

H.R. 428, RED RIVER GRADIENT BOUNDARY SURVEY ACT

H.R. 428, the Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act, introduced by Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX-13), commissions a survey of the gradient boundary along the Red River to end decades of confusion over the true boundary between Texas and Oklahoma and bring certainty to landowners along the Red River. H.R. 428 is supported by the Texas and Oklahoma Farm Bureaus, Texas General Land Office, and Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. This bill is a paired down version of a previous bill that passed the House during the 114th Congress by a vote of 253-177.

Protects Private Property Rights

For generations, landowners improved and maintained the land, dutifully paid taxes, and lawfully-owned land along the Red River. This bill takes the first step towards resolving the Bureau of Land Management's egregious overreach and survey errors that wrongfully clouded the titles of landowners.

Resolves Confusion over the True Boundary between Oklahoma & Texas

Confusion over the true boundary between Oklahoma and Texas has been ongoing for centuries. This survey will provide clarity and certainty over the true boundary between the two states.

Uses the Best Survey Methods to Ensure Accuracy

The Supreme Court created the widely accepted and established gradient boundary survey method specifically for surveying the Red River. This bill mandates the Bureau of Land Management survey the entire 116-mile stretch of contested land along the River using this method to ensure accuracy.

Integrates State Input and Control into the Survey

The bill directs the Texas General Land Office and Oklahoma Commissioners of the Land Office, in consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes, to review and approve the final survey to certify its accuracy in accordance with the gradient boundary survey method.

Utilizes the Most Qualified Surveyors

Surveyors must be licensed and qualified to conduct gradient boundary surveys and will be jointly selected by the states of Texas and Oklahoma. With nearly a century of experience, surveyors in these two states are the most qualified professionals in the nation for carrying out this type of survey.

Protects Tribal Interests

The bill includes specific protections for the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Indian tribes in Oklahoma to allow them to participate in the survey, in coordination with the states, and continue to receive money from an existing mineral interest trust fund.

