

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8618

To enable local governments to treat the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a private landowner for the purposes of property taxation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2020

Mr. PETERSON (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. GOSAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To enable local governments to treat the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a private landowner for the purposes of property taxation, 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 “Local Government
5 Taxpayer Fairness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAX ON FEDERAL LAND.**

7 (a) REAL PROPERTY TAX TREATMENT.—At the re-
8 quest of the unit of local government, for the purposes

1 of real property taxation by that unit of local govern-
2 ment—

3 (1) the Secretary shall be treated as a private
4 land owner; and

5 (2) eligible land within the jurisdiction of the
6 unit of local government shall be treated as privately
7 owned land.

8 (b) PAYMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the Sec-
9 retary receives a request from a unit of local government
10 for payment of real property taxes levied on eligible land
11 under the jurisdiction of that unit of local government,
12 the Secretary shall remit payment of such taxes to the
13 unit of local government.

14 (c) EFFECT OF NONPAYMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary does not
16 remit full payment of real property taxes in accord-
17 ance with subsection (b)—

18 (A) the unit of local government requesting
19 payment may add interest, fees, and penalties
20 to the amount of taxes owed in the same man-
21 ner and form as the unit of local government
22 would add such amounts to a delinquent tax bill
23 owed on other private property located within
24 the jurisdiction of that unit of local govern-
25 ment; and

1 (B) no subsequent transfer of real private
2 property to the Secretary shall be valid until all
3 amounts owed under this section to all units of
4 local government are paid in full.

5 (2) EXEMPTION.—A Federal law or other ac-
6 tion purporting to transfer real private property to
7 the Secretary shall be subject to the conditions of
8 this subsection unless a Federal law enacted after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act exempts that
10 specific transfer by specific reference to this Act.

11 (d) APPLICATION OF PILT.—If a unit of local gov-
12 ernment submits a request under this section for payment
13 for a fiscal year for real property taxes levied on eligible
14 land, the unit of local government shall not be eligible for
15 payment related to that real property under chapter 69
16 of title 31, United States Code, for that fiscal year.

17 (e) PROSPECTIVE EFFECT.—Eligible land shall be
18 subject to the conditions of this Act unless a Federal law
19 enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act ex-
20 empts that specific eligible land by specific reference to
21 this Act.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 For the purpose of this Act, the following definitions
24 apply:

1 (1) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term “eligible land”
2 means land acquired after the date of the enactment
3 of this Act by the Secretary administratively or by
4 statute through purchase, donation, exchange, rever-
5 sion, eminent domain, or any other means to be ad-
6 ministered by the Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife
7 Service.

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

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