

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2182

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to Congress on the alternatives for the final disposition of Plum Island, including preservation of the island for conservation, education, and research, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2017

Mr. ZELDIN (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MENG, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. COURTNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

---

## A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to Congress on the alternatives for the final disposition of Plum Island, including preservation of the island for conservation, education, and research, 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 “Plum Island Preserva-  
5 tion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Federal Government has owned Plum  
4 Island, New York, since 1899.

5 (2) Since 1954, the Plum Island Animal Dis-  
6 ease Center has conducted unrivaled scientific re-  
7 search on a variety of infectious animal-borne dis-  
8 eases, including foot-and-mouth disease, resulting,  
9 most recently, in the development of a new cell line  
10 that rapidly and reliably detects this highly debili-  
11 tating disease of livestock.

12 (3) Over 62 years, the Center has had a strong,  
13 proven record of safety.

14 (4) \$23,200,000 in Federal dollars have been  
15 spent on upgrades to, and the maintenance of, the  
16 Center since January 2012.

17 (5) In addition to the Center, Plum Island con-  
18 tains cultural, historical, ecological, and natural re-  
19 sources of regional and national significance.

20 (6) Plum Island is situated where the Long Is-  
21 land Sound and Peconic Bay meet, both of which  
22 are estuaries that are part of the National Estuary  
23 Program and are environmentally and economically  
24 significant to the region.

25 (7) The Federal Government has invested hun-  
26 dreds of millions of Federal dollars over the last two

1 decades to make long-term improvements with re-  
2 spect to the conservation and management needs of  
3 Long Island Sound and Peconic Bay.

4 (8) In a report submitted to Congress on April  
5 11, 2016, entitled “National Bio- and Agro-Defense  
6 Facility Construction Plan Update” the Department  
7 of Homeland Security noted that the new National  
8 Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility under construction  
9 on such date in Manhattan, Kansas, is, as of such  
10 date, fully paid for through a combination of Fed-  
11 eral appropriations and funding from the State of  
12 Kansas.

13 **SEC. 3. REPORT REQUIRED ON FINAL DISPOSITION OF**  
14 **PLUM ISLAND.**

15 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
16 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United  
17 States shall submit to Congress a report containing the  
18 following:

19 (1) The alternatives for the final disposition of  
20 Plum Island, including the transfer of ownership to  
21 another Federal agency, a State or local govern-  
22 ment, a nonprofit organization, or a combination  
23 thereof for the purpose of education, research, or  
24 conservation.

1           (2) With respect to each such alternative final  
2 disposition, an analysis of—

3           (A) the effect such disposition would have  
4 on the island’s resources;

5           (B) the remediation responsibilities under  
6 such disposition;

7           (C) any future legislation necessary to im-  
8 plement such disposition;

9           (D) the possible implications and issues, if  
10 any, of implementing such disposition;

11           (E) the costs of such disposition, including  
12 any potential costs related to the transition,  
13 hazard mitigation, and cleanup of property that  
14 would be incurred by a recipient of the property  
15 under such disposition; and

16           (F) the potential revenue from such dis-  
17 position.

18 **SEC. 4. SUSPENSION OF ACTION.**

19       No action, including any pre-sale marketing activity,  
20 may be taken to carry out section 538 of title V of division  
21 D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public  
22 Law 112–74; 125 Stat. 976) until at least 180 days after  
23 the report required by section 3 has been submitted to  
24 Congress.

○