

75TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2130

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 12, 1937

Mr. GEORGE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys

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## A BILL

To authorize an appropriation of \$50,000 with which to make a survey of the old Indian trail and the highway known as "Oglethorpe Trail" with a view of constructing a national roadway on this route to be known as "The Oglethorpe National Trail and Parkway."

Whereas the ancient Indian trail, extending from Savannah, the scene of the English colonization of Georgia, northwardly along the route of the Savannah River in the direction of the city of Augusta, and thence in a northwesterly direction, furnished a trail along which passed the great Indian migrations and also furnished a means of communication between the Indian tribes traveling from the Middle West and North to the Southeast; and

Whereas General Oglethorpe, in establishing a thoroughfare from Savannah to Augusta (upon returning, in September 1739, from his famous treaty conference with the Creek Nation,

which was held at Coweta), followed this ancient Indian trail—this thoroughfare having been used thereafter by the colonists of Georgia in establishing their trading posts and outposts along the banks of the Savannah River into the great heart of the southeastern territory of the United States; and

Whereas this thoroughfare from Savannah to Augusta was designated in 1780 as a British military road; and

Whereas for nearly three-quarters of a century this thoroughfare was used as a stage road, President George Washington having traveled this road during his southern tour in 1791 in going from Savannah to Augusta; and

Whereas many important and historic sites are located on or near this road, including (ascending from Savannah) Old Yamacraw; the Hermitage Plantation; New Yamacraw; the Indian Mound Irene (site of John Wesley's Mission); Mrs. Musgroves Cowpen; Joseph's Town; Mulberry Grove (Nathanael Greene's plantation and site of invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney); the town of Abercorn; Dacre's Tavern; New Ebenezer; Old Ebenezer (site of the Salzburger settlement in 1734); the Palachocolas river crossing; Mount Pleasant (site of the trading post and fort); Hudson's Ferry; Uchee Town; Brier Creek Battlefield (site of important Revolutionary War battle); Burton's Ferry; Telfare's Saw Mill; Telfare's Plantation; Stony Bluff (site of prehistoric Indian stone implement factory); Gorham's Ferry; Shell Bluff (site of deposits of gigantic fossilized oysters five inches wide by twenty-four inches long); and

Whereas not only is the area traversed rich in historic and prehistoric sites but it contains tremendous scenic value, passing through deep, junglelike river swamps which abound in

game; over small blackwater creeks well stocked with bass, perch, and bream; across flat pine barren lands and rolling hills, and along commanding bluffs on the banks of the Savannah River; and in the springtime when dogwood, laurel, and magnolias are in bloom the area becomes a veritable garden; and

Whereas the entire Indian trail and the original thoroughfare from Savannah to Augusta lends itself particularly well to treatment as a national historic parkway (aside from its own significance it appears entirely feasible and desirable to link this proposed parkway to other national parkways, now under construction, by developing the Cherokee Indian trail from Augusta over the mountains to Tennessee) ; and

Whereas the cities and counties located in the area through which this roadway passes are interested in the building of this national parkway—numerous organizations, associations, and private citizens having already sponsored many projects to mark various of the historic sites along the roadway; and

Whereas the Government has recently adopted a policy and set up a division in the Department of the Interior known as the "National Park Service" to engage in a national way in laying out parks, reservations, and building parkways: Therefore

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out  
4 of the Treasury of the United States, a sum not exceeding  
5 \$50,000 to be used by the Department of the Interior in  
6 the office of the National Park Service, with which to

1 make a survey of the old Indian and Oglethorpe Trail  
2 throughout its entire length leading from the city of Savannah  
3 to the city of Augusta, Georgia, the same to be known as  
4 "The Oglethorpe National Trail and Parkway". The said  
5 survey shall locate the parkway as nearly as practicable  
6 in its original route. An estimate of cost of construction  
7 of an appropriate national parkway on this route, and such  
8 other data as would be valuable, shall be obtained by said  
9 survey, with the objective of determining matters concern-  
10 ing the construction of the parkway.

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By Mr. GEORGE

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APRIL 12, 1937

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Public  
Lands and Surveys

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

4-28-37

MAY 18 1937

*Extra*

Hon. Alva B. Mann,  
Chairman, Committee on Public Lands and Surveys,  
United States Senate.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received a letter from your Committee, dated April 20, requesting a report on S. 5150 entitled "A Bill to authorize an appropriation of \$50,000 with which to make a survey of the old Indian trail and the highway known as 'Oglethorpe Trail' with a view of constructing a national roadway on this route to be known as 'The Oglethorpe National Trail and Parkway'".

This Department is not in a position to submit a report on this proposed legislation at this time as the National Park Service desires to make a thorough study of the matter before a final report is made.

I recommend that no action be taken on S. 5150 until a further report is received from this Department.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) CHARLES WEST

Acting Secretary of the Interior.

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

7/9/38

Hon. Alva B. Adams,  
Chairman, Committee on Public Lands and Surveys,  
United States Senate.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

Further reference is made to your letter of April 20, 1937, enclosing a copy of S. 2130 entitled "A Bill To authorize an appropriation of \$50,000 with which to make a survey of the old Indian trail and the highway known as 'Oglethorpe Trail' with a view of constructing a national roadway on this route to be known as 'The Oglethorpe National Trail and Parkway'", and requesting a report thereon.

On May 18, 1937, you were advised by this Department that it would be necessary to make a thorough study of this proposed legislation before making a final report to your Committee.

This Department has recently completed a study of this proposal authorizing the appropriation of \$50,000 to be used for a survey of the old Indian and Oglethorpe Trail running from Savannah to Augusta, Georgia. The proposal contained in this bill has been considered by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments. It is the opinion of the Advisory Board that the Oglethorpe Trail is of national historical significance.

In view of the above considerations, I recommend that S. 2130 be given favorable consideration by the Congress.

I have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection by that office to the presentation of this report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of the Interior.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFICE COPY

MAR 22 1938

*Sullivan*  
*Wally*  
*Wootley*  
*R. F. Lee*  
*Stein*  
*Jolson*  
*J. Murray*

YELLOWS NOTED

Hon. Alva B. Adams,  
Chairman, Committee on Public Lands and Surveys,  
United States Senate.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

Further reference is made to your letter of April 20, 1937, enclosing a copy of S. 2130 entitled "A Bill To authorize an appropriation of \$50,000 with which to make a survey of the old Indian trail and the highway known as 'Oglethorpe Trail' with a view of constructing a national roadway on this route to be known as 'The Oglethorpe National Trail and Parkway' ", and requesting a report thereon.

On May 18, 1937, you were advised by this Department that it would be necessary to make a thorough study of this proposed legislation before making a final report to your Committee.

This Department has recently completed a study of this proposal, authorizing the appropriation of \$50,000 to be used for a survey of the old Indian and Oglethorpe Trail running from Savannah to Augusta, Georgia. In addition, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments has made a study of the old Oglethorpe Trail, and it is the opinion of the Advisory Board that the trail is of national historical significance.

It is believed that a survey of this proposed parkway can be made for \$10,000 by the National Park Service. Accordingly, it is recommended that such a survey be made from regular Departmental appropriations for roads, trails, and parkways, for the National Park Service, and it is recommended that the following amendment be incorporated in the bill:

Beginning with line 3, page 3, strike out up to and including the word "Service," on page 3, line 6, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to use a sum not in excess of \$10,000 of the regular Roads and Trails, or Parkway appropriations available to the National Park Service."

In view of the above considerations, I recommend that S. 2130, with the suggested amendment, be given favorable consideration by the Congress.

I have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget as follows:

"You are advised that, if you consider that the expenditure of not to exceed \$10,000 would serve a useful purpose in determining and perhaps marking such a trail, there would be no objection to legislation contemplating that objective, but you are also advised that legislation which would contemplate future construction of a parkway along such route at Federal expense would not be in accord with the program of the President".

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Harold L. Ickes  
Secretary of the Interior.

TAS/11b