

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2636

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Hudson River Valley, New York.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2013

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. TONKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Hudson River Valley, New York.

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 “Hudson River Valley
5 Special Resource Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 (2) STUDY AREA.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “study area”
3 means the portion of the Hudson River that
4 flows from Rodgers Island at Fort Edward to
5 the southernmost boundary of Westchester
6 County, New York.

7 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “study area”
8 includes any relevant sites and landscapes with-
9 in the counties in New York that abut the area
10 described in subparagraph (A).

11 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

12 Congress finds that—

13 (1) the Hudson River Valley possesses nation-
14 ally significant and unique cultural, historical, nat-
15 ural, recreational, and scenic resources;

16 (2) the Hudson River Valley is home to a ro-
17 bust and growing tourism and recreation industry
18 that is an important component of the regional econ-
19 omy;

20 (3) throughout history, the Hudson River Val-
21 ley has played a crucial role in the development of
22 the United States, starting from the vibrant Native
23 American communities that first inhabited the land,
24 to the voyage of Henry Hudson up the river later
25 named for Hudson in the vessel Half Moon in 1609

1 and later with the American Revolution, the debate
2 on our Constitution, the first successful steamboat
3 voyage by Robert Fulton in 1807, the Industrial
4 Revolution, the establishment of the Erie Canal and
5 growth of metropolitan New York, and the inception
6 of the modern labor and environmental movements;

7 (4) the Hudson River Valley gave birth to im-
8 portant movements in the art, architecture, and lit-
9 erature of the United States;

10 (5) the Hudson River Valley encompasses a rich
11 array of sensitive natural resources ranging from the
12 Hudson River and the vast estuarine district of the
13 Hudson River, to the wetlands, refuges, parks, for-
14 ests, farmlands, preserves, cliffs, valleys, and wildlife
15 of the Hudson River;

16 (6) the depictions and descriptions of the re-
17 nowned scenery and natural resources of the Hudson
18 River Valley played a central role in the recognition
19 of the value of the landscape and the development
20 of the esthetic and environmental ideal of the United
21 States;

22 (7) a 1996 National Park Service study de-
23 scribed the Hudson River Valley as “the landscape
24 that defined America”; and

1 (8) the Hudson River Valley has been the sub-
2 ject of multiple State and Federal inventories, stud-
3 ies, and plans that should greatly assist in the con-
4 duct of a National Park Service special resource
5 study.

6 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as funds are made avail-
8 able to carry out this section, the Secretary shall conduct
9 a study of the study area to evaluate—

10 (1) the national significance of the study area;
11 and

12 (2) the suitability and feasibility of designating
13 the study area as a unit of the National Park Sys-
14 tem.

15 (b) STUDY GUIDELINES.—In conducting the study
16 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

17 (1) use the criteria for the study of areas for
18 potential inclusion in the National Park System in-
19 cluded in section 8 of the National Park System
20 General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–5); and

21 (2) closely examine models for units of the Na-
22 tional Park System, in particular national river and
23 recreation areas, and other landscape protection
24 models, that—

1 (A) encompass large areas of non-Federal
2 land within designated boundaries;

3 (B) promote increased heritage tourism
4 and economic development;

5 (C) foster public and private collaborative
6 arrangements for achieving National Park Serv-
7 ice objectives; and

8 (D) protect and respect the rights of pri-
9 vate land owners and municipalities.

10 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

11 Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds
12 are first made available to conduct the study under section
13 4, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural
14 Resources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
15 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
16 a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommenda-
17 tions of the study.

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