

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2421

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing an Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 13, 2000

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing an Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

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 “Upper Housatonic Val-
5 ley National Heritage Area Study Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior.

3 (2) STUDY AREA.—The term “Study Area”
4 means the Upper Housatonic Valley National Herit-
5 age Area, comprised of—

6 (A) the part of the watershed of the
7 Housatonic River, extending 60 miles from
8 Lanesboro, Massachusetts, to Kent, Con-
9 necticut;

10 (B) the towns of Canaan, Cornwall, Kent,
11 Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, and
12 Warren, Connecticut; and

13 (C) the towns of Alford, Dalton,
14 Egremont, Great Barrington, Hinsdale,
15 Lanesboro, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount
16 Washington, New Marlboro, Pittsfield, Rich-
17 mond, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham,
18 Washington, and West Stockbridge, Massachu-
19 setts.

20 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the
22 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete
23 a study of the Study Area.

1 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The study shall determine,
2 through appropriate analysis and documentation, whether
3 the Study Area—

4 (1) includes an assemblage of natural, histor-
5 ical, and cultural resources that represent distinctive
6 aspects of the heritage of the United States that—

7 (A) are worthy of recognition, conserva-
8 tion, interpretation, and continued use; and

9 (B) would best be managed—

10 (i) through partnerships among public
11 and private entities; and

12 (ii) by combining diverse and, in some
13 cases, noncontiguous resources and active
14 communities;

15 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and
16 folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the
17 United States;

18 (3) provides outstanding opportunities to con-
19 serve natural, historical, cultural, or scenic features;

20 (4) provides outstanding recreational and edu-
21 cational opportunities;

22 (5) contains resources important to any theme
23 of the Study Area that retains a degree of integrity
24 capable of supporting interpretation;

1 (6) includes residents, business interests, non-
2 profit organizations, and State and local govern-
3 ments that—

4 (A) are involved in the planning of the
5 Study Area;

6 (B) have developed a conceptual financial
7 plan that outlines the roles of all participants
8 for development and management of the Study
9 Area, including the Federal Government; and

10 (C) have demonstrated support for the
11 concept of a national heritage area;

12 (7) has a potential management entity to work
13 in partnership with residents, business interests,
14 nonprofit organizations, and State and local govern-
15 ments to develop a national heritage area consistent
16 with continued State and local economic activity;
17 and

18 (8) is depicted on a conceptual boundary map
19 that is supported by the public.

20 (e) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study, the
21 Secretary shall consult with—

22 (1) State historic preservation officers;

23 (2) State historical societies; and

24 (3) other appropriate organizations.

1 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 fiscal years after the
2 date on which funds are made available to carry out this
3 Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Re-
4 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
5 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
6 a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommenda-
7 tions of the study.

8 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There is authorized to be appropriated \$300,000 to
10 carry out this Act.

○