

FEDERAL LAND ASSET INVENTORY REFORM ACT OF 2021

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DECEMBER 30, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 5522]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5522) to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop and maintain a cadastre of Federal real property, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 5522 is to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop and maintain a cadastre of federal real property.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 5522 directs the Department of the Interior (DOI) to develop and maintain a current, centralized inventory of federal land to assist with land management activities like resource development and conservation, agricultural use, active forest management, environmental protection, and real estate transactions. The FLAIR Act allows DOI to enter into cost-sharing agreements with states to include non-federal lands in the inventory. The inventory will be made publicly available.

There is no current centralized inventory of federal property. In 2012, the GAO asked multiple DOI agencies for more than 100 types of data on federal lands ranging from potential quantities of fossil fuels to the number of cultural and historic sites. DOI was unable to provide any information for 33 of the data points and could provide a complete response to only four.<sup>1</sup> As of 2005, DOI used over 100 different land management systems across multiple

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<sup>1</sup>GAO-12-691T. Availability and Potential Reliability of Selected Data Elements at Five Agencies.

agencies<sup>2</sup>—a scenario that has not greatly improved over the past seventeen years. In 2014, CBO estimated that it would cost \$1.4 billion over five years to carry out the bill.<sup>3</sup>

H.R. 5522 was included in H.R. 2617, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023,<sup>4</sup> which Congress passed on December 23, 2022. As of the writing of this report, President Biden is expected to sign the bill into law.<sup>5</sup>

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 5522 was introduced on October 8, 2021, by Representative Ron Kind (D–WI). The bill was referred solely to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. On July 19, 2022, the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on the bill. On December 8, 2022, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. The bill was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

#### HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held on July 19, 2022.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of clause (3)(c)(3) and clause 3(d) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has requested but not received a cost estimate for this bill from the Director of Congressional Budget Office. The Committee adopts as its own cost estimate the forthcoming cost estimate of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, should such cost estimate be made available before House passage of the bill. The Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a statement as to whether this bill contains any new budget authority,

<sup>2</sup>National Land Parcel Data: A Vision for the Future. 2007. National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

<sup>3</sup><https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/113th-congress-2013-2014/costestimate/hr9160.pdf>; H. Rept. 113–688.

<sup>4</sup>Division DD, Title I, Section 103.

<sup>5</sup><https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/12/23/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-passage-of-the-bipartisan-year-end-omnibus/>.

spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill are to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop and maintain a cadastre of federal real property.

#### EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the *Congressional Record* upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

#### EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

#### APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

#### PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes to existing law.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS

None.