

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2961

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct and operate the Walter B. Jones Center for the Sounds at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

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To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct and operate the Walter B. Jones Center for the Sounds at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Ref-
6 uge, located in northeastern North Carolina, pro-
7 vides unique opportunities for observing and inter-
8 preting the biological richness of the region's estu-
9 aries and wetlands.

1 (2) Although there are 10 national wildlife ref-
2 uges in eastern North Carolina, not one has an edu-
3 cational or interpretative center for visitors.

4 (3) The State of North Carolina, Tyrrell Coun-
5 ty, the town of Columbia, the Conservation Fund,
6 and private citizens have proposed to enter into a
7 partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife
8 Service to establish an educational and interpretative
9 facility to be known as the Center for the Sounds.

10 (4) Establishment of the Center for the Sounds
11 would bestow economic benefits upon Tyrrell County
12 and the town of Columbia.

13 (5) The Federal Government has designated the
14 Albemarle-Pamlico estuary system of northeastern
15 North Carolina as an estuary of national concern.

16 **SEC. 2. FURTHER FINDINGS.**

17 The Congress further finds and declares the follow-
18 ing:

19 (1) Throughout his congressional career, the
20 Honorable Walter B. Jones was a strong supporter
21 of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

22 (2) During his years of service in the House of
23 Representatives, Walter B. Jones supported the es-
24 tablishment and expansion of National Wildlife Ref-
25 uges in eastern North Carolina; these include 6 new

1 National Wildlife Refuges established in his district,
2 including the Alligator River National Wildlife Ref-
3 uge and the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge,
4 which are respectively the third largest and fifth
5 largest National Wildlife Refuges east of the Mis-
6 sissippi River.

7 (3) Walter B. Jones helped increase refuge
8 acreage in his district by over 303,000 acres, thus
9 ensuring the protection of these lands for wildlife
10 habitat and public recreation.

11 (4) Walter B. Jones' support for reintroducing
12 endangered red wolves into the wild at Alligator
13 River National Wildlife Refuge was a major factor
14 in securing public acceptance of, and support for,
15 this first successful effort to reintroduce endangered
16 predators into formerly occupied habitat.

17 (5) Walter B. Jones devoted much of his con-
18 gressional career, including his years as Chairman of
19 the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, to
20 the conservation of fish and wildlife, for the benefit
21 of the Nation and the people of North Carolina.

22 (6) Walter B. Jones should most appropriately
23 be recognized for his work on behalf of fish and
24 wildlife conservation by having the Center for the

1 Sounds at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Ref-
2 uge System named in his honor.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE FACIL-**
4 **ITY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior
6 may, subject to the availability of appropriations, con-
7 struct and operate the Walter B. Jones Center for the
8 Sounds at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in
9 Tyrrell County, North Carolina, for the following pur-
10 poses:

11 (1) Providing public opportunities, facilities,
12 and resources to study the natural history and natu-
13 ral resources of northeastern North Carolina.

14 (2) Offering a variety of environmental edu-
15 cational programs and interpretive exhibits.

16 (3) Fostering an awareness and understanding
17 of the interactions among wildlife, estuarine and
18 wetland ecosystems, and human activities.

19 (4) Providing office space and facilities for ref-
20 uge administration, research, education, and related
21 activities.

22 **SEC. 4. DESIGN.**

23 The Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that the
24 design, size, and location of a facility constructed under

1 this Act are consistent with the cultural and natural his-
2 tory of the area with which the facility will be concerned.

3 **SEC. 5. COST SHARING.**

4 The Secretary of the Interior may accept contribu-
5 tions of funds from non-Federal sources to pay the costs
6 of operating and maintaining the facility authorized under
7 this Act, and shall take appropriate steps to seek to obtain
8 such contributions.

9 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

10 Not later than 6 months after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit
12 a report to the Congress on progress made in designing
13 and constructing a facility under this Act, including steps
14 taken under section 5 to obtain contributions and any
15 such contributions that have been pledged to or received
16 by the United States.

Passed the House of Representatives September 21,
1993.

Attest:

Clerk.