

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4721

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in implementing cultural heritage, conservation, and recreational activities in the Connecticut River watershed of the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2002

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut (for herself, Mr. OLVER, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, and Ms. DELAURO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in implementing cultural heritage, conservation, and recreational activities in the Connecticut River watershed of the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Lower Connecticut
3 River Partnership Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Connecticut River watershed in the
7 States of Connecticut and Massachusetts is a scenic
8 region of cities and historic villages located in an
9 internationally and nationally significant landscape
10 of working farms, verdant forests, mountains, and
11 broad fertile floodplains of New England’s longest
12 river, the Connecticut River.

13 (2) The Connecticut River and its tributaries
14 provide outstanding fish and wildlife habitat, recre-
15 ation, and hydropower generation for the New Eng-
16 land region.

17 (3) The Connecticut River watershed has been
18 recognized by Congress as part of the Silvio O.
19 Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, estab-
20 lished by the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and
21 Wildlife Refuge Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd note; Public
22 Law 102–212).

23 (4) The demonstrated interest in stewardship of
24 the River by the citizens living in the watershed led
25 to the Presidential designation of the River as one
26 of 14 American Heritage Rivers on July 30, 1998.

1 (5) Where management of the River involves
2 partnership with local communities and organiza-
3 tions, support for the partnership should be provided
4 by the Secretary.

5 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
6 ize the Secretary to provide to the States of Connecticut
7 and Massachusetts technical and financial assistance for
8 management of the River and the River watershed.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 For the purpose of this Act, the following definitions
11 apply:

12 (1) RIVER.—The term “River” means the Con-
13 necticut River.

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

16 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means—

17 (A) the State of Connecticut; or

18 (B) the State of Massachusetts.

19 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE FOR STATES.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide to the
21 States technical and financial assistance in managing the
22 River and the River watershed in cooperation and collabo-
23 ration with conservation organizations and regional plan-
24 ning agencies in the watershed, including assistance for
25 the following:

1 (1) Developing policies for water quality, flow
2 management, and recreational boating for the River.

3 (2) Developing protection plans for water qual-
4 ity in the tributaries that flow into the River.

5 (3) Developing a coordinated, collaborative ap-
6 proach on the part of the States for monitoring the
7 quality of the River for human use and ecological
8 health.

9 (4) Restoring and protecting priority riverbanks
10 to improve water quality and aquatic and riparian
11 habitat.

12 (5) Encouraging and assisting communities,
13 farmers, conservation organizations, and riverfront
14 landowners in—

15 (A) establishing and protecting riparian
16 buffers; and

17 (B) preventing nonpoint source pollution.

18 (6) Encouraging and assisting communities
19 in—

20 (A) protecting shoreland, wetland, and
21 flood plains; and

22 (B) managing and treating stormwater
23 runoff.

24 (7) In cooperation with dam owners—

1 (A) evaluating the decommissioning of un-
2 economic dams in the watershed; and

3 (B) restoring natural riverine habitat.

4 (8) Protecting and restoring the habitat of na-
5 tive trout, anadromous fisheries, and other out-
6 standing fish and wildlife resources.

7 (9) Encouraging new and improved markets for
8 local agricultural products.

9 (10) Encouraging the protection of farmland
10 and economically sustainable agriculture.

11 (11) Developing and promoting locally planned,
12 approved, and managed networks of heritage trails
13 and water trails.

14 (12) Coordinating and fostering opportunities
15 for heritage tourism and agritourism.

16 (13) Demonstrating economic development
17 based on heritage tourism.

18 (14) Supporting local stewardship.

19 (15) Strengthening nonregulatory protection of
20 heritage resources.

21 (16) Encouraging public access to the River
22 from towns and cities in the Valley.

23 (17) Establishing indicators of sustainability.

1 (18) Monitoring the impact of increased tour-
2 ism and recreational use on natural and historic re-
3 sources.

4 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 10
5 percent of the funds made available to any State under
6 this Act may be used for administrative costs.

7 (c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—The
8 Secretary shall encourage States receiving assistance
9 under this Act to work in coordination with units of local
10 government and nonprofit organizations when carrying
11 out activities listed in subsection (a).

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