

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H.R. 2143

To provide that certain escrowed oil and gas revenues be available for improving National Park System visitor facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide that certain escrowed oil and gas revenues be available for improving National Park System visitor facilities, and for other purposes.

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 “National Park Im-
5 provement Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The National Park System consists of 374
9 areas which are protected and preserved by the Na-
10 tional Park Service, including 5 new parks which

1 were added by the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands
2 Management Act of 1996.

3 (2) National park areas receive over
4 260,000,000 recreation visitors annually, but the
5 quality of park visitor facilities and related infra-
6 structure is declining because of inadequate budgets,
7 according to the General Accounting Office.

8 (3) An estimated backlog of over
9 \$5,000,000,000 in maintenance and repair projects
10 exists for national parks, including visitor facilities,
11 buildings, transportation systems, trails, interpretive
12 sites, sanitation, and other priority needs.

13 (4) On June 19, 1997, the Supreme Court held
14 in *United States of America v. State of Alaska* that
15 the United States retains title to lands underlying
16 tidal waters off Alaska's North Slope.

17 (5) As a result of the Supreme Court decision,
18 approximately \$1,600,000,000 in escrowed oil and
19 gas lease revenues are to be received by the United
20 States. These funds are double the amount included
21 by the Congressional Budget Office in revenue esti-
22 mates for the concurrent resolution on the budget.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
24 that the escrowed North Slope oil and gas lease sale reve-
25 nues received by the United States pursuant to the Su-

1 preme Court decision in United States of America v. State
2 of Alaska are dedicated to improving visitor facilities and
3 other resources in the National Park System.

4 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT.**

5 (a) SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—Notwithstanding any other
6 provision of law, all escrowed oil and gas revenues received
7 by the United States pursuant to the June 19, 1997, deci-
8 sion by the Supreme Court in United States of America
9 v. State of Alaska shall be deposited in a special account
10 in the Treasury of the United States, to be known as the
11 National Park Improvement Account, for use pursuant to
12 the provisions of subsection (c). Not more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the
13 amount available to the Secretary of the Interior shall be
14 expended in any 1 fiscal year.

15 (b) INVESTMENT OF SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—All funds
16 deposited as principal in the National Park Improvement
17 Account shall earn interest in the amount determined by
18 the Secretary of the Treasury. Such interest shall be
19 added to the principal of the account and expended ac-
20 cording to the provisions of subsection (c).

21 (c) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT.—
22 Amounts in the National Park Improvement Account shall
23 be available without further appropriation and may be ex-
24 pended by the Secretary of the Interior for purposes of
25 improving the National Park System through mainte-

1 nance, repair, reconstruction, and restoration of visitor fa-
2 cilities, buildings, transportation systems, trails, grounds,
3 interpretive sites, sanitation, and other park resources.
4 Such funds shall be used for projects which are consistent
5 with the applicable General Management Plan for the park
6 unit involved and shall be allocated for the highest priority
7 projects pursuant to the project priority list maintained
8 by the National Park Service.

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