

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4830

AN ACT

To amend chapter 27 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the unauthorized construction, financing, or reckless permitting (on one's land) the construction or use of a tunnel or subterranean passageway between the United States and another country.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Border Tunnel Preven-
3 tion Act of 2006”.

4 **SEC. 2. CONSTRUCTION OF BORDER TUNNEL OR PASSAGE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 27 of title 18, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 **“§ 554. Border tunnels and passages**

9 “(a) Any person who knowingly constructs or fi-
10 nances the construction of a tunnel or subterranean pas-
11 sage that crosses the international border between the
12 United States and another country, other than a lawfully
13 authorized tunnel or passage known to the Secretary of
14 Homeland Security and subject to inspection by the Bu-
15 reau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall be
16 imprisoned for not more than 20 years.

17 “(b) Any person who recklessly permits the construc-
18 tion or use of a tunnel or passage described in subsection
19 (a) on land that the person owns or controls shall be im-
20 prisoned for not more than 10 years.

21 “(c) Any person who uses a tunnel or passage de-
22 scribed in subsection (a) to unlawfully smuggle an alien,
23 goods (in violation of section 545), controlled substances,
24 weapons of mass destruction (including biological weap-
25 ons), or a member of a terrorist organization (as defined
26 in section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi) of the Immigration and Na-

1 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi))) shall be sub-
2 ject to twice the penalty that would have otherwise been
3 imposed had the unlawful activity not made use of such
4 a tunnel or passage.”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
6 for chapter 27 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
7 by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 554. Border tunnels and passages.”.

8 (c) CRIMINAL FORFEITURE.—Section 982(a)(6) of
9 title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting
10 “554,” before “1425,”.

11 **SEC. 3. DIRECTIVE TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING**
12 **COMMISSION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to its authority under
14 section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accord-
15 ance with this section, the United States Sentencing Com-
16 mission shall promulgate or amend sentencing guidelines
17 to provide for increased penalties for persons convicted of
18 offenses described in section 554 of title 18, United States
19 Code, as added by section 1.

20 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this section,
21 the United States Sentencing Commission shall—

22 (1) ensure that the sentencing guidelines, policy
23 statements, and official commentary reflect the seri-
24 ous nature of the offenses described in section 554
25 of title 18, United States Code, and the need for ag-

1 gressive and appropriate law enforcement action to
2 prevent such offenses;

3 (2) provide adequate base offense levels for of-
4 fenses under such section;

5 (3) account for any aggravating or mitigating
6 circumstances that might justify exceptions, includ-
7 ing—

8 (A) the use of a tunnel or passage de-
9 scribed in subsection (a) of such section to fa-
10 cilitate other felonies; and

11 (B) the circumstances for which the sen-
12 tencing guidelines currently provide applicable
13 sentencing enhancements;

14 (4) ensure reasonable consistency with other
15 relevant directives, other sentencing guidelines, and
16 statutes;

17 (5) make any necessary and conforming
18 changes to the sentencing guidelines and policy
19 statements; and

1 (6) ensure that the sentencing guidelines ade-
2 quately meet the purposes of sentencing set forth in
3 section 3553(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code.
 Passed the House of Representatives September 21,
2006.

Attest:

Clerk.

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