

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1809

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in west Houston, Texas.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 12, 2001

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

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in west Houston, Texas.

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 “Buffalo Bayou Na-
5 tional Heritage Area Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING BUF-**
7 **FALO BAYOU, TEXAS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The area beginning at Shepherd Drive in
2 west Houston, Texas, and extending to the Turning
3 Basin, commonly referred to as the “Buffalo
4 Bayou”, made a unique contribution to the cultural,
5 political, and industrial development of the United
6 States.

7 (2) The Buffalo Bayou is distinctive as the first
8 spine of modern industrial development in Texas and
9 one of the first along the Gulf of Mexico coast.

10 (3) The Buffalo Bayou played a significant role
11 in the struggle for Texas independence.

12 (4) The Buffalo Bayou developed a prosperous
13 and productive shipping industry that survives
14 today.

15 (5) The Buffalo Bayou led in the development
16 of Texas’ petrochemical industry that made Houston
17 the center of the early oil boom in America.

18 (6) The Buffalo Bayou developed a sophisti-
19 cated shipping system, leading to the formation of
20 the modern day Houston Ship Channel.

21 (7) The Buffalo Bayou developed a significant
22 industrial base, and served as the focal point for the
23 new city of Houston.

24 (8) There is a longstanding commitment by the
25 Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Inc., to complete the

1 Buffalo Bayou Trail along the 12-mile segment of
2 the Buffalo Bayou.

3 (9) There is a need for assistance for the pres-
4 ervation and promotion of the significance of the
5 Buffalo Bayou as a system for transportation, in-
6 dustry, commerce, and immigration.

7 (10) The Department of the Interior is respon-
8 sible for protecting the Nation's cultural and histor-
9 ical resources. There are significant examples of
10 such resources within the Buffalo Bayou region to
11 merit the involvement of the Federal Government in
12 the development of programs and projects, in co-
13 operation with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Inc.,
14 the State of Texas, and other local and govern-
15 mental entities, to adequately conserve, protect, and
16 interpret this heritage for future generations, while
17 providing opportunities for education and revitaliza-
18 tion.

19 (b) STUDY.—The Secretary shall, in consultation
20 with the State of Texas, carry out a study regarding the
21 suitability and feasibility of establishing the Buffalo
22 Bayou National Heritage Area in Houston, Texas.

23 (c) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Section
24 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)) shall

1 apply to the conduct and completion of the study required
2 by this section.

3 (d) SUBMISSION OF STUDY RESULTS.—The Sec-
4 retary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the
5 House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy
6 and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing
7 the results of the study.

8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to imple-
10 ment this section \$200,000 for fiscal year 2002.

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