

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 671

To make funds generated from the Caribbean National Forest in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico available to the Secretary of Agriculture for land acquisition intended to protect the integrity of the buffer zone surrounding the Caribbean National Forest, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2007

Mr. FORTUÑO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To make funds generated from the Caribbean National Forest in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico available to the Secretary of Agriculture for land acquisition intended to protect the integrity of the buffer zone surrounding the Caribbean National Forest, 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 “Caribbean National
5 Forest Preservation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Pressures of increasing population densities
4 and development are evident in the areas sur-
5 rounding the boundaries of the Caribbean National
6 Forest in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

7 (2) While portions of the Caribbean National
8 Forest are already in close proximity to highly popu-
9 lated urban areas, lands adjacent to the National
10 Forest in the northeastern part of the Common-
11 wealth are the focus for future housing and tourism
12 developments.

13 (3) Given these development pressures, the Sec-
14 retary of Agriculture needs to promptly implement a
15 program of land acquisition to consolidate the man-
16 agement and buffer the urban development to the
17 Caribbean National Forest.

18 (4) Potential tracts of land for acquisition have
19 already been identified and prioritized in a ten-year
20 acquisition plan that is included in the land and re-
21 source management plan for the Caribbean National
22 Forest.

23 (5) The Secretary needs a reliable source of
24 funds to support the needed land acquisition.

1 **SEC. 3. LAND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY, CARIBBEAN NA-**
2 **TIONAL FOREST, PUERTO RICO.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE LANDS.**—The Secretary
4 of Agriculture is authorized to acquire, by donation or
5 purchase from willing sellers, tracts of land intended to
6 assist in the consolidation of lands within or adjacent to
7 the boundaries of the Caribbean National Forest in the
8 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

9 (b) **SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR LAND ACQUISITION.**—
10 To fund the land acquisition authorized by subsection (a),
11 the Secretary may use all amounts generated from the
12 Caribbean National Forest that would, but for this sub-
13 section, be deposited as miscellaneous receipts in the
14 Treasury of the United States, but not including amounts
15 authorized by law for payments to the Commonwealth or
16 authorized by law for retention by the Secretary for any
17 other purpose. Amounts made available under this sub-
18 section shall be available to the Secretary until expended
19 and without further appropriation.

20 (c) **BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.**—The Secretary shall
21 adjust the boundaries of the Caribbean National Forest
22 to include lands acquired under subsection (a). For pur-
23 poses of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation
24 Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–9), the boundaries of
25 the Caribbean National Forest, as adjusted pursuant to

1 this subsection, shall be considered to be boundaries of
2 the National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

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