

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 612

To amend the Wilderness Act to authorize U.S. Customs and Border Protection to conduct certain activities to secure the international land borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Wilderness Act to authorize U.S. Customs and Border Protection to conduct certain activities to secure the international land borders of the United States, 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 “Securing Our Borders
5 and Wilderness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION ACCESS**
2 **TO WILDERNESS AREAS.**

3 Section 4(d) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133)
4 is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(8) U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
6 ACCESS.—

7 “(A) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Notwith-
8 standing any other provision of this Act, the
9 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border
10 Protection may conduct the following activities
11 within a wilderness area for the purpose of se-
12 curing the international land borders of the
13 United States:

14 “(i) Access structures, installations,
15 and roads.

16 “(ii) Execute search and rescue oper-
17 ations.

18 “(iii) Use motor vehicles, motorboats,
19 and motorized equipment.

20 “(iv) Conduct patrols on foot and on
21 horseback.

22 “(v) Notwithstanding any other law or
23 regulation relating specifically to use of
24 aircraft in a wilderness area or in the air-
25 space above a wilderness area, use aircraft,
26 including approach, landing, and takeoff.

1 “(vi) Deploy tactical infrastructure
2 and technology.

3 “(vii) Construct and maintain roads
4 and physical barriers.

5 “(B) PROTECTION OF WILDERNESS CHAR-
6 ACTER.—Any activity conducted by the Com-
7 missioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protec-
8 tion under subparagraph (A) shall be carried
9 out in a manner that, to the greatest extent
10 possible, protects the wilderness character of
11 the area.”.

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