

Calendar No. 579

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R. 1776****[Report No. 107-262]**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 31, 2001

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

SEPTEMBER 9, 2002

Reported by Mr. BINGAMAN, without amendment

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in west Houston, Texas.

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 “Buffalo Bayou Na-
5 tional Heritage Area Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING BUF-**
2 **FALO BAYOU, TEXAS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

4 (1) The area beginning at Shepherd Drive in
5 west Houston, Texas, and extending to the Turning
6 Basin, commonly referred to as the “Buffalo
7 Bayou”, made a unique contribution to the cultural,
8 political, and industrial development of the United
9 States.

10 (2) The Buffalo Bayou is distinctive as the first
11 spine of modern industrial development in Texas and
12 one of the first along the Gulf of Mexico coast.

13 (3) The Buffalo Bayou played a significant role
14 in the struggle for Texas independence.

15 (4) The Buffalo Bayou developed a prosperous
16 and productive shipping industry that survives
17 today.

18 (5) The Buffalo Bayou led in the development
19 of Texas’ petrochemical industry that made Houston
20 the center of the early oil boom in America.

21 (6) The Buffalo Bayou developed a sophisti-
22 cated shipping system, leading to the formation of
23 the modern day Houston Ship Channel.

24 (7) The Buffalo Bayou developed a significant
25 industrial base, and served as the focal point for the
26 new city of Houston.

1 (8) There is a longstanding commitment by the
2 Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Inc., to complete the
3 Buffalo Bayou Trail along the 12-mile segment of
4 the Buffalo Bayou.

5 (9) There is a need for assistance for the pres-
6 ervation and promotion of the significance of the
7 Buffalo Bayou as a system for transportation, in-
8 dustry, commerce, and immigration.

9 (10) The Department of the Interior is respon-
10 sible for protecting the Nation's cultural and histor-
11 ical resources. There are significant examples of
12 such resources within the Buffalo Bayou region to
13 merit the involvement of the Federal Government in
14 the development of programs and projects, in co-
15 operation with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Inc.,
16 the State of Texas, and other local and govern-
17 mental entities, to adequately conserve, protect, and
18 interpret this heritage for future generations, while
19 providing opportunities for education and revitaliza-
20 tion.

21 (b) STUDY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in con-
23 sultation with the State of Texas, the City of Hous-
24 ton, and other appropriate organizations, carry out
25 a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of

1 establishing the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage
2 Area in Houston, Texas.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—The study shall include anal-
4 ysis and documentation regarding whether the Study
5 Area—

6 (A) has an assemblage of natural, historic,
7 and cultural resources that together represent
8 distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy
9 of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and
10 continuing use, and are best managed through
11 partnerships among public and private entities
12 and by combining diverse and sometimes non-
13 contiguous resources and active communities;

14 (B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs,
15 and folklife that are a valuable part of the na-
16 tional story;

17 (C) provides outstanding opportunities to
18 conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic
19 features;

20 (D) provides outstanding recreational and
21 educational opportunities;

22 (E) contains resources important to the
23 identified theme or themes of the Study Area
24 that retain a degree of integrity capable of sup-
25 porting interpretation;

1 (F) includes residents, business interests,
2 nonprofit organizations, and local and State
3 governments that are involved in the planning,
4 have developed a conceptual financial plan that
5 outlines the roles for all participants, including
6 the Federal Government, and have dem-
7 onstrated support for the concept of a national
8 heritage area;

9 (G) has a potential management entity to
10 work in partnership with residents, business in-
11 terests, nonprofit organizations, and local and
12 State governments to develop a national herit-
13 age area consistent with continued local and
14 State economic activity; and

15 (H) has a conceptual boundary map that is
16 supported by the public.

17 (c) BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY AREA.—The Study
18 Area shall be comprised of sites in Houston, Texas, in an
19 area roughly bounded by Shepherd Drive and extending
20 to the Turning Basin, commonly referred to as the “Buf-
21 falo Bayou”.

22 (d) SUBMISSION OF STUDY RESULTS.—Not later
23 than 3 years after funds are first made available for this
24 section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
25 Resources of the House of Representatives and the Com-

- 1 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
- 2 a report describing the results of the study.

Passed the House of Representatives October 30,
2001.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.

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