A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a national monument at Travertine Bridge, Arizona.

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.
Hon. J. W. Robinson,
Chairman, Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

Further reference is made to your request for the views of this Department on H. R. 1102, entitled "A bill to provide for the establishment of a national monument at Travertine Bridge, Gila County, Arizona."

This proposed legislation would authorize the establishment of the Travertine Bridge National Monument, comprising an area of approximately 280 acres, in the central part of Arizona.

The national monument, under the current proposal, would contain one of the largest natural bridges in the United States—a natural phenomenon that is both picturesque and impressive. The upper surface of the bridge is approximately 400 feet long and rises about 150 feet above the bottom of the canyon. The arch of the bridge is approximately 60 feet in height with a span of about 140 feet. The bridge is unique because it is composed of travertine rock, rather than sandstone from which most natural bridges are formed. Apparently it has been formed by the bridging of the canyon by the slow advance of travertine terraces formed from springs. The travertine is a precipitate of lime.

The area of the proposed national monument is believed to be the smallest compatible with the proper use and management of the objects of scientific interest sought to be preserved by the establishment of the national monument. The surrounding country is mountainous, with deep canyons, towering peaks, and precipitous cliffs. The area would be a worthy addition to the national park and national monument system.

The land description given in the bill appears to be in error and the following minor amendment is suggested:

On page 2, line 7, strike out the second word in the line and substitute in lieu thereof the word "northeast."
I have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that the enact-
ment of the proposed legislation would not be in accord with the
program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd.) HAROLD L. NIXON

Secretary of the Interior.
MEMORANDUM for Mr. Brury and Mr. Demaray.

The undersigned attended the meeting of the House Public Lands Committee yesterday as requested and answered inquiries concerning the Travertine Bridge area, which Congressman Murdock of Arizona has recommended for establishment as the Travertine Bridge National Monument by his Bill H. R. 1102, introduced on January 3, 1941.

The above-mentioned bridge is located in north-central Arizona, between the towns of Payson and Pine, and is reached by a privately-constructed road about 3 miles long leading from State Highway 88. The proposed monument area comprises 280 acres, 160 acres of which is owned by Messrs. David G. and Harry W. Goodfellow. The appraised value of the property is $52,065. Congressman Murdock's bill requested an appropriation of $55,000 to purchase their property. The remaining 120 acres is in the Tonto National Forest.

The Committee voted to report out the above-mentioned bill after a recommendation that Section 3, which provided for the appropriation of $55,000, be stricken from it.

Mr. Speck, who was present during the hearing on H. R. 1102, called attention to the fact he had not been advised that it provided for an appropriation instead of an authorization to appropriate the $55,000.

Mr. Speck and I agreed that with the appropriating provision stricken out, the wording of the bill should be amended to authorize the acquisition of the privately-owned land involved by the Secretary, by donation or otherwise. He stated he would call this to Chairman Robinson's attention.

Hislop A. Johnson
Acting Associate Director.

cc Mr. Speck, Room 6347
Mr. Mossey, Room 3308A

Enclosure 1859876.
MEMORANDUM for Mr. Erison and Dr. Russell.

The House Public Lands Committee has requested a report on H. R. 4933, copy attached, which is the same as H. R. 1102 of the 77th Congress. A proposed favorable report was prepared on the latter bill, but the Bureau of the Budget stated that it would not be in accord with the program of the President.

I should appreciate your views and any additional information concerning this project that you may have for use in preparation of a report to the Committee.

[Signature]
Chief Counsel.

Enclosure 78.
Office Memorandum  •  UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Price
FROM: Pickle
SUBJECT: Improvement Bridge, Oregon

I have carefully reviewed the file on Improvement Bridge. As you as I can determine, there is nothing new that would alter the Department Report of Feb. 24, 1941.

The new bill has the same error as H. R. 1102, of Jan. 3, 1941.

It might be helpful to change the "allotment" (line 17) to an authorization. Land values are much higher now than when the appraisal was made. However, I believe the Goodfellow would sell for that figure.

Pickle

[Signature]