

House Calendar No. 104

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2908

[Report No. 114-483]

To adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2015

Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HANNA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. CLEAVER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

APRIL 12, 2016

Additional sponsors: Mr. KLINE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KIND, and Mr. WALZ

APRIL 12, 2016

Reported with an amendment, referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 25, 2015]

A BILL

To adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

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 “National Bison Legacy*
5 *Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress finds that—*

8 (1) *bison are considered a historical symbol of*
9 *the United States;*

10 (2) *bison were integrally linked with the eco-*
11 *nomie and spiritual lives of many Indian tribes*
12 *through trade and sacred ceremonies;*

13 (3) *there are more than 60 Indian tribes partici-*
14 *pating in the Intertribal Buffalo Council;*

15 (4) *numerous members of Indian tribes are in-*
16 *volved in bison restoration on tribal land;*

17 (5) *members of Indian tribes have a combined*
18 *herd on more than 1,000,000 acres of tribal land;*

19 (6) *the Intertribal Buffalo Council is a tribal or-*
20 *ganization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the*
21 *Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “In-*
22 *Indian Reorganization Act”)* (25 U.S.C. 477);

23 (7) *bison can play an important role in improv-*
24 *ing the types of grasses found in landscapes to the*
25 *benefit of grasslands;*

1 (8) *a small group of ranchers helped save bison*
2 *from extinction in the late 1800s by gathering the*
3 *remnants of the decimated herds;*

4 (9) *bison hold significant economic value for pri-*
5 *vate producers and rural communities;*

6 (10) *according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture*
7 *of the Department of Agriculture, as of 2012, 162,110*
8 *head of bison were under the stewardship of private*
9 *producers, creating jobs and providing a sustainable*
10 *and healthy meat source contributing to the food secu-*
11 *rity of the United States;*

12 (11) *on December 8, 1905, William Hornaday,*
13 *Theodore Roosevelt, and others formed the American*
14 *Bison Society in response to the near extinction of*
15 *bison in the United States;*

16 (12) *on October 11, 1907, the American Bison*
17 *Society sent 15 captive-bred bison from the New York*
18 *Zoological Park, now known as the “Bronx Zoo”, to*
19 *the first wildlife refuge in the United States, which*
20 *was known as the “Wichita Mountains Wildlife Ref-*
21 *uge”, resulting in the first successful reintroduction of*
22 *a mammal species on the brink of extinction back*
23 *into the natural habitat of the species;*

24 (13) *in 2005, the American Bison Society was*
25 *reestablished, bringing together bison ranchers, man-*

1 *agers from Indian tribes, Federal and State agencies,*
2 *conservation organizations, and natural and social*
3 *scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mex-*
4 *ico to create a vision for the North American bison*
5 *in the 21st century;*

6 *(14) there are bison herds in National Wildlife*
7 *Refuges and National Parks;*

8 *(15) there are bison in State-managed herds*
9 *across 11 States;*

10 *(16) there is a growing effort to celebrate and of-*
11 *ficially recognize the historical, cultural, and eco-*
12 *nomic significance of the North American bison to the*
13 *heritage of the United States;*

14 *(17) a bison is portrayed on 2 State flags;*

15 *(18) the bison has been adopted by 3 States as*
16 *the official mammal or animal of those States;*

17 *(19) a bison has been depicted on the official seal*
18 *of the Department of the Interior since 1912;*

19 *(20) the buffalo nickel played an important role*
20 *in modernizing the currency of the United States;*

21 *(21) several sports teams have the bison as a*
22 *mascot, which highlights the iconic significance of*
23 *bison in the United States;*

24 *(22) in the 2nd session of the 113th Congress, 22*
25 *Senators led a successful effort to enact a resolution*

1 to designate November 1, 2014, as the third annual
2 National Bison Day; and

3 (23) members of Indian tribes, bison producers,
4 conservationists, sportsmen, educators, and other pub-
5 lic and private partners have participated in the an-
6 nual National Bison Day celebration at several events
7 across the United States and are committed to con-
8 tinuing this tradition annually on the first Saturday
9 of November.

10 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE NORTH**

11 **AMERICAN BISON AS THE NATIONAL MAM-**

12 **MAL.**

13 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The mammal commonly known as
14 the “North American bison” is adopted as the national
15 mammal of the United States.

16 (b) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this Act or
17 the adoption of the North American bison as the national
18 mammal of the United States shall be construed or used
19 as a reason to alter, change, modify, or otherwise affect any
20 plan, policy, management decision, regulation, or other ac-
21 tion by the Federal Government.

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