

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 783

To increase the accessibility of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 1997

Mr. GRAMS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To increase the accessibility of the Boundary Waters Canoe
Area Wilderness, 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 “Boundary Waters
5 Canoe Area Wilderness Accessibility and Fairness Act of
6 1997”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that—

9 (1) it is in the national interest to protect, pre-
10 serve, and improve for the long term the diverse re-

1 sources of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilder-
2 ness for the benefit of the people of the United
3 States;

4 (2) the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilder-
5 ness is a unique wilderness area dedicated to appro-
6 priate public access and use through historically rec-
7 ognized motorized and nonmotorized recreational ac-
8 tivities consistent with the protections afforded by
9 and the commitments made in the Wilderness Act
10 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and the Act entitled “An
11 Act to designate the Boundary Waters Canoe Area
12 Wilderness, to establish the Boundary Waters Canoe
13 Area Mining Protection Area, and for other pur-
14 poses”, approved October 21, 1978 (Public Law 95–
15 495; 92 Stat. 1649);

16 (3) few other units of the National Wilderness
17 Preservation System have been created from more
18 densely populated and heavily utilized regions than
19 the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness; and

20 (4) the cessation of traditional motorized trans-
21 port on 3 portages between lakes on which the use
22 of a motorboat is permitted in the Boundary Waters
23 Canoe Area Wilderness unfairly restricts traditional
24 and recognized public use of the wilderness and

1 causes unnecessary hardship to individuals and fam-
2 ilies who have physical difficulty accessing the area.

3 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF ALLOWABLE USES WITHIN CERTAIN**
4 **PORTIONS OF THE BOUNDARY WATER CANOE**
5 **AREA WILDERNESS.**

6 (a) SEAGULL LAKE.—Section 4(c) of the Act entitled
7 “An Act to designate the Boundary Waters Canoe Area
8 Wilderness, to establish the Boundary Waters Canoe Area
9 Mining Protection Area, and for other purposes”, ap-
10 proved October 21, 1978 (Public Law 95–495; 92 Stat.
11 1650) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “Sea Gull,
13 that portion generally east of Threemile Island,
14 Cook County;”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “Sea Gull,
16 Cook County, that portion generally west of
17 Threemile Island, until January 1, 1999;”.

18 (b) MOTORIZED PORTAGES.—Section 4 of the Act en-
19 titled “An Act to designate the Boundary Waters Canoe
20 Area Wilderness, to establish the Boundary Waters Canoe
21 Area Mining Protection Area, and for other purposes”, ap-
22 proved October 21, 1978 (Public Law 95–495; 92 Stat.
23 1650) is amended by striking subsection (g) and inserting
24 the following:

1 “(g) **MOTORIZED PORTAGES.**—The Secretary shall
2 permit the operation of motorized vehicles and associated
3 equipment to transport boats across the portage between
4 the Moose Lake chain and Basswood Lake, between Fall
5 Lake and Basswood Lake, or between Vermilion Lake and
6 Trout Lake.”.

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