

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5626

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to facilitate certain acquisitions of property for conservation purposes, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut 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 make grants to facilitate certain acquisitions of property for conservation purposes, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Clean and Beautiful  
5       Communities Act of 2012”.

6       **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO FACILITATE CERTAIN ACQUISITIONS OF**  
7       **PROPERTY FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, act-  
9       ing through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assist-  
10      ance Program of the National Park Service, may make

1 grants to facilitate the acquisition by a qualified organiza-  
2 tion of a qualified real property interest exclusively for  
3 conservation purposes, that assist in the funding of trans-  
4 actional and operational costs associated with the pur-  
5 chase and management of preserved land or a qualified  
6 real property interest (including easements) including—

7 (1) stewardship costs, including costs of stand-  
8 ards and practices development and implementation;

9 (2) land purchase transaction costs;

10 (3) costs of preparing for accreditation associ-  
11 ated with land management; and

12 (4) costs of due diligence, including appraisal,  
13 title, survey, environmental hazard assessment, and  
14 recording costs.

15 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—A person shall be eligible for  
17 a grant under this section only if the person—

18 (A) is an organization described in section  
19 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
20 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of  
21 such Code; and

22 (B) is not a State or local government en-  
23 tity.

24 (2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a  
25 grant under subsection (a), a qualified organization

1       shall submit to the Secretary of the Interior an ap-  
2       plication at such time, in such form, and containing  
3       such information as the Secretary shall require.

4       (c) **PRIORITY.**—In making grants under this section,  
5 the Secretary of the Interior shall give priority to eligible  
6 persons that—

7           (1) demonstrate a record of successfully acquir-  
8       ing and competently managing a substantial port-  
9       folio of conserved properties and easement holdings;

10          (2) have established and diverse capital and de-  
11       velopment programs;

12          (3) demonstrate a record of working success-  
13       fully with local and State governmental stakeholders  
14       in building support for conservation acquisitions and  
15       leveraging funding opportunities; and

16          (4) currently employ full-time or part-time staff  
17       to manage their operations on a nonvoluntary basis  
18       or can demonstrate capacity to employ such staff in  
19       the near-term.

20       (d) **LIMITATION.**—A grant under this section may  
21 not be used to pay consideration for the purchase of any  
22 interest in real property.

23       (e) **GRANT AMOUNT AND DURATION.**—A grant under  
24 this section shall be in an amount of not more than  
25 \$500,000 per year for 5 years.

1       (f) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of the  
2 Interior may not make a grant under subsection (a) in  
3 an amount that exceeds 50 percent of the costs such grant  
4 is made to assist.

5       (g) NO LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF GRANTS.—Re-  
6 ceipt by a qualified organization of a grant under sub-  
7 section (a) shall not preclude the Secretary of the Interior  
8 from making subsequent grants under subsection (a) to  
9 such organization.

10       (h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of the  
11 Interior is authorized to provide technical assistance to  
12 qualified organizations with respect to acquisitions of  
13 qualified real property interests exclusively for conserva-  
14 tion purposes.

15       (i) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date  
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior  
17 shall submit to Congress a report that summarizes the ac-  
18 tivities carried out under this section.

19       (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20           (1) The terms “conservation purpose”, “exclu-  
21 sively for conservation purposes”, and “qualified or-  
22 ganization” have the meanings such terms have in  
23 section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
24 1986.

1           (2) The term “qualified real property interest”  
2       has the meaning given such term in section  
3       170(h)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

4       (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
5       out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to  
6       the Secretary of the Interior \$10,000,000 from the Land  
7       and Water Conservation Fund for each of fiscal years  
8       2013 through 2022.

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