

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 277

To release a Federal reversionary interest and convey mineral interests in
Chester County, Tennessee, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY) introduced the following
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To release a Federal reversionary interest and convey mineral
interests in Chester County, Tennessee, 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. CHESTER COUNTY REVERSIONARY AND MIN-**
4 **ERAL INTERESTS RELEASE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (1) within the parcel of State forest land lo-
7 cated in Henderson, Chester County, Tennessee, a
8 recent survey by the State determined that Bethel
9 Baptist Church is encroaching on State-owned land

1 in Chickasaw State Forest by approximately 19
2 inches;

3 (2) the parcel described in paragraph (1) was
4 conveyed to the State by the Department of Agri-
5 culture, which retained a reversionary interest in the
6 land; and

7 (3) it is necessary to release the interests of the
8 United States in and to that land to resolve the en-
9 croachment issue described in paragraph (1).

10 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of Agriculture.

13 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
14 of Tennessee.

15 (3) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term “State
16 forest land” means the approximately 0.62-acre par-
17 cel of land in Chickasaw State Forest that is identi-
18 fied as “State Forest Land” on the map prepared
19 by the Forest Service entitled “State Forest Land
20 Detail Map” and dated December 13, 2019.

21 (c) RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—

22 (1) RELEASE.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall re-
24 lease, without consideration, the reversionary
25 interest described in paragraph (2).

1 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding
 2 any requirement for a grant of land under sec-
 3 tion 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones Farm Ten-
 4 ant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)) or any other provi-
 5 sion of law, the release under subparagraph (A)
 6 shall occur without any appraisal, other report,
 7 or environmental or similar review being under-
 8 taken.

9 (2) DESCRIPTION OF REVERSIONARY INTER-
 10 EST.—The reversionary interest referred to in para-
 11 graph (1)(A) is the reversionary interest of the
 12 United States in and to the State forest land that—

13 (A) takes effect if the State forest land
 14 ceases to be used for public purposes; and

15 (B) was created by the deed—

16 (i) granting from the United States to
 17 the State the State forest land;

18 (ii) dated August 12, 1955; and

19 (iii) registered on pages 588 through
 20 591 of book 48 of the record of deeds for
 21 Chester County, Tennessee.

22 (3) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—As a condition of the
 23 release under paragraph (1), the State shall pay to
 24 the United States any administrative costs incurred
 25 by the United States in carrying out the release.

1 (d) CONVEYANCE OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any re-
3 quirement for the conveyance of Federal mineral in-
4 terests under section 209 of the Federal Land Policy
5 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1719),
6 part 2720 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations
7 (or successor regulations), or any other provision of
8 law, the Secretary shall convey to the State, by quit-
9 claim deed, without warranty, and without consider-
10 ation, the mineral interest in the State forest land
11 owned by the United States.

12 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any
13 other provision of law, the conveyance under para-
14 graph (1) shall occur—

15 (A) without any exploratory program as to
16 the character of the mineral deposits in the
17 land;

18 (B) without any findings as to known min-
19 eral values and mineral development of the
20 land; and

21 (C) without any appraisal, other report, or
22 environmental or similar review being under-
23 taken by the Secretary.

24 (3) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—As a condition of the
25 conveyance under paragraph (1), the State shall pay

1 to the United States any administrative costs in-
2 curred by the United States in carrying out the con-
3 veyance.

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