

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1089

To ensure that the acquisition of lands for inclusion in the National Forest System does not result in reduced property tax revenues for the county in which the acquired lands are located.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 1995

Mr. CREMEANS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To ensure that the acquisition of lands for inclusion in the National Forest System does not result in reduced property tax revenues for the county in which the acquired lands are located.

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. REQUIRED PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES IN CON-**
4 **NECTION WITH NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**
5 **ACQUISITIONS.**

6 (a) PROPERTY TAX EQUIVALENCY PAYMENT.—Not-
7 withstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of
8 Agriculture may not acquire (by purchase, exchange, or

1 other method) any non-Federal land to be managed by the
2 Secretary as part of the National Forest System unless
3 the Secretary agrees to pay to the county in which the
4 acquired land is located an annual property tax equiva-
5 lency payment in the amount determined under subsection
6 (b).

7 (b) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—For each acre of land
8 for which the Secretary is required to make a property
9 tax equivalency payment, the amount of the payment for
10 a fiscal year shall be equal to the difference (but not less
11 than zero) between—

12 (1) the total amount of the property tax, as de-
13 termined by a tax assessment satisfactory to the
14 Secretary, that would be paid for such year with re-
15 spect to the land if the land remained in non-Fed-
16 eral ownership; and

17 (2) the total amount of payments with respect
18 to the land for such year under chapter 69 of title
19 31, United States Code, the sixth paragraph under
20 the heading “FOREST SERVICE” in the Act of
21 May 23, 1908, and section 13 of the Act of March
22 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 500).

23 (c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN EXCHANGES.—Sub-
24 section (a) shall not apply to the acquisition of land by
25 exchange if the acquisition of the land does not increase

1 the percentage of land in Federal ownership in the county
2 in which the acquired lands are located.

3 (d) DEFINITION OF COUNTY.—For purposes of this
4 section, the term “county” has the same meaning given
5 the term “unit of general local government” in section
6 6901(2) of title 31, United States Code.

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