

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4236

To encourage recycling and reduction of disposable plastic bottles in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. TONKO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To encourage recycling and reduction of disposable plastic bottles in units of the National Park 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 “Reducing Waste in
5 National Parks Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BOTTLE RECYCLING AND RE-**
2 **DUCTION IN UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK**
3 **SYSTEM.**

4 (a) PROGRAM FOR RECYCLING AND REDUCTION OF
5 DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BOTTLES IN UNITS OF THE
6 NPS.—Each regional director concerned shall establish in
7 such unit of the National Park System a program for recy-
8 cling and reduction of disposable plastic bottles, including,
9 if applicable, elimination of the sale of water in disposable
10 plastic bottles under subsection (b).

11 (b) ELIMINATION OF SALE OF WATER IN DISPOS-
12 ABLE PLASTIC BOTTLES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each regional director con-
14 cerned may eliminate the sale of water in disposable
15 plastic bottles in such unit of the National Park Sys-
16 tem after consideration of the following factors with
17 respect to such unit:

18 (A) The costs and benefits to the overall
19 operations.

20 (B) The amount of waste that would be
21 eliminated.

22 (C) The infrastructure costs and funding
23 sources for bottle refill stations.

24 (D) Any contractual implications with re-
25 spect to concessioners, including considerations

1 of new leaseholder surrender interest or posses-
2 sory interest.

3 (E) The operational costs of bottle refill
4 stations, including utilities and regular public
5 health testing.

6 (F) The cost and availability of BPA-free
7 reusable containers.

8 (G) The effect on concessioner and co-
9 operation association sales revenue.

10 (H) The availability of water within con-
11 cession food service operations.

12 (I) The ability to provide visitor education
13 in the unit and online so that visitors may come
14 prepared with their own water bottles.

15 (J) Any input from the National Park
16 Service Office of Public Health.

17 (K) The feasibility of posting signs so that
18 visitors can easily find bottle refill stations.

19 (L) Safety considerations for visitors who
20 may resort to not carrying enough water or
21 drinking from surface water sources with poten-
22 tial exposure to disease.

23 (M) Any input from concessioners and co-
24 operating associations within the unit.

1 (2) UNITS OF NPS PREVIOUSLY ELIMINATED
2 SALE OF WATER IN DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BOT-
3 TLES.—With respect to a unit of the National Park
4 System that does not offer for sale water in dispos-
5 able plastic bottles on the date prior to the date of
6 the enactment of this Act, the superintendent of
7 such unit may continue to not offer for sale water
8 in disposable plastic bottles if such superintendent,
9 not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, submits to the regional director of
11 such unit an evaluation that analyzes and addresses
12 the factors listed in subparagraphs (A) through (M)
13 of paragraph (1).

14 (c) PROACTIVE VISITOR EDUCATION STRATEGY.—
15 Each regional director concerned shall develop for such
16 unit of the National Park System a proactive visitor edu-
17 cation strategy that addresses visitor expectations of water
18 availability and explains the rationale for the program for
19 recycling and reduction of disposable plastic bottles estab-
20 lished under subsection (a) and implemented in such unit.

21 (d) CONTINUITY WITHIN UNIT OF THE NPS.—Each
22 regional director concerned shall, to the extent possible,
23 implement the program for recycling and reduction of dis-
24 posable plastic bottles established under subsection (a) in
25 a manner that is consistent throughout such unit of the

1 National Park System, including incorporation of such
2 program into any agreement with an organization oper-
3 ating within the unit, including a concessioner operating
4 plan and cooperating association scope of sales.

5 (e) BIENNIAL EVALUATION.—Each regional director
6 concerned shall, not less than once every 2 years—

7 (1) conduct an evaluation of the program for
8 recycling and reduction of disposable plastic bottles
9 established under subsection (a) for such unit of the
10 National Park System, including—

11 (A) public response to the program;

12 (B) visitor satisfaction with the availability
13 of water;

14 (C) buying behavior with respect to prod-
15 ucts sold in disposable plastic bottles;

16 (D) public safety including information on
17 cases of dehydration or exposure to disease
18 from drinking from surface water; and

19 (E) disposable plastic bottle collection
20 rates; and

21 (2) submit such evaluation to the Director of
22 the National Park Service and the Secretary of the
23 Interior.

24 (f) DEFINITION OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR CON-
25 CERNED.—For the purposes of this section, the term “re-

1 gional director concerned” means, with respect to a unit
2 of the National Park System, the regional director of the
3 region of the National Park System in which such unit
4 is located, working in coordination with the superintendent
5 of such unit.

○