

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2665

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in implementing cultural heritage, conservation, and recreational activities in the Connecticut River watershed of the States of New Hampshire and Vermont.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont (for himself and Mr. HODES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in implementing cultural heritage, conservation, and recreational activities in the Connecticut River watershed of the States of New Hampshire and Vermont.

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 “Upper Connecticut  
5       River Partnership Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1           (1) the upper Connecticut River watershed in  
2 the States of New Hampshire and Vermont is a sce-  
3 nic region of historic villages located in a working  
4 landscape of farms, forests, and the mountainous  
5 headwaters and broad fertile floodplains of New  
6 England’s longest river, the Connecticut River;

7           (2) the River provides outstanding fish and  
8 wildlife habitat, recreation, and hydropower genera-  
9 tion for the New England region;

10          (3) the upper Connecticut River watershed has  
11 been recognized by Congress as part of the Silvio O.  
12 Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, estab-  
13 lished by the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and  
14 Wildlife Refuge Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd note; Public  
15 Law 102–212);

16          (4) the demonstrated interest in stewardship of  
17 the River by the citizens living in the watershed led  
18 to the Presidential designation of the River as 1 of  
19 14 American Heritage Rivers on July 30, 1998;

20          (5) the River is home to the bistate Connecticut  
21 River Scenic Byway, which will foster heritage tour-  
22 ism in the region;

23          (6) each of the legislatures of the States of  
24 Vermont and New Hampshire has established a  
25 commission for the Connecticut River watershed,

1 and the 2 commissions, known collectively as the  
2 “Connecticut River Joint Commissions”—

3 (A) have worked together since 1989; and

4 (B) serve as the focal point for cooperation  
5 between Federal agencies, States, communities,  
6 and citizens;

7 (7) in 1997, as directed by the legislatures, the  
8 Connecticut River Joint Commissions, with the sub-  
9 stantial involvement of 5 bistate local river sub-  
10 committees appointed to represent riverfront towns,  
11 produced the 6-volume Connecticut River Corridor  
12 Management Plan, to be used as a blueprint in edu-  
13 cating agencies, communities, and the public in how  
14 to be good neighbors to a great river;

15 (8) this year, by Joint Legislative Resolution,  
16 the legislatures have requested that Congress pro-  
17 vide for continuation of cooperative partnerships and  
18 support for the Connecticut River Joint Commis-  
19 sions from the New England Federal Partners for  
20 Natural Resources, a consortium of Federal agen-  
21 cies, in carrying out recommendations of the Con-  
22 necticut River Corridor Management Plan;

23 (9) this Act effectuates certain recommenda-  
24 tions of the Connecticut River Corridor Management  
25 Plan that are most appropriately directed by the

1 States through the Connecticut River Joint Commis-  
2 sions, with assistance from the National Park Serv-  
3 ice and United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

4 (10) where implementation of those rec-  
5 ommendations involves partnership with local com-  
6 munities and organizations, support for the partner-  
7 ship should be provided by the Secretary.

8 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-  
9 ize the Secretary to provide to the States of New Hamp-  
10 shire and Vermont (including communities in those  
11 States), through the Connecticut River Joint Commis-  
12 sions, technical and financial assistance for management  
13 of the River.

14 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

18 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means—

19 (A) the State of New Hampshire; or

20 (B) the State of Vermont.

21 **SEC. 4. CONNECTICUT RIVER GRANTS AND TECHNICAL AS-**  
22 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
24 Connecticut River Grants and Technical Assistance Pro-  
25 gram to provide grants and technical assistance to State

1 and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and the  
2 private sector to carry out projects for the conservation,  
3 restoration, and interpretation of historic, cultural, rec-  
4 reational, and natural resources in the Connecticut River  
5 watershed.

6 (b) CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in consultation with  
7 the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, shall develop  
8 criteria for determining the eligibility of applicants for,  
9 and reviewing and prioritizing applications for, grants or  
10 technical assistance under the program.

11 (c) COST-SHARING.—

12 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
13 the cost of carrying out a grant project under sub-  
14 section (a) shall not exceed 75 percent.

15 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal  
16 share of the cost of a project may be provided in the  
17 form of in-kind contributions of services or mate-  
18 rials.

19 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
21 this Act \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year.

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