

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8401

To require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to complete an interagency report on the effects of special recreation permits on environmental justice communities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Ms. MENG, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. TLAIB) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to complete an interagency report on the effects of special recreation permits on environmental justice communities, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. INTERAGENCY REPORT ON SPECIAL RECRE-**
2 **ATION PERMITS BENEFITS TO ENVIRON-**
3 **MENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years following
5 the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit a
6 report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the
7 House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy
8 and Natural Resources of the Senate on the following:

9 (1) Estimated use of special recreation permits
10 by recreation service providers serving environmental
11 justice communities.

12 (2) Any national, regional, State, local, or site-
13 specific policies, including those required under the
14 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16
15 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.) that facilitate public lands ac-
16 cess for recreational service providers serving envi-
17 ronmental justice communities.

18 (3) Any case studies that may provide illus-
19 trative examples of how special recreation permits,
20 partnerships, or cooperative agreements are being ef-
21 fectively used by land managers for the purposes of
22 providing public lands access to recreation service
23 providers serving environmental justice communities.

24 (4) Identification of any barriers to public lands
25 access for recreation service providers serving envi-
26 ronmental justice communities.

1 (5) Any recommendations for agency policy, or
2 if necessary, action by Congress to encourage and
3 simplify public lands access for recreational service
4 providers serving environmental justice communities.

5 (b) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION BY SPECIAL RECRE-
6 ATION PROVIDERS.—The Secretaries—

7 (1) shall contact all current or prospective spe-
8 cial recreation providers to request a voluntary esti-
9 mation of how many user days are used by individ-
10 uals from environmental justice communities;

11 (2) shall request from recreational service pro-
12 viders and interested members of the public any
13 other information that supports the reporting re-
14 quirements in subsection (a); and

15 (3) shall not use participation or information
16 provided as a condition in approving or rejecting a
17 special recreation permit.

18 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

19 (1) The term “environmental justice commu-
20 nity” means a community with significant represen-
21 tation of communities of color, low-income commu-
22 nities, or Tribal and indigenous communities, that
23 experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, higher or
24 more adverse human health or environmental effects
25 than other communities.

1 (2) The terms “recreation service provider”,
2 “special recreation permit”, “Secretaries”, and
3 “Secretary” have the same meaning as defined in
4 section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation En-
5 hancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801).

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