

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2271

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 1999

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

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail.

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 de
5 Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (the
9 Royal Road of the Interior), served as the primary
10 route between the colonial Spanish capital of Mexico

1 City and the Spanish provincial capitals at San Juan
2 de Los Caballeros (1598–1600), San Gabriel (1600–
3 1609) and then Santa Fe (1610–1821).

4 (2) The portion of El Camino Real de Tierra
5 Adentro that resided in what is now the United
6 States extended between El Paso, Texas and present
7 San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, a distance of 404
8 miles;

9 (3) El Camino Real is a symbol of the cultural
10 interaction between nations and ethnic groups and
11 of the commercial exchange that made possible the
12 development and growth of the borderland;

13 (4) American Indian groups, especially the
14 Pueblo Indians of the Rio Grande, developed trails
15 for trade long before Europeans arrived;

16 (5) In 1598, Juan de Oñate led a Spanish mili-
17 tary expedition along those trails to establish the
18 northern portion of El Camino Real;

19 (6) During the Mexican National Period and
20 part of the U.S. Territorial Period, El Camino Real
21 de Tierra Adentro facilitated the emigration of peo-
22 ple to New Mexico and other areas that would be-
23 come the United States;

24 (7) The exploration, conquest, colonization, set-
25 tlement, religious conversion, and military occupa-

1 tion of a large area of the borderlands was made
2 possible by this route, whose historical period ex-
3 tended from 1598 to 1882;

4 (8) American Indians, European emigrants,
5 miners, ranchers, soldiers, and missionaries used El
6 Camino Real during the historic development of the
7 borderlands. These travelers promoted cultural inter-
8 action among Spaniards, other Europeans, American
9 Indians, Mexicans, and Americans;

10 (9) El Camino Real fostered the spread of Ca-
11 tholicism, mining, an extensive network of com-
12 merce, and ethnic and cultural traditions including
13 music, folklore, medicine, foods, architecture, lan-
14 guage, place names, irrigation systems, and Spanish
15 law.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.**

17 Section 5 (a) of the National Trails System Act (16
18 U.S.C. 1244 (a)) is amended—

19 (1) by designating the paragraphs relating to
20 the California National Historic Trail, the Pony Ex-
21 press National Historic Trail, and the Selma to
22 Montgomery National Historic Trail as paragraphs
23 (18), (19), and (20), respectively; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(21) EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA
2 ADENTRO.—

3 “(A) El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro
4 (the Royal Road of the Interior) National His-
5 toric Trail, a 404 mile long trail from the Rio
6 Grande near El Paso, Texas to San Juan Pueb-
7 lo, New Mexico, as generally depicted on the
8 maps entitled ‘United States Route: El Camino
9 Real de Tierra Adentro’, contained in the re-
10 port prepared pursuant to subsection (b) enti-
11 tled ‘National Historic Trail Feasibility Study
12 and Environmental Assessment: El Camino
13 Real de Tierra Adentro, Texas-New Mexico’,
14 dated March 1997.

15 “(B) MAP.—A map generally depicting the
16 trail shall be on file and available for public in-
17 spection in the Office of the National Park
18 Service, Department of Interior.

19 “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The Trail shall
20 be administered by the Secretary of the Inte-
21 rior.

22 “(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—No lands or in-
23 terests therein outside the exterior boundaries
24 of any federally administered area may be ac-
25 quired by the Federal Government for El Ca-

1 mino Real de Tierra Adentro except with the
2 consent of the owner thereof.

3 “(E) VOLUNTEER GROUPS; CONSULTA-
4 TION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

5 “(i) encourage volunteer trail groups
6 to participate in the development and
7 maintenance of the trail; and

8 “(ii) consult with other affected Fed-
9 eral, State, local governmental, and tribal
10 agencies in the administration of the trail.

11 “(F) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The
12 Secretary of the Interior may coordinate with
13 United States and Mexican public and non-gov-
14 ernmental organizations, academic institutions,
15 and, in consultation with the Secretary of State,
16 the government of Mexico and its political sub-
17 divisions, for the purpose of exchanging trail in-
18 formation and research, fostering trail preserva-
19 tion and educational programs, providing tech-
20 nical assistance, and working to establish an
21 international historic trail with complementary
22 preservation and education programs in each
23 nation.”.

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