

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2359

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain lands as the Los Caminos del Rio National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 2021

Mr. CUELLAR (for himself and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas) 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 study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain lands as the Los Caminos del Rio National Heritage Corridor, 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. LOS CAMINOS DEL RIO.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) CORRIDOR.—The term “Corridor” means
6 the Los Caminos del Rio National Heritage Cor-
7 ridor.

1 (2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map ti-
2 tled “Los Caminos del Rio National Heritage Cor-
3 ridor” and dated April 2020.

4 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6 (4) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
7 means the study area described in subsection (b)(2).

8 (b) STUDY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
10 tion with State historic preservation officers, State
11 historical societies, State tourism offices, State nat-
12 ural resource agencies, and other appropriate re-
13 gional and local organizations or agencies, shall con-
14 duct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility
15 of designating the study area as the Los Caminos
16 del Rio National Heritage Corridor.

17 (2) STUDY AREA.—The study area includes—

18 (A) the portion of the Rio Grande River
19 and surrounding areas, as generally depicted on
20 the map; and

21 (B) any other areas in the State of Texas
22 that—

23 (i) have a shared heritage with the
24 areas depicted on the map described in
25 subparagraph (A); and

1 (ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity
2 of, those areas.

3 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include
4 analysis, documentation, and determinations on
5 whether the study area—

6 (A) has an assemblage of natural, historic,
7 and cultural resources that—

8 (i) represent distinctive aspects of the
9 heritage of the United States;

10 (ii) are worthy of recognition, con-
11 servation, interpretation, and continuing
12 use by residents and visitors; and

13 (iii) would be best managed—

14 (I) through partnerships among
15 public and private entities; and

16 (II) by linking diverse and some-
17 times noncontiguous resources and ac-
18 tive communities that share a com-
19 mon heritage;

20 (B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs,
21 and folklife that are a valuable part of the story
22 of the United States;

23 (C) provides—

1 (i) outstanding opportunities to con-
2 serve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic
3 features; and

4 (ii) outstanding recreational and edu-
5 cational and cultural tourism opportuni-
6 ties;

7 (D) contains resources that—

8 (i) are important to any identified
9 themes of the study area; and

10 (ii) retain a degree of integrity capa-
11 ble of supporting interpretation;

12 (E) includes residents, business interests,
13 nonprofit organizations, including museums and
14 heritage organizations, and State and local gov-
15 ernments that—

16 (i) are involved in the planning of the
17 Corridor;

18 (ii) have developed a conceptual finan-
19 cial plan that outlines the roles of all par-
20 ticipants in the Corridor, including the
21 Federal Government; and

22 (iii) have demonstrated support for
23 the designation of the Corridor;

24 (F) has a potential management entity to
25 work in partnership with the individuals and

1 entities described in subparagraph (E) to de-
2 velop the Corridor while encouraging State and
3 local economic activity; and

4 (G) has a conceptual boundary map that is
5 supported by the public.

6 (c) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the third fis-
7 cal year after the date on which funds are first made avail-
8 able for this section, the Secretary shall submit to the
9 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
11 Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

12 (1) the findings of the study; and

13 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
14 Secretary.

○