

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3803

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 1998

Mr. REYES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail.

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 “El Camino Real de
5 Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (the
9 Royal Road of the Interior), served as the primary
10 route between the colonial Spanish capital of Mexico

1 City and the Spanish provincial capitals at San Juan
2 de Los Caballeros (1598–1600), San Gabriel (1600–
3 1609) and Santa Fe (1610–1821);

4 (2) the portion of El Camino Real in what is
5 now the United States extended between El Paso,
6 Texas, and present San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico,
7 a distance of 404 miles;

8 (3) El Camino Real is a symbol of the cultural
9 interaction between nations and ethnic groups and
10 of the commercial exchange that made possible the
11 development and growth of the borderland;

12 (4) American Indian groups, especially the
13 Pueblo Indians of the Rio Grande, developed trails
14 for trade long before Europeans arrived;

15 (5) in 1598, Juan de Oñate led a Spanish mili-
16 tary expedition along those trails to establish the
17 northern portion of El Camino Real;

18 (6) during the Mexican National Period and
19 part of the United States Territorial Period, El Ca-
20 mino Real facilitated the emigration of people to
21 New Mexico and other areas that were to become
22 part of the United States;

23 (7) the exploration, conquest, colonization, set-
24 tlement, religious conversion, and military occupa-
25 tion of a large area of the borderland was made pos-

1 sible by El Camino Real, the historical period of
2 which extended from 1598 to 1882;

3 (8) American Indians, European emigrants,
4 miners, ranchers, soldiers, and missionaries used El
5 Camino Real during the historic development of the
6 borderland, promoting cultural interaction among
7 Spaniards, other Europeans, American Indians,
8 Mexicans, and Americans; and

9 (9) El Camino Real fostered the spread of Ca-
10 tholicism, mining, an extensive network of com-
11 merce, and ethnic and cultural traditions including
12 music, folklore, medicine, foods, architecture, lan-
13 guage, place names, irrigation systems, and Spanish
14 law.

15 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.**

16 Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16
17 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended—

18 (1) by designating the paragraphs relating to
19 the California National Historic Trail, the Pony Ex-
20 press National Historic Trail, and the Selma to
21 Montgomery National Historic Trail as paragraphs
22 (18), (19), and (20), respectively; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(21) EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA
25 ADENTRO.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—El Camino Real de
2 Tierra Adentro (the Royal Road of the Interior)
3 National Historic Trail, a 404 mile long trail
4 from the Rio Grande near El Paso, Texas to
5 San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, as generally de-
6 picted on the maps entitled ‘United States
7 Route: El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro’, con-
8 tained in the report prepared pursuant to sub-
9 section (b) entitled ‘National Historic Trail
10 Feasibility Study and Environmental Assess-
11 ment: El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro,
12 Texas-New Mexico’, dated March 1997.

13 “(B) MAP.—A map generally depicting the
14 trail shall be on file and available for public in-
15 spection in the Office of the National Park
16 Service, Department of the Interior.

17 “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The trail shall be
18 administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

19 “(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—No land or in-
20 terest in land outside the exterior boundaries of
21 any federally administered area may be ac-
22 quired by the United States for the trail except
23 with the consent of the owner of the land or in-
24 terest in land.

1 “(E) VOLUNTEER GROUPS; CONSULTA-
2 TION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

3 “(i) encourage volunteer trail groups
4 to participate in the development and
5 maintenance of the trail; and

6 “(ii) consult with affected Federal,
7 State, and tribal agencies in the adminis-
8 tration of the trail.

9 “(F) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The
10 Secretary of the Interior may coordinate with
11 United States and Mexican public and non-gov-
12 ernmental organizations, academic institutions,
13 and, in consultation with the Secretary of State,
14 the government of Mexico and its political sub-
15 divisions, for the purpose of exchanging trail in-
16 formation and research, fostering trail preserva-
17 tion and educational programs, providing tech-
18 nical assistance, and working to establish an
19 international historic trail with complementary
20 preservation and education programs in each
21 nation.”.

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