

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2966

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of César Estrada Chávez and the farm labor movement to determine appropriate methods for their preservation and interpretation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2001

Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BACA, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. REYES, Mr. FROST, Mr. FILNER, Mr. WYNN, and Ms. MCKINNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of César Estrada Chávez and the farm labor movement to determine appropriate methods for their preservation and interpretation.

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 “César Estrada Chávez
5 Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) César Estrada Chávez was born on March
4 31, 1927, on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona.

5 (2) At age 10, César Chávez and his family be-
6 came migrant farm workers after losing their farm
7 in the Great Depression.

8 (3) Throughout his youth and into his adult-
9 hood, César Chávez migrated across the southwest,
10 laboring in the fields and vineyards, which exposed
11 him to the hardships and injustices of farm worker
12 life.

13 (4) César Chávez's life as an organizer and
14 public servant began in 1952, when he left the fields
15 and joined the Community Service Organization, a
16 community-based self-help organization. While with
17 the Community Service Organization, he conducted
18 voter registration drives and campaigns against ra-
19 cial and economic discrimination, and in the late
20 1950's and early 1960's served as the organization's
21 national director.

22 (5) In 1962, César Chávez founded the Na-
23 tional Farm Workers Association, which later be-
24 came the United Farm Workers of America.

25 (6) In founding and leading the first successful
26 farm workers union in American history from 1962

1 to 1993, César Chávez achieved for tens of thou-
2 sands of farm workers dignity and respect, fair
3 wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, humane
4 living conditions, and countless other rights and pro-
5 tections.

6 (7) The leadership and humanitarianism of
7 César Chávez continues to influence and inspire mil-
8 lions of Americans to seek social justice and civil
9 rights for the poor and disenfranchised in our soci-
10 ety.

11 (8) The life of César Chávez and his family pro-
12 vides an outstanding opportunity to illustrate and
13 interpret the history of agricultural labor in the
14 West.

15 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
18 Interior shall complete a special resource study to deter-
19 mine appropriate methods for preserving and interpreting
20 certain sites located in the states of Arizona and California
21 and other states that are significant to the life of César
22 E. Chávez and the farm labor movement in the western
23 United States.

24 (b) STUDY GUIDELINES.—

1 (1) CRITERIA.—In conducting the study au-
2 thorized by this Act, the Secretary shall use the cri-
3 teria for the study of areas for potential inclusion in
4 the National Park System contained in section 8 of
5 Public Law 91–383, as amended by section 303 of
6 the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of
7 1998 (Public Law 105–391; 112 Stat. 3501).

8 (2) DETERMINATION OF SITES ELIGIBLE FOR
9 LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
10 PLACES.—The Secretary shall also determine wheth-
11 er any of the sites meet the criteria for being listed
12 on the National Register of Historic Places or des-
13 ignation as National Historic Landmarks pursuant
14 to the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (Public Law 74–
15 292; 16 U.S.C. 461) and the National Historic Pres-
16 ervation Act of 1966, as amended (Public Law 89–
17 665; U.S.C. 470).

18 (c) CONSULTATION.—In preparing and conducting
19 the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult
20 with the following:

21 (1) The César E. Chávez Foundation.

22 (2) The United Farm Workers Union.

23 (3) Local and state historical associations and
24 societies.

1 (4) The State Historic Preservation Officers of
2 Arizona, California, and other states as determined
3 by the Secretary.

4 (d) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study required
5 by this Act, the Secretary shall submit the results of the
6 study to the Committee on Resources of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
8 Resources of the Senate.

9 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$300,000
11 to carry out this Act.

○