

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2452

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to complete a special resource study of the Hudson River Valley in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 7, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. TONKO, and Mrs. LOWEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to complete a special resource study of the Hudson River Valley in the State of New York, 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 “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.—The term “study area”
2 means the counties in New York that abut the Hud-
3 son River that flows from Rogers Island at Fort Ed-
4 ward to the southernmost boundary of Westchester
5 County, New York.

6 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The Hudson River Valley possesses nation-
9 ally significant and unique cultural, historical, nat-
10 ural, recreational, and scenic resources.

11 (2) The Hudson River Valley is home to a ro-
12 bust and growing tourism and recreation industry
13 that is an important component of the regional econ-
14 omy.

15 (3) Throughout history, the Hudson River Val-
16 ley has played a crucial role in the development of
17 our Nation, starting from the vibrant Native Amer-
18 ican communities that first inhabited the land, to
19 Henry Hudson’s voyage up the river later named for
20 him in the vessel Half Moon in 1609 and later with
21 the American Revolution, the debate on our Con-
22 stitution, the first successful steamboat voyage by
23 Robert Fulton in 1807, the Industrial Revolution,
24 the establishment of the Erie Canal and growth of

1 metropolitan New York, and the inception of the
2 modern labor and environmental movements.

3 (4) The Hudson River Valley continues to serve
4 as a vitally important corridor of commerce for the
5 Nation, and it has contributed significantly to the
6 development and innovation of new technologies and
7 industries.

8 (5) The Hudson River Valley gave birth to im-
9 portant movements in American art, architecture,
10 and literature.

11 (6) The Hudson River Valley encompasses a
12 rich array of sensitive natural resources ranging
13 from the river itself and its vast estuarine district,
14 to its wetlands, refuges, parks, forests, farmlands,
15 preserves, cliffs, valleys, and wildlife.

16 (7) The depictions and descriptions of the Hud-
17 son River Valley's renowned scenery and natural re-
18 sources played a central role in the recognition of
19 the value of the landscape and the development of
20 an American esthetic and environmental ideal.

21 (8) A 1996 National Park Service study called
22 the Hudson River Valley "the landscape that defined
23 America."

24 (9) The Hudson River Valley has been the sub-
25 ject of multiple State and Federal inventories, stud-

1 ies, and plans that should greatly assist a National
2 Park Service special resource study.

3 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as funds are made avail-
5 able for this purpose, the Secretary shall commence a
6 study of the Hudson River Valley in the State of New
7 York to evaluate—

8 (1) the national significance of the area; and

9 (2) the suitability and feasibility of designating
10 the area as a unit of the National Park System.

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

13 (1) use the criteria for the study of areas for
14 potential inclusion in the National Park System in-
15 cluded in section 8 of Public Law 91–383, as
16 amended by section 303 of the National Parks Om-
17 nibus Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–
18 391; 112 Stat. 3501); and

19 (2) closely examine park unit models, in par-
20 ticular national river and recreation areas, as well as
21 other landscape protection models, that—

22 (A) encompass large areas of non-Federal
23 lands within their designated boundaries;

24 (B) promote increased heritage tourism
25 and economic development;

1 (C) foster public and private collaborative
2 arrangements for achieving National Park Serv-
3 ice objectives; and

4 (D) protect and respect the rights of pri-
5 vate landowners, as well as municipalities.

6 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

7 Not later than 24 months after the date that funds
8 are first made available for this purpose, the Secretary
9 shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of
10 the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-
11 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the
12 findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study
13 authorized by this Act.

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