

Calendar No. 592111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 1117****[Report No. 111-306]**

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

MAY 21, 2009

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. GREGG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

Reported by Mr. BINGAMAN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (1) the upper Connecticut River watershed in
7 the States of New Hampshire and Vermont is a scenic
8 region of historic villages located in a working
9 landscape of farms, forests, and the mountainous
10 headwaters and broad fertile floodplains of New
11 England’s longest river, the Connecticut River;

12 (2) the River provides outstanding fish and
13 wildlife habitat, recreation, and hydropower generation
14 for the New England region;

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

21 (4) the demonstrated commitment to stewardship
22 of the River by the citizens living in the watershed
23 led to the Presidential designation of the River
24 as 1 of 14 American Heritage Rivers on July 30,
25 1998;

1 (5) the River is home to the bi-State Con-
2 necticut River Scenic Byway, which was declared a
3 National Scenic Byway by the Department of Trans-
4 portation in 2005 to foster heritage tourism in the
5 region;

6 (6) each of the legislatures of the States of
7 Vermont and New Hampshire has established a
8 commission for the Connecticut River watershed,
9 and the 2 commissions, known collectively as the
10 “Connecticut River Joint Commissions”—

11 (A) have worked together since 1989; and

12 (B) serve as the focal point and catalyst
13 for cooperation between Federal agencies,
14 States, communities, and citizens;

15 (7) in 1997, as directed by the legislatures, the
16 Connecticut River Joint Commissions, with the sub-
17 stantial involvement of 5 bi-State local river sub-
18 committees appointed to represent riverfront towns,
19 produced the 6 volume Connecticut River Corridor
20 Management Plan, to be used as a blueprint in edu-
21 cating agencies, communities, and the public in how
22 to be good neighbors to a great river;

23 (8) in 2009, after 3 years of broad consultation,
24 the Connecticut River Joint Commissions have sub-
25 stantially expanded and published updates via the

1 Connecticut River Recreation Management Plan and
2 the Water Resources Management Plan to guide
3 public and private activities in the watershed;

4 (9) through a joint legislative resolution, the
5 legislatures of the States of Vermont and New
6 Hampshire have requested that Congress provide for
7 continuation of cooperative partnerships and that
8 Federal agencies support the Connecticut River
9 Joint Commissions in carrying out the recommenda-
10 tions of the Connecticut River Corridor Management
11 Plan;

12 (10) this Act effectuates certain recommenda-
13 tions of the Connecticut River Corridor Management
14 Plan that are most appropriately directed by the
15 States through the Connecticut River Joint Commis-
16 sions, with assistance from the National Park Serv-
17 ice and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
18 and

19 (11) where implementation of those rec-
20 ommendations involves partnership with local com-
21 munities and organizations, support for the partner-
22 ship should be provided by the Secretary.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
24 ize the Secretary to provide to the States of New Hamp-
25 shire and Vermont (including communities in those

1 States); through the Connecticut River Joint Commis-
2 sions; technical and financial assistance for management
3 of the River.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior.

8 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means—

9 (A) the State of New Hampshire; or

10 (B) the State of Vermont.

11 **SEC. 4. CONNECTICUT RIVER GRANTS AND TECHNICAL AS-**
12 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
14 Connecticut River Grants and Technical Assistance Pro-
15 gram to provide grants and technical assistance to State
16 and local governments; nonprofit organizations; and the
17 private sector to carry out projects for the conservation,
18 restoration, and interpretation of historic, cultural, rec-
19 reational, and natural resources in the upper Connecticut
20 River watershed.

21 (b) CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in consultation with
22 the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, shall develop
23 criteria for determining the eligibility of applicants for,
24 and reviewing and prioritizing applications for, grants or
25 technical assistance under the program.

1 ~~(e) COST-SHARING.—~~

2 (1) ~~FEDERAL SHARE.—~~The Federal share of
3 the cost of carrying out a grant project under sub-
4 section (a) shall not exceed 75 percent.

5 (2) ~~NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—~~The non-Federal
6 share of the cost of a project may be provided in the
7 form of an in-kind contribution of services or mate-
8 rials.

9 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
11 this Act \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year.

12 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

13 *This Act may be cited as the “Upper Connecticut River*
14 *Partnership Act”.*

15 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

16 *In this Act:*

17 (1) *COMMISSIONS.—*The term “Commissions”
18 *means the Connecticut River Joint Commissions of*
19 *New Hampshire and Vermont.*

20 (2) *MANAGEMENT PLAN.—*

21 (A) *IN GENERAL.—*The term “management
22 *plan” means the management plan developed by*
23 *the Commissions entitled “Connecticut River*
24 *Corridor Management Plan” and dated May*
25 *1997.*

1 (B) *INCLUSIONS.*—The term “management
2 plan” includes any updates to the management
3 plan described in subparagraph (A).

4 (3) *PROGRAM.*—The term “program” means the
5 Connecticut River Grants and Technical Assistance
6 Program established by section 3(a).

7 (4) *SECRETARY.*—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of the Interior.

9 (5) *STATE.*—The term “State” means each of the
10 States of New Hampshire and Vermont.

11 (6) *WATERSHED.*—The term “watershed” means
12 the upper Connecticut River watershed.

13 **SEC. 3. CONNECTICUT RIVER GRANTS AND TECHNICAL AS-**
14 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

15 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—There is established in the Depart-
16 ment of the Interior the Connecticut River Grants and
17 Technical Assistance Program.

18 (b) *PURPOSE.*—The purpose of the program is to pro-
19 vide financial and technical assistance to the States,
20 through the Commissions, to improve management of the
21 watershed in accordance with the management plan.

22 (c) *FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—

23 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to paragraph (2), the
24 Secretary may provide financial and technical assist-

1 *ance to the Commissions in furtherance of the pur-*
2 *poses of this Act.*

3 (2) *LIMITATION.*—*No financial assistance shall*
4 *be provided under this Act until the date on which the*
5 *Secretary has approved criteria for financial assist-*
6 *ance in accordance with subsection (d).*

7 (d) *CRITERIA.*—

8 (1) *DEVELOPMENT.*—*The Commissions shall de-*
9 *velop criteria for—*

10 (A) *prioritizing and determining the eligi-*
11 *bility of applicants for financial and technical*
12 *assistance under the program; and*

13 (B) *reviewing and prioritizing applications*
14 *for financial and technical assistance under the*
15 *program.*

16 (2) *REVIEW; APPROVAL.*—

17 (A) *SUBMISSION.*—*The Commissions shall*
18 *submit the criteria developed under paragraph*
19 *(1) to the Secretary for review.*

20 (B) *APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.*—

21 (i) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 180*
22 *days after the date on which the Commis-*
23 *sions submit the criteria under subpara-*
24 *graph (A), the Secretary shall approve or*
25 *disapprove the criteria.*

1 (ii) *DISAPPROVAL.*—*If the Secretary*
2 *disapproves the criteria under clause (i), the*
3 *Secretary shall—*

4 (I) *advise the Commissions of the*
5 *reasons for disapproval;*

6 (II) *make recommendations for*
7 *revisions to the criteria; and*

8 (III) *not later than 180 days after*
9 *the date on which the Commissions*
10 *submit revised criteria to the Sec-*
11 *retary, approve or disapprove the re-*
12 *vised criteria.*

13 (C) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—*In reviewing the*
14 *criteria submitted under this paragraph, the Sec-*
15 *retary shall consider the extent to which the cri-*
16 *teria—*

17 (i) *are consistent with the purposes*
18 *and goals of the management plan; and*

19 (ii) *provide for protection of the water-*
20 *shed, including the natural, cultural, his-*
21 *toric, and recreational resources within the*
22 *watershed.*

23 (e) *AUTHORITIES OF THE COMMISSIONS.*—*The Com-*
24 *missions may use funds made available under this Act to*
25 *provide financial and technical assistance to State and*

1 *local governments, nonprofit organizations, and other pub-*
2 *lic and private entities to protect the watershed in accord-*
3 *ance with the approved criteria and consistent with the*
4 *management plan.*

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

6 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*There is authorized to be appro-*
7 *priated to carry out this Act \$10,000,000, of which not more*
8 *than \$1,000,000 may be made available for any 1 fiscal*
9 *year.*

10 (b) *COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.*—

11 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Federal share of the total*
12 *cost of any activity under this Act shall be not more*
13 *than 50 percent of the total cost.*

14 (2) *FORM.*—*The non-Federal contribution may*
15 *be in the form of in-kind contributions of goods or*
16 *services fairly valued.*

17 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

18 *The authority of the Secretary to provide financial as-*
19 *sistance under this Act terminates on the date that is 10*
20 *years after the date of enactment of this Act.*

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