

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5470

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, 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 **SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Route 66 National
5 Historic Trail Designation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ROUTE 66 NATIONAL HISTORIC**
7 **TRAIL.**

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

1 (1) by redesignating the second paragraph (31)
2 (relating to Butterfield Overland National Historic
3 Trail) as paragraph (32); and

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

5 “(33) ROUTE 66 NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Route 66 Na-
7 tional Historic Trail, a trail that includes all
8 the alignments of U.S. Highway 66 in existence
9 between 1926 and 1985, extending along a
10 route of approximately 2,400 miles from Chi-
11 cago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, as
12 generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Route
13 66 National Historic Trail, Proposed Route’,
14 numbered P26/141,279, and dated December
15 2017.

16 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map
17 described in subparagraph (A) shall be on file
18 and available for public inspection in the appro-
19 priate offices of the National Park Service, De-
20 partment of the Interior.

21 “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Route 66 Na-
23 tional Historic Trail shall be administered
24 by the Secretary of the Interior, acting
25 through the Director of the National Park

1 Service. Such administration shall be con-
2 ducted in a manner that respects and
3 maintains the idiosyncratic nature of the
4 Route 66 National Historic Trail.

5 “(ii) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—Con-
6 sistent with Executive Order 13175 (25
7 U.S.C. 5301 note; relating to consultation
8 and coordination with Indian Tribal Gov-
9 ernments) and all other applicable Federal
10 law, the Secretary of the Interior shall con-
11 duct active, meaningful, and timely con-
12 sultation with all affected Indian Tribes
13 prior to undertaking an activity with re-
14 spect to the Route 66 National Historic
15 Trail that would have substantial direct
16 impacts on 1 or more Indian Tribes.

17 “(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—The United
18 States may not acquire for the Route 66 Na-
19 tional Historic Trail any land or interest in
20 land—

21 “(i) outside the exterior boundary of
22 any federally managed area without the
23 consent of the owner of the land or interest
24 in land; or

1 “(ii) that extends more than an aver-
2 age of one-quarter of a mile on either side
3 of the trail.

4 “(E) NO BUFFER ZONE CREATED.—Noth-
5 ing in this Act, the acquisition of the land or
6 an interest in land authorized by this Act, or
7 the management plan for the Route 66 Na-
8 tional Historic Trail shall be construed to cre-
9 ate buffer zones outside of the Trail. That ac-
10 tivities or uses can be seen, heard, or detected
11 from the acquired land shall not preclude, limit,
12 control, regulate, or determine the conduct or
13 management of activities or uses outside of the
14 trail.

15 “(F) ENERGY.—Nothing in this Act, the
16 acquisition of land or an interest in land au-
17 thorized by this Act, or the management plan
18 for the Route 66 National Historic Trail shall
19 prohibit, hinder, or disrupt the current or fu-
20 ture development, production, transportation, or
21 transmission of energy, including the construc-
22 tion or maintenance of pipelines, renewable en-
23 ergy projects, or other infrastructure for the de-
24 velopment, production, transportation, or trans-
25 mission of energy.

1 “(G) EMINENT DOMAIN OR CONDEMNA-
2 TION.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary
3 of the Interior may not use eminent domain or
4 condemnation.

5 “(H) NOT A DESIGNATION OF ‘LANDS IN
6 THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM’.—Notwith-
7 standing any other provision of law, the des-
8 ignation of the Route 66 National Historic
9 Trail by this paragraph shall not have the effect
10 of designating the Route 66 National Historic
11 Trail or any land on which the Route 66 Na-
12 tional Historic Trail is located as ‘lands in the
13 National Park System’ for purposes of section
14 28(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
15 185(b)(1)).

16 “(I) NO NEW AUTHORITIES OR PERMIT.—

17 “(i) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY TO
18 GRANT EASEMENTS OR RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

19 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwith-
20 standing any other provision of law,
21 the designation of the Route 66 Na-
22 tional Historic Trail by this para-
23 graph shall not alter or affect the ex-
24 isting authority of any Federal, State,
25 or local agency or official to grant

1 easements or rights-of-way over,
2 under, across, or along any portion of
3 the area designated as the Route 66
4 National Historic Trail.

5 “(II) AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF
6 FEDERAL AGENCIES TO GRANTS EASE-
7 MENTS OR RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Notwith-
8 standing the designation of the Route
9 66 National Historic Trail by this
10 paragraph, the head of any Federal
11 agency having jurisdiction over any
12 Federal land on which the Route 66
13 National Historic Trail designated by
14 this paragraph is located (other than
15 land that is considered to be ‘lands in
16 the National Park System’ for pur-
17 poses of section 28(b)(1) of the Min-
18 eral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
19 185(b)(1)) as a result of a designation
20 under any other law), shall have the
21 authority to grant easements or
22 rights-of-way over, under, across, or
23 along any applicable portion of the
24 Route 66 National Historic Trail in

1 accordance with the laws applicable to
2 the Federal land.

3 “(ii) NO NEW PERMITS REQUIRED.—
4 Notwithstanding any other provision of
5 law, the designation of the Route 66 Na-
6 tional Historic Trail by this paragraph
7 shall not subject the Route 66 National
8 Historic Trail or any land on which the
9 Route 66 National Historic Trail is located
10 to any other Federal laws (including regu-
11 lations) requiring a Federal permit or au-
12 thorization that would otherwise be made
13 applicable as a result of the designation of
14 the Route 66 National Historic Trail as a
15 component of the National Trails Sys-
16 tem.”.

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