

103D CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3107

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to make matching contributions toward the purchase of the Sterling Forest in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 1993

Mrs. ROUKEMA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to make matching contributions toward the purchase of the Sterling Forest 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. MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD ACQUI-**  
4 **SION OF STERLING FOREST, NEW YORK.**

5 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall  
6 make a matching contribution to the Palisades Interstate  
7 Park Commission for the acquisition of Sterling Forest  
8 by the Commission, and interests in Sterling Forest by  
9 the Secretary, in accordance with this section. The amount

1 of the matching contribution shall be one dollar of Federal  
2 moneys for each dollar of non-Federal funds received by  
3 the Commission from a non-Federal source and dedicated  
4 to the acquisition of Sterling Forest. The total Federal  
5 contribution under this section may not exceed  
6 \$25,000,000.

7 (b) ACQUISITION ON A WILLING SELLER BASIS.—  
8 Federal funds may not be used pursuant to this section  
9 to purchase any portion of Sterling Forest without the  
10 consent of the owner thereof.

11 (c) INTERESTS ACQUIRED BY UNITED STATES.—The  
12 acquisition of Sterling Forest pursuant to this section  
13 shall reserve to the United States conservation easements  
14 and rights of public access in and to Sterling Forest, as  
15 determined by the Secretary, equivalent to conservation  
16 easements held by the United States as described in sec-  
17 tion 7(k)(2) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act  
18 of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(k)(2)).

19 (d) PROPERTY TAXES.—Nothing in this section shall  
20 be construed to authorize the United States Government,  
21 or relieve the Commission and the State of New York of  
22 any obligation otherwise imposed under New York State  
23 law, to pay property taxes or provide for the costs of stew-  
24 ardship and management of any lands located in the State

1 of New York which may be acquired pursuant to this sec-  
2 tion.

3 **SEC. 2. NEW JERSEY PORTION OF STERLING FOREST.**

4 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall  
5 make a matching contribution to Passaic County, New  
6 Jersey, toward the outstanding amount owed for the lands  
7 described in subsection (b), as specified in the consent  
8 judgement in the case of County of Passaic against MPS  
9 Corporation, Sterling Forest Corporation and Sterling  
10 Forest Development Corporation (Docket No. W-55820-  
11 88) entered on September 1, 1993. The amount of the  
12 matching contribution shall be one dollar of Federal mon-  
13 eys for each dollar of non-Federal funds paid by Passaic  
14 County, New Jersey, toward such outstanding amount.

15 (b) LANDS DESCRIBED.—The lands referred to in  
16 subsection (a) are approximately 2,070 acres of lands con-  
17 demned by Passaic County, New Jersey, on October 31,  
18 1988, and the subject of the case referred to in subsection  
19 (a).

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 For the purposes of this Act—

22 (1) the term “Sterling Forest” means the area  
23 located in the New York portion of the New York-  
24 New Jersey Highlands Region that comprises ap-  
25 proximately 17,530 acres and is owned on the date

1 of enactment of this Act by the Sterling Forest Cor-  
2 poration;

3 (2) the term “Commission” means the Pali-  
4 sades Interstate Park Commission established by  
5 interstate compact (Chapter 170 of the Laws of  
6 1937 of the State of New York; Chapter 148 of the  
7 Laws of 1937 of the State of New Jersey) and ap-  
8 proved in 1937 by joint resolution of the Congress  
9 (Chapter 706; 50 Stat. 719); and

10 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
11 of the Interior.

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