

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1363

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 New Hampshire and Vermont.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. JEFFORDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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 New Hampshire and Vermont.

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 Connecticut
5 River Partnership Act”.

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

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) the upper Connecticut River watershed in
2 the States of New Hampshire and Vermont is a see-
3 nic region of historic villages located in a working
4 landscape of farms, forests, and the mountainous
5 headwaters and broad fertile floodplains of New
6 England's longest river, the Connecticut River;

7 (2) the River provides outstanding fish and
8 wildlife habitat, recreation, and hydropower genera-
9 tion for the New England region;

10 (3) the upper Connecticut River watershed has
11 been recognized by Congress as part of the Silvio O.
12 Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, estab-
13 lished by the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and
14 Wildlife Refuge Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd note; Public
15 Law 102-212);

16 (4) the demonstrated interest in stewardship of
17 the River by the citizens living in the watershed led
18 to the Presidential designation of the River as 1 of
19 14 American Heritage Rivers on July 30, 1998;

20 (5) the River is home to the bistate Connecticut
21 River Scenic Byway, which will foster heritage tour-
22 ism in the region;

23 (6) each of the legislatures of the States of
24 Vermont and New Hampshire has established a
25 commission for the Connecticut River watershed,

1 and the 2 commissions, known collectively as the
2 “Connecticut River Joint Commissions”—

3 (A) have worked together since 1989; and

4 (B) serve as the focal point for cooperation
5 between Federal agencies, States, communities,
6 and citizens;

7 (7) in 1997, as directed by the legislatures, the
8 Connecticut River Joint Commissions, with the sub-
9 stantial involvement of 5 bistate local river sub-
10 committees appointed to represent riverfront towns,
11 produced the 6-volume Connecticut River Corridor
12 Management Plan, to be used as a blueprint in edu-
13 cating agencies, communities, and the public in how
14 to be good neighbors to a great river;

15 (8) this year, by Joint Legislative Resolution,
16 the legislatures have requested that Congress pro-
17 vide for continuation of cooperative partnerships and
18 support for the Connecticut River Joint Commis-
19 sions from the New England Federal Partners for
20 Natural Resources, a consortium of Federal agen-
21 cies, in carrying out recommendations of the Con-
22 necticut River Corridor Management Plan;

23 (9) this Act effectuates certain recommenda-
24 tions of the Connecticut River Corridor Management
25 Plan that are most appropriately directed by the

1 States through the Connecticut River Joint Commis-
 2 sions, with assistance from the National Park Serv-
 3 ice and United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

4 (10) where implementation of those rec-
 5 ommendations involves partnership with local com-
 6 munities and organizations, support for the partner-
 7 ship should be provided by the Secretary.

8 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
 9 ize the Secretary to provide to the States of New Hamp-
 10 shire and Vermont (including communities in those
 11 States), through the Connecticut River Joint Commis-
 12 sions, technical and financial assistance for management
 13 of the River.

14 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

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

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

20 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means—

21 (A) the State of New Hampshire; or

22 (B) the State of Vermont.

23 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE FOR STATES.**

24 The Secretary of the Interior may provide to the
 25 States, through the Connecticut River Joint Commissions,

1 technical and financial assistance in managing the River,
2 including assistance in—

3 (1) developing a joint policy for water quality,
4 flow management, and recreational boating for the
5 portion of the River that is common to the States;

6 (2) developing protection plans for water qual-
7 ity in the tributaries that flow into the River;

8 (3) developing a coordinated, collaborative ap-
9 proach on the part of the States for monitoring the
10 quality of the River for human use and ecological
11 health;

12 (4) restoring and protecting priority riverbanks
13 to improve water quality and aquatic and riparian
14 habitat;

15 (5) encouraging and assisting communities,
16 farmers, and other riverfront landowners in—

17 (A) establishing and protecting riparian
18 buffers; and

19 (B) preventing nonpoint source pollution;

20 (6) encouraging and assisting communities in—

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

23 (B) managing and treating stormwater
24 runoff;

25 (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 farm land
10 and economically sustainable agriculture;

11 (11) developing and promoting locally planned,
12 approved, and managed networks of heritage trails
13 and water trails in the River valley;

14 (12) coordinating and fostering opportunities
15 for heritage tourism and agritourism through the
16 Connecticut River Scenic Byway;

17 (13) demonstrating economic development
18 based on heritage tourism;

19 (14) supporting local stewardship;

20 (15) strengthening nonregulatory protection of
21 heritage resources;

22 (16) encouraging the vitality of historically
23 compact village and town centers;

24 (17) establishing indicators of sustainability;
25 and

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

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
6 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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