

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 585

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 12, 2005

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, 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 “Gateway Communities
5 Cooperation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEDERAL**
7 **LAND MANAGERS AND GATEWAY COMMU-**
8 **NITIES TO SUPPORT COMPATIBLE LAND**
9 **MANAGEMENT OF BOTH FEDERAL AND ADJA-**
10 **CENT LANDS.**

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

12 (1) Many communities that abut or are near
13 Federal lands, including units of the National Park
14 System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-
15 tem, units of the National Forest System, and lands
16 administered by the Bureau of Land Management,
17 are vitally impacted by the management and public
18 use of these Federal lands.

19 (2) Some of these communities, commonly
20 known as gateway communities, fulfill an integral
21 part in the mission of the Federal lands by providing
22 necessary services, such as schools, roads, search
23 and rescue, emergency service, medical support,
24 logistical support, living quarters, and drinking
25 water and sanitary systems for visitors to the Fed-

1 eral lands and employees of Federal land manage-
2 ment agencies.

3 (3) Provision of these vital services by gateway
4 communities is an essential ingredient for a mean-
5 ingful and enjoyable experience by visitors to the
6 Federal lands because Federal land management
7 agencies are unable to provide, or are prevented
8 from providing, these services.

9 (4) Many gateway communities serve as an
10 entry point for persons who visit the Federal lands
11 and are ideal for establishment of visitor services, in-
12 cluding lodging, food service, fuel, auto repairs,
13 emergency services, and visitor information.

14 (5) Development in some gateway communities
15 may impact the management and protection of these
16 Federal lands.

17 (6) The planning and management decisions of
18 Federal land managers can have unintended con-
19 sequences for gateway communities and the Federal
20 lands when the decisions are not adequately commu-
21 nicated to, or coordinated with, the elected officials
22 and residents of gateway communities.

23 (7) Experts in land management planning are
24 available to Federal land managers, but persons with
25 technical planning skills are often not readily avail-

1 able to gateway communities, particularly small
2 gateway communities.

3 (8) Gateway communities are often affected by
4 the policies and actions of several Federal land man-
5 agement agencies and the communities and the
6 agencies would benefit from greater interagency co-
7 ordination of those policies and actions.

8 (9) Persuading gateway communities to make
9 decisions and undertake actions in their communities
10 that would also be in the best interest of the Federal
11 lands is most likely to occur when such decision-
12 making and actions are built upon a foundation of
13 cooperation and coordination.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to re-
15 quire Federal land managers to communicate, coordinate,
16 and cooperate with gateway communities in order to—

17 (1) improve the relationships among Federal
18 land managers, elected officials, and residents of
19 gateway communities;

20 (2) enhance the facilities and services in gate-
21 way communities available to visitors to Federal
22 lands when compatible with the management of
23 these lands, including the availability of historical
24 and cultural resources; and

1 (3) result in better local land use planning in
2 gateway communities and decisions by the relevant
3 Secretary.

4 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of this section,
5 the following definitions apply:

6 (1) GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term “gate-
7 way community” means a county, city, town, village,
8 or other subdivision of a State, a federally recog-
9 nized Indian tribe, or Alaska Native village, that—

10 (A) is incorporated or recognized in a
11 county or regional land use plan or within tribal
12 jurisdictional boundaries; and

13 (B) the relevant Secretary (or the head of
14 the tourism office for the State) determines is
15 significantly affected economically, socially, or
16 environmentally by planning and management
17 decisions regarding Federal lands administered
18 by the relevant Secretary.

19 (2) RELEVANT SECRETARY.—The term “rel-
20 evant Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior
21 or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

22 (d) PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL PLANNING AND
23 LAND USE.—

24 (1) PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING.—At the ear-
25 liest possible time, the relevant Secretary shall solicit

1 the involvement of elected and appointed officials of
2 governments of gateway communities in the develop-
3 ment of land use plans, programs, land use regula-
4 tions, land use decisions, transportation plans, gen-
5 eral management plans, and any other plans, deci-
6 sions, projects, or policies for Federal lands under
7 the jurisdiction of these Federal agencies that are
8 likely to have a significant impact on these gateway
9 communities.

10 (2) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—To facilitate
11 such involvement, the relevant Secretary shall pro-
12 vide the appropriate officials, at the earliest possible
13 time but not later than the scoping process, with the
14 following:

15 (A) A summary, in nontechnical language,
16 of the assumptions, purposes, goals, and objec-
17 tives of the plan, decision, project, or policy.

18 (B) A description of any anticipated sig-
19 nificant impact of the plan, decision, project, or
20 policy on gateway communities.

21 (C) Information regarding the technical as-
22 sistance and training available to the gateway
23 community.

24 (3) TRAINING SESSIONS.—At the request of a
25 gateway community, the relevant Secretary shall

1 offer training sessions for elected and appointed offi-
2 cials of gateway communities at which such officials
3 can obtain a better understanding of—

4 (A) the agency planning processes; and

5 (B) the methods by which they can partici-
6 pate most meaningfully in the development of
7 the agency plans, decisions, and policies re-
8 ferred to in paragraph (1).

9 (4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—At the request of
10 a gateway community, the relevant Secretary shall
11 make available personnel, on a temporary basis, to
12 assist gateway communities in development of mutu-
13 ally compatible land use or management plans.

14 (5) COORDINATION OF LAND USE.—The rel-
15 evant Secretary may enter into cooperative agree-
16 ments with gateway communities to coordinate the
17 management of—

18 (A) the land use inventory, planning, and
19 management activities for the Federal lands ad-
20 ministered by the relevant Secretary; and

21 (B) the land use planning and manage-
22 ment activities of other Federal agencies, agen-
23 cies of the State in which the Federal lands are
24 located, and local and tribal governments in the
25 vicinity of the Federal lands.

1 (6) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION AND COORDI-
2 NATION.—To the extent practicable, when the plans
3 and activities of 2 or more Federal agencies are an-
4 ticipated to have a significant impact on a gateway
5 community, the Federal agencies involved shall con-
6 solidate and coordinate their plans and planning
7 processes to facilitate the participation of affected
8 gateway communities in the planning processes.

9 (7) TREATMENT AS COOPERATING AGENCIES.—
10 To the earliest extent practicable, but not later than
11 the scoping process, when a proposed action is deter-
12 mined to require an environmental impact state-
13 ment, the relevant Secretary shall allow any affected
14 gateway communities the opportunity to be recog-
15 nized as cooperating agencies under the National
16 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321
17 et seq.).

1 **SEC. 3. SUNSET.**

2 The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provi-
3 sions of this title shall terminate 10 years after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act.

 Passed the House of Representatives December 6,
2005.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.