

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4023

To establish the America’s Living Library Project, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 2026

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. COTTON, Mr. COONS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. SHEEHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the America’s Living Library Project, 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 “America’s Living Li-  
5 brary Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMERICA’S LIVING LIBRARY PROJECT.**

7       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

8               (1) CONTROL.—The term “control” means hav-  
9       ing the ability, directly or indirectly, to determine  
10       (without regard to whether exercised through 1 or

1 more corporate structures) the manner in which an  
2 entity conducts activities, through any means, in-  
3 cluding—

4 (A) ownership interest;

5 (B) authority to commit the real or finan-  
6 cial assets of the entity;

7 (C) position as a director, officer, or part-  
8 ner of the entity; or

9 (D) contractual arrangement.

10 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”  
11 means the Department of the Interior.

12 (3) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term  
13 “foreign entity of concern” has the meaning given  
14 the term in section 40207 of the Infrastructure In-  
15 vestment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18741).

16 (4) HIGH-PRIORITY SPECIES.—The term “high-  
17 priority species” has the meaning given the term by  
18 the Secretary, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Sec-  
19 retary of Health and Human Services, and the Di-  
20 rector of the National Museum of Natural History  
21 of the Smithsonian Institution, based on factors  
22 such as the conservation status, economic, cultural,  
23 or ecological value, biomedical or public health rel-  
24 evance, and rarity of the species.

1           (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
2           has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in  
3           section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian  
4           Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130).

5           (6) OFFICE.—The term “office” means the of-  
6           fice established or designated under subsection  
7           (e)(1).

8           (7) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
9           the America’s Living Library Project established  
10          under subsection (b).

11          (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
12          the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Di-  
13          rector of the United States Geological Survey).

14          (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
15          a pilot program, to be known as the “America’s Living  
16          Library Project”.

17          (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to fa-  
18          cilitate the collection of new genomic data from species  
19          that are found in units of the National Park System.

20          (d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

21                  (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program,  
22          the Secretary shall coordinate—

23                          (A) the collection, cataloging, and whole-  
24                          genome sequencing of samples from animals,

1 plants, fungi, and microbes found on selected  
2 units of the National Park System, subject to—

3 (i) applicable permitting and consulta-  
4 tion requirements under the Endangered  
5 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et  
6 seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16  
7 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), and the Marine Mam-  
8 mal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.  
9 1361 et seq.);

10 (ii) applicable permitting requirements  
11 under section 42 of title 18, United States  
12 Code; and

13 (iii) applicable requirements under the  
14 Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16  
15 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.);

16 (B) the establishment of a publicly avail-  
17 able genomic database for resulting genomic  
18 data collected under the program, including  
19 long-read sequence data, genome assemblies,  
20 annotations, and associated metadata, except  
21 that the database shall withhold from public re-  
22 lease any personally identifiable information  
23 and any sensitive collection locality information,  
24 including precise collection site locations or co-  
25 ordinates, as determined to be appropriate by

1 the Secretary to protect personnel, specimens,  
2 and resources;

3 (C) as the Secretary determines to be ap-  
4 propriate, the integration of the Integrated  
5 Taxonomic Information System and any other  
6 systems, such as the PLANTS Database of the  
7 Department of Agriculture and the World Reg-  
8 ister of Marine Species, to provide scientific  
9 name concepts for organisms to accompany the  
10 genomic database; and

11 (D) the long-term storage of samples col-  
12 lected under the program.

13 (2) PARTNER AGENCIES.—In carrying out para-  
14 graph (1), the Secretary shall coordinate with the  
15 Director of the National Park Service, the Secretary  
16 of Agriculture, the Director of the Smithsonian Mu-  
17 seum of Natural History, the Director of the Na-  
18 tional Center for Biotechnology Information of the  
19 National Institutes of Health, and any other appro-  
20 priate Federal agency.

21 (e) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM OFFICE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
23 a new, or designate an existing, office within the  
24 United States Geological Survey to administer the  
25 program.

1           (2) STAFF.—The Secretary shall hire staff to  
2 carry out the program in accordance with this sec-  
3 tion.

4           (3) AUTHORITY.—The office shall have the au-  
5 thority—

6                 (A) to carry out the program in accordance  
7 with this Act;

8                 (B) subject to such terms as the Secretary  
9 may determine appropriate, to enter into and  
10 implement any contract, lease, cooperative  
11 agreement, or other transaction that is nec-  
12 essary to carry out the program with—

13                     (i) any Federal agency, including the  
14 Department of Agriculture and the De-  
15 partment of Defense; or

16                     (ii) any public or private person or en-  
17 tity;

18                 (C) to develop mechanisms to receive in-  
19 kind contributions from biotechnology compa-  
20 nies, subject to requirements that the mecha-  
21 nisms developed shall—

22                     (i) limit in-kind contributions to the  
23 provision of resources to carry out the pro-  
24 gram, such as materials, instrumentation,

1 or technological capabilities (such as  
2 deoxyribonucleic acid sequencing); and

3 (ii) include vetting for, and prevention  
4 of, conflicts of interest; and

5 (D) to use, subject to the consent of the  
6 applicable Federal agency, the services, per-  
7 sonnel, and facilities of any other Federal agen-  
8 cy.

9 (f) SELECTION OF UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK  
10 SYSTEM.—

11 (1) INITIAL SELECTION.—Not later than 180  
12 days after the date of enactment of this Act, based  
13 on the criteria described in paragraph (2), the Sec-  
14 retary shall select 5 units of the National Park Sys-  
15 tem at which to carry out the program initially.

16 (2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in  
17 consultation with the Director of the National Park  
18 Service, shall select units of the National Park Sys-  
19 tem under this subsection based on objective criteria  
20 that take into account—

21 (A) the biological landscape of the unit of  
22 the National Park System;

23 (B) the feasibility of implementation at,  
24 and operational readiness of, the unit of the  
25 National Park System;

1 (C) the quality of the education and public  
2 engagement opportunities at the unit of the Na-  
3 tional Park System;

4 (D) the research value and alignment of  
5 the unit of the National Park System with pro-  
6 gram priorities, including, where appropriate,  
7 genomic sequencing and associated metadata  
8 needs;

9 (E) the geographic and ecological diversity  
10 across the National Park System; and

11 (F) any other criteria established by the  
12 Secretary.

13 (3) ADDITIONAL UNITS OF THE NATIONAL  
14 PARK SYSTEM.—Not later than 2 years after the  
15 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall se-  
16 lect, in accordance with the criteria under paragraph  
17 (2), an additional 20 units of the National Park  
18 System at which to carry out the program.

19 (4) NOTICE OF SELECTIONS.—Not later than  
20 15 days after the date on which a unit of the Na-  
21 tional Park System is selected under this subsection,  
22 the Secretary shall make publicly available on a De-  
23 partment website a notice that—

1 (A) lists any units of the National Park  
2 System selected as part of that selection pro-  
3 cess; and

4 (B) provides, for each unit of the National  
5 Park System selected as part of that selection  
6 process, a brief statement of reasons describing  
7 how the selection satisfies the criteria described  
8 in paragraph (2).

9 (g) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

10 (1) DATA STANDARDS.—In carrying out the  
11 program, the Secretary shall—

12 (A) leverage existing and emerging data  
13 standards to ensure—

14 (i) high-quality data are obtained  
15 under the program; and

16 (ii) program data are considered usa-  
17 ble and interoperable, with appropriate  
18 metadata to be included;

19 (B) ensure that data outputs under the  
20 program—

21 (i)(I) meet applicable Federal data  
22 standards for biological data; or

23 (II) if there are no applicable Federal  
24 data standards described in subclause (I),  
25 meet data standards for the program es-

1           tablished by the Secretary, in consultation  
2           with relevant Federal agencies, based on  
3           findability, accessibility, interoperability,  
4           and reusability data principles and using  
5           industry best practices;

6           (ii) as appropriate, comply with De-  
7           partment policies relating to species listed  
8           as endangered or threatened under the En-  
9           dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
10          1531 et seq.); and

11          (iii) are updated to comply with any  
12          applicable United States Geological Survey  
13          standards for biological data; and

14          (C) ensure that appropriate cybersecurity  
15          and access safeguards are implemented to pro-  
16          tect the data generated or stored under the pro-  
17          gram, including by ensuring that data outputs  
18          under the program are updated as necessary to  
19          meet applicable Federal cybersecurity standards  
20          for genomic data, including controls consistent  
21          with the National Institute of Standards and  
22          Technology special publications 800–53 (relat-  
23          ing to Security and Privacy Controls for Infor-  
24          mation Systems and Organizations) and 800–  
25          111 (relating to Guide to Storage Encryption

1 Technologies for End User Devices) or any suc-  
2 cessor framework.

3 (2) LONG-TERM STORAGE.—The Secretary shall  
4 consult with the Secretary of Agriculture and the  
5 Director of the National Museum of Natural History  
6 of the Smithsonian Institution with respect to stor-  
7 age capabilities for the management and long-term  
8 storage of samples collected under the program, sub-  
9 ject to the following:

10 (A) Ownership of any samples collected  
11 under the program shall not be transferred, but  
12 samples may be housed with the Smithsonian  
13 Institution, the Department of Agriculture, or  
14 another qualified repository pursuant to a writ-  
15 ten repository agreement, which shall provide  
16 that access to samples collected under the pro-  
17 gram shall be managed by the respective insti-  
18 tutional collection managers, with—

19 (i) the natural history collections to be  
20 managed by the Director of the National  
21 Museum of Natural History of the Smith-  
22 sonian Institution; and

23 (ii) the germplasm repository to be  
24 managed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (B) Before any samples are collected under  
2 the program, the Secretary, in coordination  
3 with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Di-  
4 rector of the National Museum of Natural His-  
5 tory of the Smithsonian Institution, shall—

6 (i) evaluate the species to be sampled  
7 to identify which species need to be col-  
8 lected for long-term storage;

9 (ii) from among the species identified  
10 under clause (i), identify which species  
11 should be considered to be high-priority  
12 species;

13 (iii) ensure that all samples proposed  
14 for collection and long-term storage under  
15 the program are evaluated in accordance  
16 with appropriate standards identified by  
17 the Secretary to minimize the risk of col-  
18 lecting or storing disease vectors, patho-  
19 gens, or other harmful biological agents;  
20 and

21 (iv) require that any microbial or  
22 pathogen material identified through an  
23 evaluation under clause (iii) as requiring  
24 enhanced biosafety or biosecurity measures  
25 shall be—

1 (I) accessioned and stored sepa-  
2 rately from other program samples in  
3 a distinct, access-controlled collection;  
4 and

5 (II) handled and stored only in  
6 facilities with containment and oper-  
7 ational controls appropriate to the  
8 identified risk, consistent with appli-  
9 cable Federal biosafety and biosecu-  
10 rity requirements.

11 (C) Any samples identified for long-term  
12 storage under subparagraph (B)(i) shall be—

13 (i) collected and stored under the pro-  
14 gram; and

15 (ii) preserved in the natural history  
16 collections to be managed by the Director  
17 of the National Museum of Natural His-  
18 tory of the Smithsonian Institution for the  
19 purposes of later research and long-term  
20 preservation.

21 (D) Any high-priority species identified  
22 under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be collected  
23 for storage in each of—

24 (i) the natural history collections to be  
25 managed by the Director of the National

1 Museum of Natural History of the Smith-  
2 sonian Institution; and

3 (ii) the germplasm repository to be  
4 managed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (E) Any physical samples collected under  
6 the program shall not be transferred, exported,  
7 or loaned outside the United States.

8 (F) Any physical storage, curation, and  
9 laboratory processing of samples collected under  
10 the program shall occur within facilities located  
11 in the United States.

12 (3) SAMPLING AND COLLECTION PROCE-  
13 DURES.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary  
14 shall—

15 (A) establish sampling and collection pro-  
16 cedures and policies consistent with applicable  
17 Department rules and standards, including per-  
18 mitting and consultation requirements under  
19 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
20 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
21 (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), section 42 of title 18,  
22 United States Code, the Lacey Act Amend-  
23 ments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.), and  
24 the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16  
25 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.); and

1 (B) develop sampling plans that leverage  
2 existing research and monitoring programs  
3 within the Department.

4 (4) SEQUENCING AND DATA PROCESSING.—In  
5 carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

6 (A) partner with the Secretary of Agri-  
7 culture, the Director of the National Museum of  
8 Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution,  
9 and the heads of other applicable Federal agen-  
10 cies to sequence genomic information from sam-  
11 ples collected under the program;

12 (B) develop and use standardized sequenc-  
13 ing protocols to ensure consistency and com-  
14 parability of data; and

15 (C) incorporate automated data processing  
16 and quality checks to ensure the reliability of  
17 the data.

18 (h) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—In implementing the  
19 program, the Secretary shall engage in consultation with  
20 Indian Tribes in accordance with section 306108 of title  
21 54, United States Code, Department policies on Tribal  
22 consultation, and other applicable law.

23 (i) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180  
24 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
25 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress

1 an implementation plan for the program that provides the  
2 following:

3 (1) A description of the expansion of genomic  
4 sequencing under the program to additional units of  
5 the National Park System under subsection (f)(3),  
6 including the consideration of partnerships with  
7 companies, contractors, and third parties to assist  
8 the office in carrying out the expansion.

9 (2) An outline of methods in which the program  
10 could be expanded to include other federally man-  
11 aged land and Federal programs and facilities that  
12 manage biological resources, including land and pro-  
13 grams or facilities managed by the Bureau of Land  
14 Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife  
15 Service, and the Forest Service, including units of  
16 the National Wildlife Refuge System and units of  
17 the National Fish Hatchery System.

18 (3) A plan to facilitate, prior to public release,  
19 expedited access pathways or other non-public serv-  
20 ices (including bulk export application programming  
21 interfaces and any computer resources supported by  
22 the program within the United States) for the devel-  
23 opment, training, or evaluation of artificial intel-  
24 ligence models, to be limited to entities organized  
25 under the laws of the United States that are not

1 owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by any  
2 foreign entity of concern.

3 (j) REPORTS.—

4 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years  
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
7 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Ag-  
8 riculture, shall submit to the appropriate com-  
9 mittees of Congress a methodological review  
10 and report of preliminary findings of the pro-  
11 gram.

12 (B) INCLUSION.—The review and report  
13 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include  
14 a plan for the sustainable and long-term fund-  
15 ing of the program with recommendations relat-  
16 ing to—

17 (i) a graduated subscription model de-  
18 veloped in coordination with the Director  
19 of the National Institute of Standards and  
20 Technology and the Director of the Na-  
21 tional Institutes of Health for the database  
22 established under subsection (d)(1), the  
23 cost of which shall be based on the size  
24 and usage of the accessing organization;  
25 and

1           (ii) potential partnerships with insti-  
2           tutions of higher education, philanthropic  
3           organizations, and nongovernmental orga-  
4           nizations, such as the National Park Foun-  
5           dation, to secure grants and additional  
6           funding for the program in accordance  
7           with applicable policies of the Department.

8           (2) FINAL REPORT.—As soon as practicable  
9           after the date on which the program is terminated  
10          under subsection (1), the Secretary, in consultation  
11          with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit to  
12          the appropriate committees of Congress a methodo-  
13          logical review and report that describes the final  
14          findings with respect to the program.

15          (k) PROGRAM FUNDING.—There are authorized to be  
16          appropriated to carry out this Act—

17               (1) to the Secretary for program oversight and  
18               management of the conduct of genome sequencing in  
19               selected units of the National Park System—

20                       (A) \$16,500,000 for each of fiscal years  
21                       2027 and 2028;

22                       (B) \$36,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

23                       (C) \$54,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
24                       2030 and 2031;

1           (2) to the National Museum of Natural History  
2 of the Smithsonian Institution for sample storage—

3           (A) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
4 2027 and 2028;

5           (B) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

6           (C) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
7 2030 and 2031;

8           (3) to the National Center for Agricultural Uti-  
9 lization Research of the Department of Agriculture  
10 for sample storage—

11           (A) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
12 2027 and 2028;

13           (B) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

14           (C) \$9,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
15 2030 and 2031;

16           (4) to the National Animal Germplasm Pro-  
17 gram of the Department of Agriculture for sample  
18 storage—

19           (A) \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
20 2027 and 2028;

21           (B) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

22           (C) \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
23 2030 and 2031; and

1           (5) to the National Center for Biotechnology  
2           Information of the National Institutes of Health for  
3           program data storage—

4                   (A) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
5                   2027 and 2028;

6                   (B) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

7                   (C) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
8                   2030 and 2031.

9           (l) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to  
10          carry out the program terminates on the date that is 10  
11          years after the date of enactment of this Act.

○