordance with such section, as so
4 amended) is pending (on such date of enactment) in
5 a court of appeals of the United States or the Su-
6 preme Court of the United States, or in a case in
7 which a judgment has been entered as of such date
8 of enactment but for which the time to file an appeal
9 has not expired.

10 (2) PREVIOUS JURISDICTIONAL BAR.—Any
11 claim in an action pending on the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act either in a court of appeals of the
13 United States or the Supreme Court of the United
14 States, or for which the time to file an appeal has
15 not expired, shall not be subject to the jurisdictional
16 bar under section 1500 of title 28, United States
17 Code, as in effect on the day before the date of the
18 enactment of this Act.