

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3593

To amend the Wilderness Act to authorize U.S. Customs and Border Protection to conduct certain activities to secure the international land borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Wilderness Act to authorize U.S. Customs and Border Protection to conduct certain activities to secure the international land borders of the United States, 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 “Securing Our Borders  
5 and Wilderness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION ACCESS**  
2 **TO WILDERNESS AREAS.**

3 Section 4(d) of the Wilderness Act is amended by  
4 adding at the end the following:

5 “(8) U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION  
6 ACCESS.—

7 “(A) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Notwith-  
8 standing any other provision of this Act, the  
9 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border  
10 Protection may conduct the following activities  
11 within a wilderness area for the purpose of se-  
12 curing the international land borders of the  
13 United States:

14 “(i) Access structures, installations,  
15 and roads.

16 “(ii) Use motor vehicles, including all-  
17 terrain vehicles, motorboats, and motorized  
18 equipment.

19 “(iii) Notwithstanding any other law  
20 or regulation relating specifically to use of  
21 aircraft in a wilderness area or in the air-  
22 space above a wilderness area, use aircraft,  
23 including approach, landing, and takeoff.

24 “(iv) In response to emergency situa-  
25 tions, deploy temporary infrastructure, in-  
26 cluding forward operating bases.

1                   “(v) Subject to the approval of the  
2                   Secretary of the Interior, construct and  
3                   maintain roads and fences.

4                   “(B) PROTECTION OF WILDERNESS CHAR-  
5                   ACTER.—Any activity conducted by the Com-  
6                   missioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protec-  
7                   tion under subparagraph (A) shall be carried  
8                   out in a manner that, to the greatest extent  
9                   possible, protects the wilderness character of  
10                  the area.”.

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