

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS
SEMIPOSTAL STAMP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021

APRIL 25, 2022.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6023]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6023) to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION; REQUIREMENT TO SELL ALL STAMPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(c) of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010 (39 U.S.C. 416 note; Public Law 111–241) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “of at least 6 years,”; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and ending not earlier than the date on which the United States Postal Service provides notice to Congress under paragraph (5)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) REQUIREMENT TO SELL ALL STAMPS PRINTED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Postal Service shall sell each copy of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund Semipostal Stamp that the United States Postal Service prints under this Act.

“(B) NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS.—The United States Postal Service shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representa-

tives, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives when all copies of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund Semipostal Stamp printed under this Act have been sold.”.

(b) RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on the day after the date of enactment of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–165; 128 Stat. 1878).

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 6023 is to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

A semipostal stamp is a postage stamp sold at a higher rate than a normal 1-ounce first-class letter stamp. The extra charge is recognized as a contribution by the purchaser to a specific fund or cause. Congress has authorized the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to sell four different semipostal stamps since 1997.¹

The Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010 authorized a semipostal stamp to support international conservation efforts, entitled the “Save Vanishing Species” semipostal stamp. The additional proceeds of the stamps are deposited into the Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF), administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The MSCF includes five grant programs: the African Elephant Conservation Fund, the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund, the Great Ape Conservation Fund, the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund. All programs were reauthorized in S. 47, the John. D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, signed into law in 2019.²

Between 2011 and 2017, almost 51 million MSCF semipostal stamps were sold, raising roughly \$3.9 million for conservation projects related to anti-poaching, capacity building, community engagement and outreach, habitat restoration, and raising public awareness of wildlife trafficking.

In 2017, the authorization for the MSCF stamps expired, and USPS suspended the stamp sale despite still having 49 million unsold stamps.³ Annual appropriations bills have been directing the USPS to continue selling the stamps, but in a piecemeal fashion.

H.R. 6023 would reauthorize the MSCF semipostal stamp until the USPS sells all the previously printed stamps.

¹ See Pervaze A. Sheikh, Michelle D. Christensen & Kalyn R. Dorheim, Cong. Research Serv., R44809, Multinational Species Conservation Fund Semipostal Stamp (updated Apr. 7, 2017), <https://www.crs.gov/reports/pdf/R44809>, of which the above description is largely an excerpt.

² *Id.*

³ *Hearing on H.R. 967, H.R. 1162, H.R. 1446, H.R. 1976, H.R. 2473, H.R. 2685, Migratory Bird Protection Act Discussion Draft Before the Subcomm. on Water, Oceans & Wildlife of the H. Comm. on Nat. Res.*, 116th Cong. (2019) (not printed) (statement for the record of the U.S. Dep’t of the Interior), <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/II/II13/20190613/109633/HHRG-116-II13-20190613-SD008.pdf>.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 6023 was introduced on November 18, 2021, by Representative Jim Costa (D-CA). The bill was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on the Budget. Within the Natural Resources Committee, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. On January 20, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On February 16, 2022, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (R-AR) offered an amendment designated Westerman #1. The amendment was agreed to by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held on January 20, 2022.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following estimate for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2022.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 6023, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2021.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Janani Shankaran.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 6023, Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2021			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on February 16, 2022			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and zero.			

H.R. 6023 would direct the Postal Service (USPS) to continue to sell the Save Vanishing Species semipostal stamp until all are sold. Under current law, USPS can sell the stamps through September 30, 2022.

The stamps cost 75 cents each; amounts that USPS collects above regular first-class postage (currently 58 cents) are treated as offsetting collections of the Postal Service and are transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to support the Multinational Species Conservation Funds.

Using information on past sales, CBO estimates that collections under the bill would total less than \$1 million annually. CBO expects those amounts to be transferred soon after receipt, resulting in no net change in spending by USPS. Postal Service collections and spending, including the transfer to USFWS, are classified as off-budget.

The amounts that USFWS receives would be recorded as on-budget offsetting receipts, or reductions in direct spending, and would be available for the agency to spend without further appropriation. CBO expects that those funds would be spent soon after receipt; thus, the net effect on direct spending would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Janani Shankaran. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill are to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

According to CBO, this bill contains no unfunded mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS SEMIPOSTAL STAMP ACT OF 2010

* * * * *

SEC. 2. MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS SEMIPOSTAL STAMP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to afford a convenient way for members of the public to contribute to funding for the operations supported by the Multinational Species Conservation Funds, the United States Postal Service shall issue a semipostal stamp (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp”) in accordance with succeeding provisions of this section.

(b) COST AND USE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp shall be offered at a cost equal to the cost of mailing a letter weighing 1 ounce or less at the non-automation single-piece first-ounce letter rate, in effect at the time of purchase, plus a differential of not less than 15 percent.

(2) VOLUNTARY USE.—The use of any semipostal issued under this section shall be voluntary on the part of postal patrons.

(3) SPECIAL RATE.—The special rate of postage of an individual stamp under this section shall be an amount that is evenly divisible by 5.

(c) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The issuance and sale of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp shall be governed by the provisions of section 416 of title 39, United States Code, and regulations issued under such section, subject to subsection (b) and the following:

(1) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—All amounts becoming available from the sale of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp (as determined under section 416(d) of such title 39) shall be transferred to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, for the purpose described in subsection (a), through payments which shall be made at least twice a year, with the proceeds to be divided equally among the African Elephant Conservation Fund, the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund, the Great Ape Conservation Fund, the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, and other international wildlife conservation funds authorized by the Congress after the date of the enactment of this Act and administered by the Service as part of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

(B) PROCEEDS NOT TO BE OFFSET.—In accordance with section 416(d)(4) of such title 39, amounts becoming available from the sale of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp (as so determined) shall not be taken into account in any decision relating to the level of appropriations or other Federal funding to be furnished in any year to—

- (i) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; or
- (ii) any of the funds identified in subparagraph (A).

(2) DURATION.—The Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp shall be made available to the public for a period [of at least 6 years,] beginning no later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act *and ending not earlier than the date on which the United States Postal Service provides notice to Congress under paragraph (5).*

(3) LIMITATION.—The Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp shall not be subject to, or taken into account for purposes of applying, any limitation under section 416(e)(1)(C) of such title 39.

(4) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts transferred under paragraph (1) shall not be used to fund or support the Wildlife Without Borders Program or to supplement funds made available for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

(5) REQUIREMENT TO SELL ALL STAMPS PRINTED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—*The United States Postal Service shall sell each copy of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund Semipostal Stamp that the United States Postal Service prints under this Act.*

(B) NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS.—*The United States Postal Service shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Rep-*

representatives, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives when all copies of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund Semipostal Stamp printed under this Act have been sold.

(d) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this Act, the term “semipostal stamp” refers to a stamp described in section 416(a)(1) of title 39, United States Code.

CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
CHAIRWOMAN

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

JAMES COMER, KENTUCKY
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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February 28, 2022

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

I write concerning H.R. 6023, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act. This bill contains provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. As a result of your having consulted with me concerning the provisions of the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo consideration of the bill, so the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 6023, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and we will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so we may address any remaining issues within our Rule X jurisdiction. Further, I request your support for the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Oversight and Reform during any House-Senate conference on this or related legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate a response confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources as well as in the *Congressional Record* during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
House of Representatives

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
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The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources

Jason Smith, Parliamentarian
House of Representatives

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA OF ARIZONA
CHAIRMAN

DAVID WATKINS
STAFF DIRECTOR

BRUCE WESTERMAN OF ARKANSAS
RANKING REPUBLICAN

VIVIAN MOEGLEIN
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2022

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chair
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

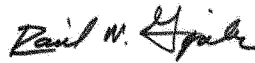
Dear Chair Maloney:

I write to you concerning H.R. 6023, the "Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act."

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. I acknowledge that your Committee will not formally consider H.R. 6023 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. Additionally, the Committee on Natural Resources confirms our mutual understanding that the Committee on Oversight and Reform will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward including the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the bill report, if any, and in the *Congressional Record* during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Chair
House Natural Resources Committee

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and Reform
The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS
None.

