

## Union Calendar No. 316

112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3452

[Report No. 112-452]

To provide for the sale of approximately 30 acres of Federal land in Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Salt Lake County, Utah, to permit the establishment of a minimally invasive transportation alternative for skiers, called “SkiLink”, to connect two ski resorts in the Wasatch Mountains, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mr. CHAFFETZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

APRIL 19, 2012

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on November 17, 2011]

# **A BILL**

To provide for the sale of approximately 30 acres of Federal land in Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Salt Lake County, Utah, to permit the establishment of a minimally invasive transportation alternative for skiers, called “SkiLink”, to connect two ski resorts in the Wasatch Mountains, 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 “Wasatch Range Recre-*  
5 *ation Access Enhancement Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        *Congress finds the following:*

8            (1) *Canyons Ski Resort and Solitude Mountain*  
9 *Resort and other ski areas are interested in providing*  
10 *direct public access between the Wasatch Range front*  
11 *and back in the State of Utah by linking these ski re-*  
12 *sorts by means of a transportation connection, such*  
13 *as skier transport, lift, or tramway.*

14            (2) *The seven ski resorts in the Wasatch Range*  
15 *in Utah are situated within a 5-mile radius, and the*  
16 *resorts are separated by mountain ridges and other*  
17 *natural features of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National*  
18 *Forest, but currently there is no convenient transpor-*  
19 *tation link between the resorts.*

20            (3) *Wasatch Mountains Resorts have proposed a*  
21 *public-access transportation connection through con-*  
22 *struction of a minimally invasive transportation al-*  
23 *ternative gondola for skiers, called “SkiLink”, which*  
24 *would cross approximately 30 acres of lands managed*  
25 *by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest from*

1        *private land at The Canyons Ski Resort in Summit*  
2        *County, Utah, to private land at Solitude Mountain*  
3        *Resort in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah.*

4            (4) *The land and resource management plan for*  
5        *Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest prohibits new*  
6        *alpine ski lifts on National Forest System land.*

7            (5) *Despite efforts by Utah Department of*  
8        *Transportation, the Wasatch Front Regional Council,*  
9        *and the Utah Transit Authority to increase transit*  
10       *and carpool access in Big Cottonwood Canyon, daily*  
11       *traffic on peak winter weekends ranges between 8,000*  
12       *and 9,000 vehicles per day. Addressing congested traf-*  
13       *fic conditions in the Wasatch Canyons is important*  
14       *for the safety, health, and economy of the Wasatch*  
15       *Range front and back.*

16           (6) *Studies show that the establishment of the*  
17       *SkiLink would reduce ski-season vehicle traffic be-*  
18       *tween The Canyons Ski Resort and Solitude Moun-*  
19       *tain Resort by as much as 18,000 cars per year or*  
20       *1 million fewer miles driven per year, and the*  
21       *amount of the reduction is expected to increase over*  
22       *time.*

23           (7) *SkiLink would produce immediate traffic*  
24       *benefits, including a reduction in PM 2.5 and other*  
25       *emissions in Parley's and Big Cottonwood Canyons.*

1           (8) *A preliminary environmental review of the*  
2           *proposed SkiLink corridor assessed the potential im-*  
3           *act to special-status species, water quality and wa-*  
4           *tershed resources, and visual resources and found that*  
5           *no federally listed species or critical habitat would be*  
6           *affected and that any water, plant, and wildlife issues*  
7           *could be addressed through mitigation.*

8           (9) *Minimally invasive, environmentally sound*  
9           *construction techniques would be used to construct*  
10          *SkiLink, including the use of helicopters for concrete*  
11          *placement and tower installations.*

12          (10) *The winter sport industry in Utah is a sig-*  
13          *nificant contributor to the economy of Utah, with the*  
14          *ski/snowboarding industry bringing \$1.26 billion to*  
15          *Utah during the 2009/2010 ski season and resulting*  
16          *in 20,000 jobs.*

17          (11) *Economic analysis of SkiLink shows it*  
18          *would infuse another \$50,000,000 a year into Utah's*  
19          *economy and create 500 new jobs in the tourism and*  
20          *hospitality industries by creating the largest inter-*  
21          *connected ski network in the United States and pro-*  
22          *viding access to more than 6,000 acres of existing ski*  
23          *terrain.*

1 **SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND,**  
2 **UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST,**  
3 **SALT LAKE COUNTY, UTAH.**

4 (a) *CONVEYANCE REQUIRED; PURPOSE.*—Subject to  
5 subsection (e), the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, by  
6 sale, to Canyons-SkiLink, LLC, all right, title, and interest  
7 of the United States in and to a parcel of National Forest  
8 System land in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest  
9 in Salt Lake County, Utah, consisting of approximately 30  
10 acres, as identified on the map entitled “Wasatch Range  
11 Recreation Access Enhancement Act” and dated February  
12 27, 2012, for the purpose of permitting Canyons-SkiLink,  
13 LLC, to construct a ski-lift, gondola, or tramway to serve  
14 as a public-access transportation interconnection of the  
15 Wasatch Front and the Wasatch Back Mountains.

16 (b) *CONSIDERATION.*—As consideration for the convey-  
17 ance of the National Forest System land under subsection  
18 (a), Canyons-SkiLink, LLC, shall pay to the Secretary an  
19 amount equal to at least the fair market value of the land  
20 as of the date of the enactment of this Act. Any funds re-  
21 ceived by the Secretary under this Act shall be deposited  
22 in the general fund of the Treasury to reduce the Federal  
23 deficit.

24 (c) *DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.*—The  
25 fair market value of the National Forest System land to  
26 be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be based on an ap-

1 *praisal acceptable to the Secretary. The appraisal shall be*  
2 *completed no later than 6 months after the date of the enact-*  
3 *ment of this Act.*

4       (d) *ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary*  
5 *shall complete all actions that may be required under the*  
6 *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.*  
7 *4321 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16*  
8 *U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and all other applicable laws in mak-*  
9 *ing the conveyance under this section.*

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