

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# S. 983

To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the El Camino Real Para Los Texas for potential addition to the National Trails System, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19 (legislative day, APRIL 19), 1993

Mr. JOHNSTON (for himself and Mr. KRUEGER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the El Camino Real Para Los Texas for potential addition to the National Trails System, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “El Camino Real Para  
5 Los Texas Study Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds—

1           (1) El Camino Real Para Los Texas was the  
2 Spanish road established to connect a series of mis-  
3 sions and posts extending from Monclova, Mexico to  
4 the mission and later Presidio Nuestra de Pilar de  
5 los Adaes which served as the Spanish capital of the  
6 province of Texas from 1722 to 1772;

7           (2) El Camino Real, over time, comprised an  
8 approximately 1,000-mile corridor of changing  
9 routes from Saltillo through Monclova and Guerrero,  
10 Mexico; San Antonio and Nacogdoches, Texas and  
11 then easterly to the vicinity of Los Adaes in present  
12 day Louisiana; and constituted the only major over-  
13 land route from the Rio Grande to the Red River  
14 Valley during the Spanish Colonial Period;

15           (3) the seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nine-  
16 teenth century rivalries among the European colo-  
17 nial powers of Spain, France, and England and after  
18 their independence, Mexico and the United States,  
19 for dominion over lands fronting the Gulf of Mexico  
20 were played out along the evolving travel routes  
21 across this immense area; and, as well, the future of  
22 several American Indian nations were tied to these  
23 larger forces and events;

24           (4) El Camino Real and the subsequent San  
25 Antonio Road witnessed a competition that helped

1 determine the United States southern and western  
2 boundaries; and

3 (5) the San Antonio Road, like El Camino Real,  
4 was a series of routes established over the same cor-  
5 ridor but was not necessarily the same as El Camino  
6 Real; and that from the 1830's, waves of American  
7 immigrants, many using the Natchez Trace, trav-  
8 elled west to Texas via the San Antonio Road, as did  
9 Native Americans attempting to relocate away from  
10 the pressures of European settlement.

11 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF TRAIL.**

12 Section 5(c) of the National Trail System Act (16  
13 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding the following new  
14 paragraph at the end thereof:

15 “(36)(A) El Camino Real Para Los Texas, the ap-  
16 proximate series of routes from Saltillo, Monclova, and  
17 Guerrero, Mexico across Texas through San Antonio and  
18 Nacogdoches, to the vicinity of Los Adaes, Louisiana, to-  
19 gether with the evolving routes later known as the San  
20 Antonio Road.

21 “(B) The study shall—

22 “(i) examine the changing roads within the his-  
23 toric corridor;

24 “(ii) examine the major connecting branch  
25 routes;

1           “(iii) determine the individual or combined suit-  
2           ability and feasibility of routes for potential national  
3           historic trail designation;

4           “(iv) consider the preservation heritage plan de-  
5           veloped by the Texas Department of Transportation  
6           entitled ‘A Texas Legacy: The Old San Antonio  
7           Road and the Caminos Reales’, dated January,  
8           1991; and

9           “(v) make recommendations concerning the  
10          suitability and feasibility of establishing an inter-  
11          national historical park where the trail crosses the  
12          United States-Mexico border at Maverick County,  
13          Texas, and Guerrero, Mexico.

14          “(C) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to  
15          work in cooperation with the government of Mexico (in-  
16          cluding, but not limited to providing technical assistance)  
17          to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing  
18          an international historic trail long the El Camino Real  
19          Para Los Texas.

20          “(D) The study shall be undertaken in consultation  
21          with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and De-  
22          velopment and the Texas Department of Transportation.

23          “(E) The study shall consider alternative name des-  
24          ignations for the trail.

1       “(F) The study shall be completed no later than two  
2 years after the date funds are made available for the  
3 study.”.

4 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5       There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
6 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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