

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 415

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## AN ACT

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

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. DESIGNATION OF TAUNTON RIVER, MASSACHU-**  
2 **SETTS.**

3 Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16  
4 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 “(\_\_\_\_) TAUNTON RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS.—The  
7 main stem of the Taunton River from its headwaters at  
8 the confluence of the Town and Matfield Rivers in the  
9 Town of Bridgewater downstream 40 miles to the con-  
10 fluence with the Quequechan River at the Route 195  
11 Bridge in the City of Fall River, to be administered by  
12 the Secretary of the Interior in cooperation with the Taun-  
13 ton River Stewardship Council as follows:

14 “(A) The 18-mile segment from the confluence  
15 of the Town and Matfield Rivers to Route 24 in the  
16 Town of Raynham, as a scenic river.

17 “(B) The 5-mile segment from Route 24 to 0.5  
18 miles below Weir Bridge in the City of Taunton, as  
19 a recreational river.

20 “(C) The 8-mile segment from 0.5 miles below  
21 Weir Bridge to Muddy Cove in the Town of  
22 Dighton, as a scenic river.

23 “(D) The 9-mile segment from Muddy Cove to  
24 the confluence with the Quequechan River at the  
25 Route 195 Bridge in the City of Fall River, as a rec-  
26 reational river.”.

1 **SEC. 2. MANAGEMENT OF TAUNTON RIVER, MASSACHU-**  
2 **SETTS.**

3 (a) **TAUNTON RIVER STEWARDSHIP PLAN.**—

4 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each river segment added to  
5 section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by  
6 section 1 of this Act shall be managed in accordance  
7 with the Taunton River Stewardship Plan, dated  
8 July 2005 (including any amendment to the Taun-  
9 ton River Stewardship Plan that the Secretary of  
10 the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Sec-  
11 retary”) determines to be consistent with this Act).

12 (2) **EFFECT.**—The Taunton River Stewardship  
13 Plan described in paragraph (1) shall be considered  
14 to satisfy each requirement relating to the com-  
15 prehensive management plan required under section  
16 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C.  
17 1274(d)).

18 (b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—To provide for the  
19 long-term protection, preservation, and enhancement of  
20 each river segment added to section 3(a) of the Wild and  
21 Scenic Rivers Act by section 1 of this Act, pursuant to  
22 sections 10(e) and 11(b)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers  
23 Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e) and 1282(b)(1)), the Secretary  
24 may enter into cooperative agreements (which may include  
25 provisions for financial and other assistance) with—

1           (1) the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (in-  
2           cluding political subdivisions of the Commonwealth  
3           of Massachusetts);

4           (2) the Taunton River Stewardship Council;  
5           and

6           (3) any appropriate nonprofit organization, as  
7           determined by the Secretary.

8           (c) RELATION TO NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—Not-  
9           withstanding section 10(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers  
10          Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(c)), each river segment added to sec-  
11          tion 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by section  
12          1 of this Act shall not be—

13           (1) administered as a unit of the National Park  
14          System; or

15           (2) subject to the laws (including regulations)  
16          that govern the administration of the National Park  
17          System.

18          (d) LAND MANAGEMENT.—

19           (1) ZONING ORDINANCES.—The zoning ordi-  
20          nances adopted by the Towns of Bridgewater, Hali-  
21          fax, Middleborough, Raynham, Berkley, Dighton,  
22          Freetown, and Somerset, and the Cities of Taunton  
23          and Fall River, Massachusetts (including any provi-  
24          sion of the zoning ordinances relating to the con-  
25          servation of floodplains, wetlands, and watercourses

1 associated with any river segment added to section  
2 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by section  
3 1 of this Act), shall be considered to satisfy each  
4 standard and requirement described in section 6(c)  
5 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C.  
6 1277(c)).

7 (2) VILLAGES.—For the purpose of section 6(c)  
8 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C.  
9 1277(c)), each town described in paragraph (1) shall  
10 be considered to be a village.

11 (3) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

12 (A) LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY OF SEC-  
13 RETARY.—With respect to each river segment  
14 added to section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic  
15 Rivers Act by section 1 of this Act, the Sec-  
16 retary may only acquire parcels of land—

17 (i) by donation; or

18 (ii) with the consent of the owner of  
19 the parcel of land.

20 (B) PROHIBITION RELATING TO ACQUI-  
21 SITION OF LAND BY CONDEMNATION.—In accord-  
22 ance with section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic  
23 Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1277(c)), with respect to  
24 each river segment added to section 3(a) of the  
25 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by section 1 of this

1 Act, the Secretary may not acquire any parcel  
2 of land by condemnation.

3 **SEC. 3. ENERGY AND CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.**

4 The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the  
5 Secretary of Energy and private industry, shall complete  
6 and submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the  
7 House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and  
8 Natural Resources of the Senate, and Senators and Rep-  
9 resentatives from the States affected by the designation,  
10 a report using the best available data and regarding the  
11 energy resources available on the lands and waters in-  
12 cluded in the segments of the Taunton River designated  
13 under section 2 of this Act. The report shall—

14 (1) contain the best available description of the  
15 energy resources available on the land and report on  
16 the specific amount of energy withdrawn from pos-  
17 sible development; and

18 (2) identify cubic feet of natural gas, natural  
19 gas transmission and storage potential, megawatts  
20 of geothermal, wind and solar energy that could be  
21 commercially produced, annual available biomass for  
22 energy production, and any megawatts of hydro-  
23 power resources available, including tidal, traditional  
24 dams, and in-stream flow turbines.

1 **SEC. 4. HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND REC-**  
2 **REATIONAL SHOOTING.**

3 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting  
4 the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Com-  
5 monwealth of Massachusetts to manage, control, or regu-  
6 late fish and resident wildlife under State law or regula-  
7 tions, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, trap-  
8 ping, and recreational shooting. Nothing in this Act shall  
9 be construed as limiting access for hunting, fishing, trap-  
10 ping, or recreational shooting.

11 **SEC. 5. DOMESTICALLY-PRODUCED ENERGY RESOURCES.**

12 Nothing in this Act shall impact the supply of domes-  
13 tically-produced energy resources.

Passed the House of Representatives July 16, 2008.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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