

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2299

To authorize assistance through eligible nongovernmental organizations to remove and dispose of unexploded ordnance in agriculturally-valuable lands in developing countries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 2, 2003

Ms. WOOLSEY (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. LEE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. GONZALEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To authorize assistance through eligible nongovernmental organizations to remove and dispose of unexploded ordnance in agriculturally-valuable lands in developing countries.

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 “Roots of Peace Act
5 of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) There are more than an estimated
2 70,000,000 landmines in 70 countries—more than
3 one-third of all countries in the world.

4 (2) Landmines are indiscriminate weapons of
5 mass destruction, detonating on the sandal of a child
6 just as easily as on the boot of a soldier.

7 (3) Every 22 minutes someone steps on a land-
8 mine.

9 (4) More than 10,000 women and children are
10 maimed or killed by landmines each year.

11 (5) Many landmines are in developing countries
12 that are working to build the governmental and so-
13 cial institutions that are necessary for social sta-
14 bility.

15 (6) Many landmines are in agriculturally rich
16 areas, such as Afghanistan's Shomali Valley, that,
17 were it not for the risk to farmers wishing to cul-
18 tivate the land, would provide food for the local peo-
19 ple and contribute to the national economy.

20 (7) The United Nations estimates that more
21 than 700 square kilometers in Afghanistan are lit-
22 tered with 5,000,000 to 7,000,000 landmines.

23 (8) More than 300 innocent people step on
24 landmines each month in Afghanistan as they try to
25 repatriate and farm their lands.

1 (9) The Shomali Valley, now awash with land-
2 mines, was once considered the “breadbasket” of Af-
3 ghanistan and is roughly the size of the San
4 Joaquin Valley in California.

5 (10) The United States Humanitarian
6 Demining Program has organized crucial aid to Af-
7 ghanistan and other nations for the removal of land-
8 mines and rehabilitation of the people and land af-
9 fected by them.

10 (11) Expanding the United States Humani-
11 tarian Demining Program to include assistance to
12 nongovernmental organizations that carry out both
13 demining activities and activities to restore agri-
14 culturally-valuable lands after such demining activi-
15 ties would strengthen the mission of the Program.

16 (12) Nongovernmental organizations, like Roots
17 for Peace, do critical work to remove landmines and
18 help local populations redevelop that land for agri-
19 culture.

20 (13) These organizations often have critical
21 funding shortages that hamper their efforts to assist
22 civilians worldwide.

23 (14) Facilitating nongovernmental assistance to
24 countries such as Afghanistan will foster goodwill

1 among the local population, thereby promoting the
2 national interest of the United States.

3 **SEC. 3. DEMINING ASSISTANCE FOR REVITALIZATION OF**
4 **AGRICULTURALLY-VALUABLE LANDS IN DE-**
5 **VELOPING COUNTRIES.**

6 (a) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State shall estab-
7 lish a program to provide grants to eligible nongovern-
8 mental organizations described in subsection (b) to remove
9 and dispose of unexploded ordnance in agriculturally-valu-
10 able lands in developing countries.

11 (b) ELIGIBLE NGOS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—A nongovernmental organi-
13 zation is eligible to receive assistance under this sec-
14 tion if the primary function of the organization is to
15 facilitate the removal and disposal of unexploded
16 ordnance in agriculturally-valuable lands and to de-
17 velop such lands after the removal and disposal of
18 such ordnance.

19 (2) ROOTS OF PEACE NGO.—Not less than
20 \$2,000,000 of the amount appropriated pursuant to
21 the authorization of appropriations under subsection
22 (e) is authorized to be made available for assistance
23 under this section to the Roots of Peace nongovern-
24 mental organization in order to carry out activities

1 described in subsection (a) in the Shomali Valley of
2 Afghanistan.

3 (c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of State shall en-
4 sure that not more than an appropriate percentage of the
5 amount of a grant provided under this section is used by
6 a nongovernmental organization for administrative costs
7 in carrying out activities for which the grant was provided.

8 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
9 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
10 prepare and submit to Congress a report that describes
11 projects and activities carried out by nongovernmental or-
12 ganizations using assistance received pursuant to sub-
13 section (a).

14 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
16 appropriated to the Secretary of State to carry out
17 this Act \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

18 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-
19 suant to the authorization of appropriations under
20 paragraph (1) are authorized to remain available
21 until expended.

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