

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2278

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. BEYER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail, 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. SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Flight
6 93 National Memorial.

7 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
9 rector of the National Park Service.

1 (3) STATE.—The term “States” means Vir-
2 ginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jer-
3 sey, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

4 (4) TRAIL.—The term “Trail” means the Sep-
5 tember 11th National Memorial Trail Route des-
6 ignated under subsection (b).

7 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAIL ROUTE.—

8 (1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, with concur-
9 rence of the agency having jurisdiction over the rel-
10 evant roads, may designate a tour route, to be
11 known as the “September 11th National Memorial
12 Trail Route”, to link the National September 11
13 Memorial and Museum in New York City, the Pen-
14 tagon Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, and the
15 Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County,
16 Pennsylvania. The September 11th National Memo-
17 rial Trail shall—

18 (A) provide for a tribute to the family
19 members and loved ones who were victims of
20 the attack and the heroes of September 11th,
21 including the first responders in the days,
22 weeks, and months after the attack;

23 (B) be a Trail of Remembrance to honor
24 the fallen in a tangible way that keeps their

1 memories alive and reaffirms the exceptionalism
2 of our country; and

3 (C) be a celebration of our Nation's resil-
4 ience and perseverance since its founding as
5 well as a promotion of our cultural and indus-
6 trial heritage.

7 (2) ROUTE.—The Trail shall form an unbroken
8 triangular trail of approximately 1,300 miles as fol-
9 lows:

10 (A) Starting at the Pentagon Memorial in
11 Arlington, Virginia, following the Mt. Vernon
12 Trail;

13 (B) then extending north along the 184-
14 mile Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National His-
15 toric Park where it connects at Cumberland,
16 Maryland, with the 150-mile Great Allegheny
17 Passage and follows to Garret in Somerset
18 County, Pennsylvania;

19 (C) turning northeast and continuing for
20 approximately 21 miles to the Flight 93 Na-
21 tional Memorial;

22 (D) continuing east through the commu-
23 nities and historic sights of Pennsylvania, until
24 arriving at New Jersey's 130-mile Liberty
25 Water Gap Trail, then follows to New York

1 City and continues to the National September
2 11 Memorial and Museum;

3 (E) returning south following important
4 sections of the East Coast Greenway and con-
5 necting Pennsylvania's 9–11 Memorial Garden
6 of Reflection to the Trail;

7 (F) continuing through New Jersey, Dela-
8 ware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia;
9 and

10 (G) ending at the Pentagon Memorial.

11 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Trail shall be adminis-
12 tered by the Secretary through the Park.

13 (d) ACTIVITIES.—To facilitate the establishment of
14 the Trail and the dissemination of information regarding
15 the Trail, the Secretary shall—

16 (1) produce and disseminate appropriate edu-
17 cational materials regarding the Trail, such as hand-
18 books, maps, exhibits, signs, interpretive guides, and
19 electronic information;

20 (2) coordinate the management, planning, and
21 with participating properties, other Federal agencies,
22 State, and local governments, and nonprofit entities;

23 (3) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol
24 or device to mark the Trail; and

1 (4) issue guidelines for the use of the symbol or
2 device adopted under paragraph (3).

3 (e) ELEMENTS OF TRAIL ROUTE.—Subject to the
4 consent of the owner of the property, the Secretary may
5 designate as an official stop on the Trail—

6 (1) all units and programs of the Park relating
7 to the attacks of September 11th;

8 (2) other Federal, State, local, and privately
9 owned properties that the Secretary determines have
10 a verifiable connection to the attacks of September
11 11th and our Nation’s sacrifices since its founding;
12 and

13 (3) other governmental and nongovernmental
14 facilities and programs of an educational, commemo-
15 rative, research, or interpretive nature that the Sec-
16 retary determines to be related to the attacks of
17 September 11th and our Nation’s sacrifices since its
18 founding.

19 (f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA
20 OF UNDERSTANDING.—To facilitate the establishment of
21 the Trail and to ensure effective coordination of the Fed-
22 eral and non-Federal properties designated as stops along
23 the Trail, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agree-
24 ments and memoranda of understanding with, and provide
25 technical and financial assistance to, other Federal agen-

1 cies, the State, localities, regional governmental bodies,
2 and private entities.

