

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3076

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies of natural soundscape preservation in the National Park Service.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2010

Ms. CANTWELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies of natural soundscape preservation in the National Park Service.

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 “Silence Helps Us Hear
5 Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
9 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
10 Aviation Administration.

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
3 rector of the National Park Service.

4 **SEC. 3. STUDIES OF NATURAL SOUNDSCAPE PRESERVA-**
5 **TION.**

6 (a) STUDY OF LEAST DEGRADED NATIONAL PARK
7 SERVICE NATURAL SOUNDSCAPES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
9 a study to identify National Park Service natural
10 soundscape values and resources, as defined by poli-
11 cies 4.9 and 8.2 of the 2006 Management Policies
12 of the National Park Service.

13 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF LEAST DEGRADED
14 SOUNDSCAPES.—In conducting the study under
15 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall analyze and iden-
16 tify National Park Service natural soundscapes that
17 have been the least degraded by—

18 (A) unnatural sounds; and

19 (B) undesirable sounds cause by humans.

20 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—To the extent
21 that the Secretary has identified aviation or aircraft
22 noise as 1 of the sources of natural soundscapes
23 degradation, the Secretary of Transportation, acting
24 through the Administrator, shall provide technical

1 assistance to the Secretary in carrying out the study
2 under paragraph (1).

3 (b) STUDY OF PRESERVATION OF NATURAL
4 SOUNDSCAPE RESOURCES.—To the extent that the Sec-
5 retary has identified aviation or aircraft noise as 1 of the
6 sources of National Park Service natural soundscapes deg-
7 radation, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary
8 of Transportation (acting through the Administrator),
9 shall conduct a study to identify methods to preserve the
10 National Park Service natural soundscapes that have been
11 the least degraded by—

12 (1) unnatural sounds; and

13 (2) undesirable sounds caused by humans.

14 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

15 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
16 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
17 port that—

18 (1) describes the results of the studies con-
19 ducted under subsections (a) and (b) of section 3;
20 and

21 (2) includes any recommendations that the Sec-
22 retary determines to be appropriate.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
3 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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