

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 1887

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2016

Received

MAY 26, 2016

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To authorize the Comptroller General of the United States
to assess a study on the alternatives for the disposition
of Plum Island Animal Disease Center, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Federal Government has owned Plum
4 Island, New York, since 1899.

5 (2) Since 1954, the Plum Island Animal Dis-
6 ease Center has conducted unrivaled scientific re-
7 search on a variety of infectious animal-borne dis-
8 eases, including foot-and-mouth disease, resulting,
9 most recently, in the development of a new cell line
10 that rapidly and reliably detects this highly debili-
11 tating disease of livestock.

12 (3) Over 62 years, the Center has had a strong,
13 proven record of safety.

14 (4) \$23,200,000 in Federal dollars have been
15 spent on upgrades to, and the maintenance of, the
16 Center since January 2012.

17 (5) In addition to the Center, Plum Island con-
18 tains cultural, historical, ecological, and natural re-
19 sources of regional and national significance.

20 (6) Plum Island is situated where the Long Is-
21 land Sound and Peconic Bay meet, both of which
22 are estuaries that are part of the National Estuary
23 Program and are environmentally and economically
24 significant to the region.

25 (7) The Federal Government has invested hun-
26 dreds of millions of Federal dollars over the last two

1 decades to make long-term improvements with re-
2 spect to the conservation and management needs of
3 Long Island Sound and Peconic Bay.

4 (8) The Department of Homeland Security has
5 undertaken a study to consider alternatives for the
6 final disposition of Plum Island, including an anal-
7 ysis of—

8 (A) conservation of the island’s resources;

9 (B) any remediation responsibilities;

10 (C) the need for any legislative changes;

11 (D) cost; and

12 (E) any revenues from the alternatives.

13 **SEC. 2. REPORT REQUIRED ON STUDY BY DEPARTMENT OF**
14 **HOMELAND SECURITY ON CLEAN UP AND AL-**
15 **TERNATIVE USES OF PLUM ISLAND.**

16 (a) ASSESSMENT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

17 (1) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Comptroller
18 General of the United States shall conduct an as-
19 sessment of the study by the Department of Home-
20 land Security on the options for the disposition of
21 Plum Island referred to in section 1(8). Such assess-
22 ment shall include a determination of whether the
23 methodologies used by the Department in conducting
24 such study adequately support the Department’s
25 findings with respect to the following:

1 (A) The possible alternative uses for Plum
2 Island, including the transfer of ownership to
3 another Federal agency, a State or local govern-
4 ment, a nonprofit organization, or a combina-
5 tion thereof for the purpose of education, re-
6 search, or conservation.

7 (B) The possible issues and implications, if
8 any, of pursuing such alternative uses for Plum
9 Island.

10 (C) The potential cost to be incurred for
11 expenses related to the transition, cleanup, and
12 hazard mitigation of Plum Island by a recipient
13 of such property.

14 (2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180
15 days after the date on which the Department of
16 Homeland Security completes the study referred to
17 in section 1(8), the Comptroller General of the
18 United States shall submit to Congress a report con-
19 taining the following:

20 (A) The results of the assessment de-
21 scribed under paragraph (1).

22 (B) A description of the Secretary of
23 Homeland Security's coordination with the Ad-
24 ministrator of General Services, the Secretary
25 of the Interior, and the Administrator of the

1 Environmental Protection Agency in conducting
2 the Department of Homeland Security study re-
3 ferred to in section 1(8).

4 (b) STUDY BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

5 (1) STUDY REQUIRED.—If the Comptroller
6 General of the United States determines that the
7 methodologies referred to in subsection (a)(1) do not
8 adequately support the Department of Homeland
9 Security’s findings related to an issue described in
10 subparagraphs (A) through (C) of such subsection,
11 the Comptroller General shall conduct a study on
12 any such issue.

13 (2) REPORT REQUIRED.—If the Comptroller
14 General of the United States conducts a study under
15 paragraph (1), not later than 1 year after the date
16 on which the Department of Homeland Security
17 completes the study referred to in section 1(8), the
18 Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a re-
19 port containing the results of the study conducted
20 under paragraph (1).

21 **SEC. 3. SUSPENSION OF ACTION.**

22 No action may be taken to carry out section 538 of
23 title V of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations
24 Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–74; 125 Stat. 976) until at
25 least 180 days after the reports required by subsection

- 1 (a)(2) of section 2 and, if applicable, subsection (b)(2) of
- 2 such section have been submitted to Congress.

Passed the House of Representatives May 16, 2016.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.