

MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL STUDY ACT

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. POMBO, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1796]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1796) to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico for study for potential addition to the National Trails System as a national scenic trail, national historic trail, or both, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1796 is to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico for study for potential addition to the National Trails System as a national scenic trail, national historic trail, or both, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Mississippi River is a prominent natural feature of our country, an integral part of our history and a critical artery for modern commerce. According to the bill's sponsor, designating a route along the Mississippi ensures that future generations can appreciate, understand and enjoy the great waterway.

H.R. 1796 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study examining the feasibility and suitability of including the Mississippi River in the National Trails System. Establishing a national trail along the River will connect the nearly 40 existing pub-

lic land units on or very near the River, which include national forests, national parks and national wildlife refuges.

H.R. 1796 attempts to control costs by requiring that all completed and ongoing studies on the scenic or historical importance of the Mississippi River be utilized to complete the assessment authorized by this legislation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1796 was introduced on April 21, 2005, Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. On April 27, 2006, the Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on H.R. 1796. On July 19, 2006, the Committee on Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittees were discharged from further consideration of the bill by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered, and the bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8, clause 3, and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico for study for potential addition to the National Trails System as a national scenic trail, national historic trail, or both.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 1796—Mississippi River Trail Study Act

H.R. 1796 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study whether to establish a national trail along the entire length of the

Mississippi River. Based on information from the National Park Service, CBO estimates that the proposed study would cost about \$500,000, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 1796 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1796 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 5 OF THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT

NATIONAL SCENIC AND NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAILS

SEC. 5. (a) * * *

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(c) The following routes shall be studied in accordance with the objectives outlined in subsection (b) of this section:

(1) * * *

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[(42) The] (41) *LONG WALK TRAIL*.—*The* Long Walk Trail, a series of routes which the Navajo and Mescalero Apache Indian tribes were forced to walk beginning in the fall of 1863 as a result of their removal by the United States Government from their ancestral lands, generally located within a corridor extending through portions of Canyon de Chelly, Arizona, and Albuquerque, Canyon Blanco, Anton Chico, Canyon Piedra Pintado, and Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

[(41)] (42) *METACOMET-MONADNOCK-MATTABESETT TRAIL*.—The Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail, a system of trails and potential trails extending southward approximately 180 miles through western Massachusetts on the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail, across central Connecticut on the Metacomet Trail and the Mattabesett Trail, and ending at Long Island Sound.

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(43) *MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL.*—*The route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.*

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