

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4186

To repeal the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Mr. STUPAK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To repeal the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The United States and Mexico share a
6 1,933 mile border and the United States and Can-
7 ada share a 5,525 mile border.

8 (2) Canada and Mexico are the United States'
9 most important trading partners. In 2006, trade be-
10 tween the United States and Canada totaled
11 \$533,700,000,000 in exports and imports, while
12 trade between the United States and Mexico reached

1 \$331,300,000,000. Much of this day-to-day trade
2 consists of intra-company shipments.

3 (3) Canadian travelers spent a record
4 \$13,200,000,000 in the United States in 2006. Dur-
5 ing this same time period, United States residents
6 made 13,800,000 overnight trips to Canada and
7 took an additional 13,700,000 same-day car trips to
8 Canada. The vast majority of these travelers entered
9 the United States or Canada through a land port of
10 entry.

11 (4) Studies estimate that the cost of delays and
12 compliance requirements at the border could range
13 from \$7,500,000,000 to \$13,200,000,000 annually.

14 (5) Only 21 percent of United States citizens
15 hold passports.

16 (6) Since the implementation of the air regula-
17 tions component of the Western Hemisphere Travel
18 Initiative, wait times for obtaining a passport have
19 gone from four to six weeks to as much as 14 weeks.
20 The Department of State cannot keep up with pass-
21 port demands despite hiring more employees, open-
22 ing an additional regional office, and increasing
23 working hours.

24 (7) The United States is working in concert
25 with the Government of Canada and the Government

1 of Mexico to facilitate the safe and efficient move-
2 ment of people and goods across the shared borders.

3 (8) Since September 11, 2001, the primary
4 mission of United States Customs and Border Pro-
5 tection has been to prevent the entry into the United
6 States of terrorists and the instruments of ter-
7 rorism.

8 (9) The number of Border Patrol agents has
9 roughly doubled in size since President George W.
10 Bush took office. The Border Patrol currently em-
11 ploys 14,819 officers and an additional 3,000 offi-
12 cers will likely join the force during the 2008 fiscal
13 year.

14 (10) On October 30, 2001, the Foreign Ter-
15 rorist Tracking Task Force was created to provide
16 Federal law enforcement agencies with the best pos-
17 sible information to prevent foreign terrorists and
18 their supporters from entering the United States.

19 (11) The Terrorism Screening Center was es-
20 tablished in 2004 to consolidate all Federal terrorist
21 watch lists into one database to help Federal law en-
22 forcement agencies identify, screen, and track known
23 and suspected terrorists.

24 (12) Law enforcement agencies use advanced
25 technology, such as sensors, mobile night vision

1 scopes, remote video surveillance systems, and un-
2 manned aerial vehicles, to increase their presence on
3 the United States border.

4 (13) Studies by the Canadian Tourism Commis-
5 sion and other groups have suggested that United
6 States businesses and communities stand to lose
7 hundreds of millions of dollars if the Western Hemi-
8 sphere Travel Initiative requirements significantly
9 interfere with existing trade and tourism.

10 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIA-**
11 **TIVE.**

12 Section 7209 of the Intelligence Reform and Ter-
13 rorism Prevention Act of 2004 (8 U.S.C. 1185 note; Pub-
14 lic Law 108–458) (commonly referred to as the “Western
15 Hemisphere Travel Initiative”) is amended—

16 (1) by striking subsections (b) and (c); and
17 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
18 section (b).

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