

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2149

To enhance the conservation and protection of the Boundary Waters Canoe
Area Wilderness.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 1997

Mr. VENTO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Resources

A BILL

To enhance the conservation and protection of the Boundary
Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

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 “BWCA Wilderness
5 Legacy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that:

8 (1) The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilder-
9 ness is a special natural resource that offers a

1 unique lakeland experience for the enjoyment and in-
2 spiration of present and future generations.

3 (2) The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilder-
4 ness is an international, national, and Minnesota
5 treasure worthy of national preservation and protec-
6 tion as a wilderness area.

7 (3) Congress has expressed overwhelming sup-
8 port for the protection of this resource through its
9 designation as a wilderness area and by providing
10 sustained funding to protect and responsibly manage
11 this national treasure.

12 (4) Public acceptance and enthusiasm for the
13 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness has estab-
14 lished the area as the most widely used wilderness
15 unit in the entire national wilderness preservation
16 system.

17 (5) The overwhelming majority of Minnesotans
18 support greater wilderness protections for the
19 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

20 (6) It is necessary and desirable to further pro-
21 vide for the orderly administration and management
22 of public use and enjoyment of this national wilder-
23 ness while at the same time protecting the special
24 qualities of the area as a natural forest-lakeland wil-
25 derness ecosystem of major esthetic, cultural, sci-

1 entific, recreational, and educational value to the
2 Nation.

3 **SEC. 3. BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS**
4 **DESIGNATION.**

5 Section 3 of Public Law 94–495 (16 U.S.C. 1132
6 note) is amended as follows:

7 (1) By amending the first sentence to read as
8 follows: “The areas generally depicted as wilderness
9 on the map entitled ‘Boundary Waters Canoe Area
10 Wilderness’ and dated 1997, comprising approxi-
11 mately 1,094,370 acres, are hereby designated as
12 the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (here-
13 inafter referred to as the ‘Wilderness’).”.

14 (2) By striking “one year after the date of en-
15 actment of this Act” and inserting “one year after
16 the enactment of the BWCA Wilderness Legacy
17 Act”.

18 (3) By amending the third sentence to read as
19 follows: “Such map and description shall be filed
20 with the Committee on Resources of the United
21 States House of Representatives and the Committee
22 on Energy and Natural Resources of the United
23 States Senate.”.

1 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 4 OF PUBLIC LAW 95-495.**

2 Section 4 of Public Law 95-495 (16 U.S.C. 1132
3 note) is amended as follows:

4 (1) In subsection (c)(2) by striking “Sea Gull,
5 that portion generally east of Threemile Island,
6 Cook County;”.

7 (2) In subsection (c)(3) by striking “that por-
8 tion generally west of Threemile Island,”.

9 (3) In subsection (d) by striking “Loon Lake,
10 Saint Louis County; that portion of the Lac La
11 Croix, Saint Louis County, south of Snow Bay and
12 east of Wilkins Bay.”.

13 (4) By adding the following new subsection
14 after subsection (i):

15 “(j) Effective on January 1, 1998, the Secretary shall
16 terminate all special use permits for towboats; from that
17 date forward, use of towboats within the wilderness shall
18 be prohibited, whether for commercial or noncommercial
19 purposes.”.

20 **SEC. 5. AIRSPACE RESERVATION.**

21 The provisions of Executive Order 10092 shall be ap-
22 plicable to the areas depicted as wilderness on the map
23 referred to in the amendments made by section 3 of this
24 Act.

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