

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2167

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain lands as the Los Caminos del Rio Los Caminos del Rio National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. ORTIZ) 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 conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain lands as the Los Caminos del Rio Los Caminos del Rio National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes.

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. LOS CAMINOS DEL RIO.**

4       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5               (1) CORRIDOR.—The term “Corridor” means  
6       the Los Caminos del Rio National Heritage Cor-  
7       ridor.

1           (2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map ti-  
2       tled “Los Caminos del Rio National Heritage Cor-  
3       ridor” and dated July 2007.

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

6           (4) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”  
7       means the study area described in subsection (b)(2).

8       (b) STUDY.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
10      tion with State historic preservation officers, State  
11      historical societies, State tourism offices, and other  
12      appropriate organizations or agencies, shall conduct  
13      a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of  
14      designating the study area as the Los Caminos del  
15      Rio National Heritage Corridor.

16          (2) STUDY AREA.—The study area includes—

17              (A) the portion of the Rio Grande River  
18              and surrounding areas, as generally depicted on  
19              the map; and

20              (B) any other areas in the State of Texas  
21              that—

22                  (i) have heritage aspects that are  
23                  similar to the areas depicted on the map  
24                  described in subparagraph (A); and

1 (ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity  
2 of, those areas.

3 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include  
4 analysis, documentation, and determinations on  
5 whether the study area—

6 (A) has an assemblage of natural, historic,  
7 and cultural resources that—

8 (i) represent distinctive aspects of the  
9 heritage of the United States;

10 (ii) are worthy of recognition, con-  
11 servation, interpretation, and continuing  
12 use; and

13 (iii) would be best managed—

14 (I) through partnerships among  
15 public and private entities; and

16 (II) by linking diverse and some-  
17 times noncontiguous resources and ac-  
18 tive communities;

19 (B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs,  
20 and folklife that are a valuable part of the story  
21 of the United States;

22 (C) provides—

23 (i) outstanding opportunities to con-  
24 serve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic  
25 features; and

1 (ii) outstanding recreational and edu-  
2 cational opportunities;

3 (D) contains resources that—

4 (i) are important to any identified  
5 themes of the study area; and

6 (ii) retain a degree of integrity capa-  
7 ble of supporting interpretation;

8 (E) includes residents, business interests,  
9 nonprofit organizations, and State and local  
10 governments that—

11 (i) are involved in the planning of the  
12 Corridor;

13 (ii) have developed a conceptual finan-  
14 cial plan that outlines the roles of all par-  
15 ticipants in the Corridor, including the  
16 Federal Government; and

17 (iii) have demonstrated support for  
18 the designation of the Corridor;

19 (F) has a potential management entity to  
20 work in partnership with the individuals and  
21 entities described in subparagraph (E) to de-  
22 velop the Corridor while encouraging State and  
23 local economic activity; and

24 (G) has a conceptual boundary map that is  
25 supported by the public.

1       (c) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the third fis-  
2 cal year after the date on which funds are first made avail-  
3 able for this section, the Secretary shall submit to the  
4 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-  
5 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural  
6 Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

7               (1) the findings of the study; and

8               (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the  
9 Secretary.

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