

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2327

To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to strengthen polar bear conservation efforts, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2007

Mr. INSLEE (for himself, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. DICKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to strengthen polar bear conservation efforts, 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 “Polar Bear Protection
5 Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Section 101 of the Marine Mammal Protec-
2 tion Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1371) established a
3 moratorium on the importation of marine mammals
4 and marine mammal products, including the impor-
5 tation of all sport hunted marine mammal trophies.

6 (2) In 1994, such section was amended to cre-
7 ate an exemption from the moratorium, which allows
8 the importation of sport-hunted polar bear trophies
9 from Canada.

10 (3) This exemption has had the effect of in-
11 creasing Canadian polar bear mortalities from
12 United States sport hunters.

13 (4) Polar bears have low reproductive rates,
14 have long lives, and rely on high adult survival rates
15 to maintain population numbers. In addition, polar
16 bear populations are under stress from climate
17 change and habitat degradation.

18 (5) In July 2005, the World Conservation
19 Union Polar Bear Specialist Group released its
20 quadrennial report, in which it reviewed the status
21 of polar bears and concluded that the species should
22 be upgraded from “a species of least concern” to
23 “vulnerable”, based on the “likelihood of an overall
24 decline in the size of the total population of more
25 than 30 percent within the next 35 to 50 years”.

1 (6) Based on threats posed to polar bears, on
2 December 27, 2006, the Department of the Interior
3 proposed that polar bears be listed under the En-
4 dangered Species Act of 1973 as threatened species.

5 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are the fol-
6 lowing:

7 (1) To ensure that citizens of the United States
8 do not contribute to polar bear mortalities in Can-
9 ada by removing the exemption in that Act that al-
10 lows for the Secretary of the Interior to issue per-
11 mits to United States trophy hunters for the impor-
12 tation of polar bear trophies from Canada.

13 (2) To heed the warnings of the Department of
14 the Interior and the World Conservation Union
15 Polar Bear Specialist Group that polar bears are at
16 risk and could become endangered, by prohibiting
17 such importation.

18 (3) To further the goals of the International
19 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears, to
20 which all five nations with polar bears within their
21 borders are a party.

22 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO PROHIBIT IMPORTATION OF**
23 **POLAR BEARS AND POLAR BEAR PARTS.**

24 The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 is
25 amended—

1 (1) in section 101(a)(1) (16 U.S.C. 1371(a)(1))

2 by—

3 (A) striking “, or for importation of polar
4 bear parts (other than internal organs) taken in
5 sport hunts in Canada.” and inserting “. No
6 permit may be issued under this Act for the im-
7 portation of polar bear parts taken in a sport
8 hunt.”;

9 (B) striking “, except permits issued under
10 section 104(c)(5),”; and

11 (C) striking “, other than importation
12 under section 104(c)(5),”;

13 (2) in section 104(e) (16 U.S.C. 1374(e))—

14 (A) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking
15 “paragraph (10)” and inserting “paragraph
16 (9)”;

17 (B) in paragraph (8)(B)(ii), by striking
18 “paragraph (10)” and inserting “paragraph
19 (9)”;

20 (C) by striking paragraph (5); and

21 (D) by redesignating (6) through (10) as
22 paragraphs (5) through (9); and

23 (3) in section 104(e)(1) (16 U.S.C.
24 1374(e)(1))—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or”
2 after the comma at the end;

3 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “,
4 or” and inserting a period; and

5 (C) by striking subparagraph (C).

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