

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1139

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Hudson River Valley, New York.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2013

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Hudson River Valley, New York.

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 “Hudson River Valley
5 Special Resource Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

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

10 (2) **STUDY AREA.**—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “study area”
2 means the portion of the Hudson River that
3 flows from Rodgers Island at Fort Edward to
4 the southernmost boundary of Westchester
5 County, New York.

6 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “study area”
7 includes any relevant sites and landscapes with-
8 in the counties in New York that abut the area
9 described in subparagraph (A).

10 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

11 Congress finds that—

12 (1) the Hudson River Valley possesses nation-
13 ally significant and unique cultural, historical, nat-
14 ural, recreational, and scenic resources;

15 (2) the Hudson River Valley is home to a ro-
16 bust and growing tourism and recreation industry
17 that is an important component of the regional econ-
18 omy;

19 (3) throughout history, the Hudson River Val-
20 ley has played a crucial role in the development of
21 the United States, starting from the vibrant Native
22 American communities that first inhabited the land,
23 to the voyage of Henry Hudson up the river later
24 named for Hudson in the vessel Half Moon in 1609
25 and later with the American Revolution, the debate

1 on our Constitution, the first successful steamboat
2 voyage by Robert Fulton in 1807, the Industrial
3 Revolution, the establishment of the Erie Canal and
4 growth of metropolitan New York, and the inception
5 of the modern labor and environmental movements;

6 (4) the Hudson River Valley gave birth to im-
7 portant movements in the art, architecture, and lit-
8 erature of the United States;

9 (5) the Hudson River Valley encompasses a rich
10 array of sensitive natural resources ranging from the
11 Hudson River and the vast estuarine district of the
12 Hudson River, to the wetlands, refuges, parks, for-
13 ests, farmlands, preserves, cliffs, valleys, and wildlife
14 of the Hudson River;

15 (6) the depictions and descriptions of the re-
16 nowned scenery and natural resources of the Hudson
17 River Valley played a central role in the recognition
18 of the value of the landscape and the development
19 of the esthetic and environmental ideal of the United
20 States;

21 (7) a 1996 National Park Service study de-
22 scribed the Hudson River Valley as “the landscape
23 that defined America”; and

24 (8) the Hudson River Valley has been the sub-
25 ject of multiple State and Federal inventories, stud-

1 ies, and plans that should greatly assist in the con-
2 duct of a National Park Service special resource
3 study.

4 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as funds are made avail-
6 able to carry out this section, the Secretary shall conduct
7 a study of the study area to evaluate—

8 (1) the national significance of the study area;
9 and

10 (2) the suitability and feasibility of designating
11 the study area as a unit of the National Park Sys-
12 tem.

13 (b) STUDY GUIDELINES.—In conducting the study
14 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

15 (1) use the criteria for the study of areas for
16 potential inclusion in the National Park System in-
17 cluded in section 8 of the National Park System
18 General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–5); and

19 (2) closely examine models for units of the Na-
20 tional Park System, in particular national river and
21 recreation areas, and other landscape protection
22 models, that—

23 (A) encompass large areas of non-Federal
24 land within designated boundaries;

1 (B) promote increased heritage tourism
2 and economic development;

3 (C) foster public and private collaborative
4 arrangements for achieving National Park Serv-
5 ice objectives; and

6 (D) protect and respect the rights of pri-
7 vate land owners and municipalities.

8 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

9 Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds
10 are first made available to conduct the study under section
11 4, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural
12 Resources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
13 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
14 a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommenda-
15 tions of the study.

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