

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 366

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 1999

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail.

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 “El Camino Real de
5 Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Act.”

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (the
9 Royal Road of the Interior), served as the primary
10 route between the colonial Spanish capital of Mexico

1 City and the Spanish provincial capitals at San Juan
 2 de Los Caballeros (1598–1600), San Gabriel (1600–
 3 1609) and then Santa Fe (1610–1821).

4 (2) The portion of El Camino Real de Tierra
 5 Adentro that resided in what is now the United
 6 States extended between El Paso, Texas and present
 7 San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, a distance of 404
 8 miles;

9 (3) El Camino Real is a symbol of the cultural
 10 interaction between nations and ethnic groups and
 11 of the commercial exchange that made possible the
 12 development and growth of the borderland;

13 (4) American Indian groups, especially the
 14 Pueblo Indians of the Rio Grande, developed trails
 15 for trade long before Europeans arrived;

16 (5) In 1598, Juan de Oñate led a Spanish mili-
 17 tary expedition along those trails to establish the
 18 northern portion of El Camino Real;

19 (6) During the Mexican National Period and
 20 part of the U.S. Territorial Period, El Camino Real
 21 de Tierra Adentro facilitated the emigration of peo-
 22 ple to New Mexico and other areas that would be-
 23 come the United States;

24 (7) The exploration, conquest, colonization, set-
 25 tlement, religious conversion, and military occupa-

1 tion of a large area of the borderlands was made
 2 possible by this route, whose historical period ex-
 3 tended from 1598 to 1882;

4 (8) American Indians, European emigrants,
 5 miners, ranchers, soldiers, and missionaries used El
 6 Camino Real during the historic development of the
 7 borderlands. These travelers promoted cultural inter-
 8 action among Spaniards, other Europeans, American
 9 Indians, Mexicans, and Americans;

10 (9) El Camino Real fostered the spread of Ca-
 11 tholicism, mining, an extensive network of com-
 12 merce, and ethnic and cultural traditions including
 13 music, folklore, medicine, foods, architecture, lan-
 14 guage, place names, irrigation systems, and Spanish
 15 law.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.**

17 Section 5 (a) of the National Trails System Act (16
 18 U.S.C. 1244 (a)) is amended—

19 (1) by designating the paragraphs relating to
 20 the California National Historic Trail, the Pony Ex-
 21 press National Historic Trail, and the Selma to
 22 Montgomery National Historic Trail as paragraphs
 23 (18), (19), and (20), respectively; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(21) EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA
2 ADENTRO.—

3 “(A) El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro
4 (the Royal Road of the Interior) National His-
5 toric Trail, a 404 mile long trail from the Rio
6 Grande near El Paso, Texas to present San
7 Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, as generally depicted
8 on the maps entitled ‘United States Route: El
9 Camino Real de Tierra Adentro’, contained in
10 the report prepared pursuant to subsection (b)
11 entitled ‘National Historic Trail Feasibility
12 Study and Environmental Assessment: El Ca-
13 mino Real de Tierra Adentro, Texas-New Mex-
14 ico’, dated March 1997.

15 “(B) MAP.—A map generally depicting the
16 trail shall be on file and available for public in-
17 spection in the Office of the National Park
18 Service, Department of Interior.

19 “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The Trail shall
20 be administered by the Secretary of the Inte-
21 rior.

22 “(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—No lands or in-
23 terests therein outside the exterior boundaries
24 of any federally administered area may be ac-
25 quired by the Federal Government for El Ca-

1 mino Real de Tierra Adentro except with the
2 consent of the owner thereof.

3 “(E) VOLUNTEER GROUPS; CONSULTA-
4 TION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

5 “(i) encourage volunteer trail groups
6 to participate in the development and
7 maintenance of the trail; and

8 “(ii) consult with other affected Fed-
9 eral, State, and tribal agencies in the ad-
10 ministration of the trail.

11 “(F) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The
12 Secretary of the Interior may coordinate with
13 United States and Mexican public and non-gov-
14 ernmental organizations, academic institutions,
15 and, in consultation with the Secretary of State,
16 the government of Mexico and its political sub-
17 divisions, for the purpose of exchanging trail in-
18 formation and research, fostering trail preserva-
19 tion and educational programs, providing tech-
20 nical assistance, and working to establish an
21 international historic trail with complementary
22 preservation and education programs in each
23 nation.”.

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