

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4816

To amend chapter 27 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the unauthorized construction of tunnels between the United States and another country.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Mr. HAYWORTH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend chapter 27 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the unauthorized construction of tunnels between the United States and another country.

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. CONSTRUCTION OF BORDER TUNNEL OR PAS-**
4 **SAGE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 27 of title 18, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

1 **“§ 554. Border tunnels and passages**

2 “(a) Any person who knowingly constructs or fi-
3 nances the construction of a tunnel or subterranean pas-
4 sage that crosses the international border between the
5 United States and another country, other than a lawfully
6 authorized tunnel or passage known to the Secretary of
7 Homeland Security and subject to inspection by the Bu-
8 reau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall be
9 imprisoned for not more than 20 years.

10 “(b) Any person who knowingly permits the construc-
11 tion or use of a tunnel or passage described in subsection
12 (a) on land that the person owns or controls shall be im-
13 prisoned for not more than 20 years.

14 “(c) Any person who uses a tunnel or passage de-
15 scribed in subsection (a) to unlawfully smuggle an alien,
16 goods (in violation of section 545), controlled substances,
17 weapons of mass destruction (including biological weap-
18 ons), or a member of a terrorist organization (as defined
19 in section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi) of the Immigration and Na-
20 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi))) shall be sub-
21 ject to twice the penalty that would have otherwise been
22 imposed had the unlawful activity not made use of such
23 a tunnel or passage.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 for chapter 27 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
3 by adding at the end the following:

“554. Border tunnels and passages.”.

4 (c) CRIMINAL FORFEITURE.—Section 982(a)(6) of
5 title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting
6 “554,” before “1425,”.

7 **SEC. 2. DIRECTIVE TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING**
8 **COMMISSION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to its authority under
10 section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accord-
11 ance with this section, the United States Sentencing Com-
12 mission shall promulgate or amend sentencing guidelines
13 to provide for increased penalties for persons convicted of
14 offenses described in section 554 of title 18, United States
15 Code, as added by section 1.

16 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this section,
17 the United States Sentencing Commission shall—

18 (1) ensure that the sentencing guidelines, policy
19 statements, and official commentary reflect the seri-
20 ous nature of the offenses described in section 554
21 of title 18, United States Code, and the need for ag-
22 gressive and appropriate law enforcement action to
23 prevent such offenses;

24 (2) provide adequate base offense levels for of-
25 fenses under such section;

1 (3) account for any aggravating or mitigating
2 circumstances that might justify exceptions, includ-
3 ing—

4 (A) the use of a tunnel or passage de-
5 scribed in subsection (a) of such section to fa-
6 cilitate other felonies; and

7 (B) the circumstances for which the sen-
8 tencing guidelines currently provide applicable
9 sentencing enhancements;

10 (4) ensure reasonable consistency with other
11 relevant directives, other sentencing guidelines, and
12 statutes;

13 (5) make any necessary and conforming
14 changes to the sentencing guidelines and policy
15 statements; and

16 (6) ensure that the sentencing guidelines ade-
17 quately meet the purposes of sentencing set forth in
18 section 3553(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code.

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