

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 301

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in implementing cultural heritage, conservation, and recreational activities in the Connecticut River watershed of the States of New Hampshire and Vermont.

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 “Upper Connecticut
5 River Partnership Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) the upper Connecticut River watershed in
4 the States of New Hampshire and Vermont is a sce-
5 nic region of historic villages located in a working
6 landscape of farms, forests, and the mountainous
7 headwaters and broad fertile floodplains of New
8 England’s longest river, the Connecticut River;

9 (2) the River provides outstanding fish and
10 wildlife habitat, recreation, and hydropower genera-
11 tion for the New England region;

12 (3) the upper Connecticut River watershed has
13 been recognized by Congress as part of the Silvio O.
14 Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, estab-
15 lished by the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and
16 Wildlife Refuge Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd note; Public
17 Law 102–212);

18 (4) the demonstrated interest in stewardship of
19 the River by the citizens living in the watershed led
20 to the Presidential designation of the River as 1 of
21 14 American Heritage Rivers on July 30, 1998;

22 (5) the River is home to the bistate Connecticut
23 River Scenic Byway, which will foster heritage tour-
24 ism in the region;

25 (6) each of the legislatures of the States of
26 Vermont and New Hampshire has established a

1 commission for the Connecticut River watershed,
2 and the 2 commissions, known collectively as the
3 “Connecticut River Joint Commissions”—

4 (A) have worked together since 1989; and

5 (B) serve as the focal point for cooperation
6 between Federal agencies, States, communities,
7 and citizens;

8 (7) in 1997, as directed by the legislatures, the
9 Connecticut River Joint Commissions, with the sub-
10 stantial involvement of 5 bistate local river sub-
11 committees appointed to represent riverfront towns,
12 produced the 6-volume Connecticut River Corridor
13 Management Plan, to be used as a blueprint in edu-
14 cating agencies, communities, and the public in how
15 to be good neighbors to a great river;

16 (8) this year, by Joint Legislative Resolution,
17 the legislatures have requested that Congress pro-
18 vide for continuation of cooperative partnerships and
19 support for the Connecticut River Joint Commis-
20 sions from the New England Federal Partners for
21 Natural Resources, a consortium of Federal agen-
22 cies, in carrying out recommendations of the Con-
23 necticut River Corridor Management Plan;

24 (9) this Act effectuates certain recommenda-
25 tions of the Connecticut River Corridor Management

1 Plan that are most appropriately directed by the
 2 States through the Connecticut River Joint Commis-
 3 sions, with assistance from the National Park Serv-
 4 ice and United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

5 (10) where implementation of those rec-
 6 ommendations involves partnership with local com-
 7 munities and organizations, support for the partner-
 8 ship should be provided by the Secretary.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
 10 ize the Secretary to provide to the States of New Hamp-
 11 shire and Vermont (including communities in those
 12 States), through the Connecticut River Joint Commis-
 13 sions, technical and financial assistance for management
 14 of the River.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 18 the Secretary of the Interior.

19 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means—

20 (A) the State of New Hampshire; or

21 (B) the State of Vermont.

22 **SEC. 4. CONNECTICUT RIVER GRANTS AND TECHNICAL AS-**
 23 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
 25 Connecticut River Grants and Technical Assistance Pro-

1 gram to provide grants and technical assistance to State
2 and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and the
3 private sector to carry out projects for the conservation,
4 restoration, and interpretation of historic, cultural, rec-
5 reational, and natural resources in the Connecticut River
6 watershed.

7 (b) CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in consultation with
8 the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, shall develop
9 criteria for determining the eligibility of applicants for,
10 and reviewing and prioritizing applications for, grants or
11 technical assistance under the program.

12 (c) COST-SHARING.—

13 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
14 the cost of carrying out a grant project under sub-
15 section (a) shall not exceed 75 percent.

16 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal
17 share of the cost of a project may be provided in the
18 form of in-kind contributions of services or mate-
19 rials.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through
4 2015.

Passed the Senate July 26, 2005.

Attest:

Secretary.

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