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1ST SESSION

S. 1048

To assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 2007

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes.

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 “Crane Conservation
5 Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) crane populations in many countries have
4 experienced serious decline in recent decades, a
5 trend that, if continued at the current rate, threat-
6 ens the long-term survival of the species in the wild
7 in Africa, Asia, and Europe;

8 (2) 5 species of Asian crane are listed as endan-
9 gered species under section 4 of the Endangered
10 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) and appendix
11 I of the Convention, which species are—

12 (A) the Siberian crane (*Grus*
13 *leucogeranus*);

14 (B) the red crowned crane (*Grus*
15 *japonensis*);

16 (C) the white-naped crane (*Grus vipio*);

17 (D) the black-necked crane (*Grus*
18 *nigricollis*); and

19 (E) the hooded crane (*Grus monacha*);

20 (3) the Crane Action Plan of the International
21 Union for the Conservation of Nature considers 4
22 species of cranes from Africa and 1 additional spe-
23 cies of crane from Asia to be seriously threatened,
24 which species are—

25 (A) the wattled crane (*Buggeranus*
26 *carunculatus*);

1 (B) the blue crane (*Anthropoides*
2 *paradisea*);

3 (C) the grey crowned crane (*Balearica*
4 *regulorum*);

5 (D) the black crowned crane (*Balearica*
6 *pavonina*); and

7 (E) the sarus crane (*Grus antigone*);

8 (4)(A) the whooping crane (*Grus americana*)
9 and the Mississippi sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*
10 *pulla*) are listed as endangered species under section
11 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
12 1533); and

13 (B) with approximately 225 whooping cranes in
14 the only self-sustaining flock that migrates between
15 Canada and the United States, and approximately
16 100 Mississippi sandhill cranes in the wild, both spe-
17 cies remain vulnerable to extinction;

18 (5) conservation resources have not been suffi-
19 cient to cope with the continued diminution of crane
20 populations from causes that include hunting and
21 the continued loss of habitat;

22 (6)(A) cranes are flagship species for the con-
23 servation of wetland, grassland, and agricultural
24 landscapes that border wetland and grassland; and

1 (B) the establishment of crane conservation
2 programs would result in the provision of conserva-
3 tion benefits to numerous other species of plants and
4 animals, including many endangered species;

5 (7) other threats to cranes include—

6 (A) the collection of eggs and juveniles;

7 (B) poisoning from pesticides applied to
8 crops;

9 (C) collisions with power lines;

10 (D) disturbance from warfare and human
11 settlement; and

12 (E) the trapping of live birds for sale;

13 (8) to reduce, remove, and otherwise effectively
14 address those threats to cranes in the wild, the joint
15 commitment and effort of countries in Africa, Asia,
16 and North America, other countries, and the private
17 sector, are required;

18 (9) cranes are excellent ambassadors to pro-
19 mote goodwill among countries because they are well
20 known and migrate across continents;

21 (10) because the threats facing cranes and the
22 ecosystems on which cranes depend are similar on
23 all 5 continents on which cranes occur, conservation
24 successes and methods developed in 1 region have
25 wide applicability in other regions; and

1 (11) conservationists in the United States have
2 much to teach and much to learn from colleagues
3 working in other countries in which, as in the
4 United States, government and private agencies co-
5 operate to conserve threatened cranes.

6 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to perpetuate healthy populations of cranes;

9 (2) to assist in the conservation and protection
10 of cranes by supporting—

11 (A) conservation programs in countries in
12 which endangered and threatened cranes occur;
13 and

14 (B) the efforts of private organizations
15 committed to helping cranes; and

16 (3) to provide financial resources for those pro-
17 grams and efforts.

18 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

20 (1) CONSERVATION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “conserva-
22 tion” means the use of any method or proce-
23 dure to improve the viability of crane popu-
24 lations and the quality of the ecosystems and
25 habitats on which the crane populations depend

1 to help the species achieve sufficient popu-
2 lations in the wild to ensure the long-term via-
3 bility of the species.

4 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “conserva-
5 tion” includes the carrying out of any activity
6 associated with scientific resource management,
7 such as—

8 (i) protection, restoration, acquisition,
9 and management of habitat;

10 (ii) research and monitoring of known
11 populations;

12 (iii) the provision of assistance in the
13 development of management plans for
14 managed crane ranges;

15 (iv) enforcement of the Convention;

16 (v) law enforcement and habitat pro-
17 tection through community participation;

18 (vi) reintroduction of cranes to the
19 wild;

20 (vii) conflict resolution initiatives; and

21 (viii) community outreach and edu-
22 cation.

23 (2) CONVENTION.—The term “Convention” has
24 the meaning given the term in section 3 of the En-
25 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532).

1 (3) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the
 2 Crane Conservation Fund established by section
 3 6(a).

4 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6 **SEC. 5. CRANE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
 8 propriations and in consultation with other appropriate
 9 Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the
 10 Fund to provide financial assistance for projects relating
 11 to the conservation of cranes for which project proposals
 12 are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this sec-
 13 tion.

14 (b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

15 (1) APPLICANTS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant described
 17 in subparagraph (B) that seeks to receive as-
 18 sistance under this section to carry out a
 19 project relating to the conservation of cranes
 20 shall submit to the Secretary a project proposal
 21 that meets the requirements of this section.

22 (B) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—An applicant
 23 described in this subparagraph is—

24 (i) any relevant wildlife management
 25 authority of a country that—

1 (I) is located within the African,
2 Asian, European, or North American
3 range of a species of crane; and

4 (II) carries out 1 or more activi-
5 ties that directly or indirectly affect
6 crane populations;

7 (ii) the Secretariat of the Convention;

8 and

9 (iii) any person or organization with
10 demonstrated expertise in the conservation
11 of cranes.

12 (2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—A project proposal
13 submitted under paragraph (1)(A) shall include—

14 (A) a concise statement of the purpose of
15 the project;

16 (B)(i) the name of each individual respon-
17 sible for conducting the project; and

18 (ii) a description of the qualifications of
19 each of those individuals;

20 (C) a concise description of—

21 (i) methods to be used to implement
22 and assess the outcome of the project;

23 (ii) staff and community management
24 for the project; and

25 (iii) the logistics of the project;

1 (D) an estimate of the funds and the pe-
2 riod of time required to complete the project;

3 (E) evidence of support for the project by
4 appropriate government entities of countries in
5 which the project will be conducted, if the Sec-
6 retary determines that such support is required
7 to ensure the success of the project;

8 (F) information regarding the source and
9 amount of matching funding available for the
10 project; and

11 (G) any other information that the Sec-
12 retary considers to be necessary for evaluating
13 the eligibility of the project to receive assistance
14 under this Act.

15 (c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

17 (A) not later than 30 days after receiving
18 a final project proposal, provide a copy of the
19 proposal to other appropriate Federal officials;
20 and

21 (B) review each project proposal in a time-
22 ly manner to determine whether the proposal
23 meets the criteria described in subsection (d).

24 (2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DIS-
25 APPROVAL.—Not later than 180 days after receiving

1 a project proposal, and subject to the availability of
2 appropriations, the Secretary, after consulting with
3 other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

4 (A) consult on the proposal with the gov-
5 ernment of each country in which the project is
6 to be carried out;

7 (B) after taking into consideration any
8 comments resulting from the consultation, ap-
9 prove or disapprove the proposal; and

10 (C) provide written notification of the ap-
11 proval or disapproval to—

12 (i) the applicant that submitted the
13 proposal;

14 (ii) other appropriate Federal offi-
15 cials; and

16 (iii) each country described in sub-
17 paragraph (A).

18 (d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may
19 approve a project proposal under this section if the Sec-
20 retary determines that the proposed project will enhance
21 programs for conservation of cranes by assisting efforts
22 to—

23 (1) implement conservation programs;

1 (2) address the conflicts between humans and
2 cranes that arise from competition for the same
3 habitat or resources;

4 (3) enhance compliance with the Convention
5 and other applicable laws that—

6 (A) prohibit or regulate the taking or trade
7 of cranes; or

8 (B) regulate the use and management of
9 crane habitat;

10 (4) develop sound scientific information on, or
11 methods for monitoring—

12 (A) the condition of crane habitat;

13 (B) crane population numbers and trends;

14 or

15 (C) the current and projected threats to
16 crane habitat and population numbers and
17 trends;

18 (5) promote cooperative projects on the issues
19 described in paragraph (4) among—

20 (A) governmental entities;

21 (B) affected local communities;

22 (C) nongovernmental organizations; or

23 (D) other persons in the private sector;

24 (6) carry out necessary scientific research on
25 cranes;

1 (7) provide relevant training to, or support
2 technical exchanges involving, staff responsible for
3 managing cranes or habitats of cranes, to enhance
4 capacity for effective conservation; or

5 (8) reintroduce cranes successfully back into
6 the wild, including propagation of a sufficient num-
7 ber of cranes required for this purpose.

8 (e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY; MATCHING FUNDS.—
9 To the maximum extent practicable, in determining
10 whether to approve a project proposal under this section,
11 the Secretary shall give preference to a proposed project—

12 (1) that is designed to ensure effective, long-
13 term conservation of cranes and habitats of cranes;
14 or

15 (2) for which matching funds are available.

16 (f) PROJECT REPORTING.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each person that receives
18 assistance under this section for a project shall sub-
19 mit to the Secretary, at such periodic intervals as
20 are determined by the Secretary, reports that in-
21 clude all information that the Secretary, after con-
22 sulting with other appropriate government officials,
23 determines to be necessary to evaluate the progress
24 and success of the project for the purposes of—

25 (A) ensuring positive results;

1 (B) assessing problems; and

2 (C) fostering improvements.

3 (2) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Each re-
4 port submitted under paragraph (1), and any other
5 documents relating to a project for which financial
6 assistance is provided under this Act, shall be made
7 available to the public.

8 **SEC. 6. CRANE CONSERVATION FUND.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
10 Multinational Species Conservation Fund established by
11 the matter under the heading “MULTINATIONAL SPE-
12 CIES CONSERVATION FUND” in title I of the Depart-
13 ment of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations
14 Act, 1999 (112 Stat. 2681–237; 16 U.S.C. 4246) a sepa-
15 rate account to be known as the “Crane Conservation
16 Fund”, consisting of—

17 (1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the
18 Treasury for deposit into the Fund under subsection
19 (e);

20 (2) amounts appropriated to the Fund under
21 section 8; and

22 (3) any interest earned on investment of
23 amounts in the Fund under subsection (c).

24 (b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)
2 and (3), upon request by the Secretary, the Sec-
3 retary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund
4 to the Secretary, without further appropriation, such
5 amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary
6 to provide assistance under section 5.

7 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the
8 amounts in the Fund available for each fiscal year,
9 the Secretary may expend not more than 3 percent,
10 or \$150,000, whichever is greater, to pay the admin-
11 istrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

12 (3) LIMITATION.—Not more than 20 percent of
13 the amounts made available from the Fund for any
14 fiscal year may be used for projects relating to the
15 conservation of North American crane species.

16 (c) INVESTMENTS OF AMOUNTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
18 ury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not,
19 in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury,
20 required to meet current withdrawals. Investments
21 may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of
22 the United States.

23 (2) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.—For the
24 purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obliga-
25 tions may be acquired—

1 (A) on original issue at the issue price; or

2 (B) by purchase of outstanding obligations

3 at the market price.

4 (3) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation ac-
5 quired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of
6 the Treasury at the market price.

7 (4) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and
8 the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any ob-
9 ligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and
10 form a part of the Fund.

11 (d) TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts required to be
13 transferred to the Fund under this section shall be
14 transferred at least monthly from the general fund
15 of the Treasury to the Fund on the basis of esti-
16 mates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

17 (2) ADJUSTMENTS.—Proper adjustment shall
18 be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the
19 extent prior estimates were in excess of or less than
20 the amounts required to be transferred.

21 (e) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept
23 and use donations to provide assistance under sec-
24 tion 5.

1 (2) TRANSFER OF DONATIONS.—Amounts re-
2 ceived by the Secretary in the form of donations
3 shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury
4 for deposit in the Fund.

5 **SEC. 7. ADVISORY GROUP.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—To assist in carrying out this Act,
7 the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting
8 of individuals representing public and private organiza-
9 tions actively involved in the conservation of cranes.

10 (b) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

11 (1) MEETINGS.—The advisory group shall—

12 (A) ensure that each meeting of the advi-
13 sory group is open to the public; and

14 (B) provide, at each meeting, an oppor-
15 tunity for interested persons to present oral or
16 written statements concerning items on the
17 agenda.

18 (2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide to
19 the public timely notice of each meeting of the advi-
20 sory group.

21 (3) MINUTES.—Minutes of each meeting of the
22 advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and
23 shall be made available to the public.

1 **SEC. 8. FUNDING.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
3 authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for
4 each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, to remain avail-
5 able until expended.

6 (b) OFFSET.—Of amounts appropriated to, and avail-
7 able at the discretion of, the Secretary for programmatic
8 and administrative expenditures, a total of \$25,000,000
9 shall be used to establish the Fund.

○