

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2823

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a pilot program for restoration of urban watersheds and community environments in the Anacostia River watershed, District of Columbia and Maryland, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 1997

Ms. NORTON (for herself, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a pilot program for restoration of urban watersheds and community environments in the Anacostia River watershed, District of Columbia and Maryland, 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 “National Urban Water-
5 shed Model Restoration Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANACOSTIA RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION AND**
2 **PROTECTION PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Envi-
4 ronmental Protection Agency shall develop and carry out
5 a pilot program to serve as a national model for the res-
6 toration of urban watersheds and community environ-
7 ments. The purposes of the program shall be to dem-
8 onstrate methods to encourage urban communities to use
9 their environmental resources as a catalyst for sustainable
10 community redevelopment and to meet the objectives of
11 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, including
12 stormwater, combined sewer overflows, and other water
13 quality objectives. The program shall have a dual function
14 of restoration and protection of river resources and reduc-
15 tion of environmental human health risks in the surround-
16 ing communities.

17 (b) LOCATION.—The pilot program under this section
18 shall be carried out in the Anacostia River watershed, Dis-
19 trict of Columbia and Maryland.

20 (c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the program under
21 this section, the Administrator shall—

22 (1) integrate on a community or geographic
23 basis the regulatory and nonregulatory programs of
24 the Environmental Protection Agency with other
25 Federal, State, and local government programs and
26 provide effective coordination among such programs;

1 (2) support baseline monitoring efforts of State
2 and local governments to determine key trends in
3 ambient environmental conditions for the purpose of
4 filling gaps in critical data about the environmental
5 condition of the watershed;

6 (3) develop and maintain environmental indica-
7 tors in conjunction with interested public entities
8 and ensure regular public reporting of these indica-
9 tors;

10 (4) provide grants in accordance with sub-
11 section (d) to local community groups and nonprofit
12 organizations to foster community involvement in
13 the decisionmaking process, environmental edu-
14 cational goals, and restoration strategies;

15 (5) assist in the establishment of measurable
16 goals for such restoration;

17 (6) maintain annual program plans which pro-
18 vide for public input;

19 (7) provide opportunities for the education of
20 school children and community groups on local envi-
21 ronmental resources and on what individuals can do
22 to reduce environmental and health risks;

23 (8) develop consensus strategies for the restora-
24 tion and protection of the watershed in cooperation

1 with other Federal, State, and local groups to ad-
2 dress critical issues and needs;

3 (9) maintain a biennial Federal work planning
4 process for Federal landholders and programmatic
5 agencies to identify specific opportunities and needs
6 for Federal activities in support of the pilot pro-
7 gram's goals;

8 (10) demonstrate new technologies and ap-
9 proaches which are applicable nationally to
10 stormwater management, combined sewer overflow
11 control, floatables reduction, forest buffer restora-
12 tion, and other activities being conducted under the
13 Federal Water Pollution Control Act;

14 (11) participate in urban habitat improvement
15 projects in the watershed on a demonstration basis;

16 (12) assist in the implementation of the re-
17 gional action plan for toxics reduction and preven-
18 tion in the watershed;

19 (13) implement on the ground projects for res-
20 toration of the watershed to the extent they are
21 unique or transferable to national audiences; and

22 (14) maintain and enhance the Biennial Work
23 Plan for the Anacostia River Watershed published
24 by the United States Army Corp of Engineers and
25 the Environmental Protection Agency on April 22,

1 1997, for the purpose of identifying specific opportu-
2 nities for Federal landholders to contribute to the
3 pilot program.

4 (d) CHALLENGE GRANTS.—

5 (1) SET ASIDE.—The Administrator may set
6 aside no less than \$400,000 of amounts appro-
7 priated to carry out this section for each fiscal year
8 to make grants under subsection (c)(4).

9 (2) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
10 SHARE.—The Environmental Protection Agency's
11 share of the costs of activities to be carried out with
12 a grant under this section shall be not less than 75
13 percent. The remaining share of such costs may be
14 provided through in-kind contributions and may be
15 provided from Federal funds appropriated to carry
16 out any law, other than this Act, if the Federal
17 agency making such funds available agrees.

18 (e) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
19 gram under this section, the Administrator shall work in
20 coordination with other Federal agencies, particularly the
21 Army Corps of Engineers, to identify projects and activi-
22 ties which are supportive of the goals of the pilot program.

23 (f) REPORTS.—The Administrator shall transmit to
24 Congress by January 1 of each fiscal years 1999 through
25 2003 a report on the activities carried out under, and re-

1 sults of, the pilot program during the preceding fiscal
2 year, including a report on the technical, managerial, and
3 public involvement aspects of the pilot program which are
4 transferable to other urban areas.

5 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
7 \$750,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2003.
8 Such sums shall remain available until expended.

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