

ADDITIONAL VIEWS ON H.R. 4003, HUDSON RIVER VALLEY
SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY ACT

We are pleased that by an overwhelming bipartisan vote the Committee adopted the Bishop of Utah Amendment that requires the National Park Service to document activities that will be limited or eliminated by a park designation to follow the authorized study. As Congress considers additions to the National Park System, the public is entitled to know which existing activities, such as hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, and energy production and transmission, will be prohibited or limited. National Park designation comes with an abundance of regulations and direct federal management, and it is important that people living in the affected area know ahead of time how much authority over their local affairs will be ceded to the federal government.

The Bishop amendment also requires the National Park Service to detail the various authorities in their holster that will allow it to become involved in local land-use planning and zoning decisions that restrict the property rights of neighboring homeowners and communities. The citizens included in and around any designation must be made aware that whatever can be seen, heard, or sometimes even smelled from the park may fall under the guardianship of a federal bureaucrat, where property rights and economic health do not enter into the decision-making process.

We look forward to including this amendment in subsequent legislation authorizing studies for new Park designations and welcome the support of our Democrat colleagues.

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