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SENATE

{ REPORT
113-93

DESIGNATION OF DENALI IN THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WYDEN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 155]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 155) to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Denali, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of S. 155 is to rename Mount McKinley in the State of Alaska as “Denali.”

BACKGROUND AND NEED

Denali is the Alaskan Native name for Mount McKinley, meaning “the high one.” The mountain, which is the highest in North America, with a summit of 20,320 feet, is a destination for climbers from around the world. The name Mount McKinley was originally published in an article in the New York Sun on January 24, 1897, by William A. Dickey, a prospector, who wrote, “We named our great peak Mount McKinley, after William McKinley of Ohio, who had been nominated for the presidency, and that fact was the first news we received on our way out of that wonderful wilderness.” Senator McKinley was later elected the 25th President of the United States.

Mount McKinley National Park was established as a game refuge on February 26, 1917. In 1980 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA; Public Law 96-487) expanded Mount McKinley National Park and renamed it as Denali National Park and Preserve; however the name of Mount McKinley was not changed. The State of Alaska changed the name of the mountain to Denali in 1975, although the U.S. Board on Geographic Names

has continued to use the name Mount McKinley. Today most Alaskans refer to Mount McKinley as Denali. The bill is necessary to ensure consistent reference to the mountain as “Denali.”

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Senator Murkowski introduced S. 155 on January 28, 2013. Senator Begich is a cosponsor. The Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on S. 155 on April 23, 2013. At its business meeting on June 18, 2013, the Committee ordered S. 155 favorably reported.

During the 112th Congress, Senator Murkowski introduced similar legislation, S. 2272. The Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on S. 2272 on June 27, 2012 (S. Hrg. 112–578).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on May 16, 2013, by a voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 155. Senator Portman asked to be recorded as voting no.

SUMMARY OF THE MEASURE

S. 155 provides that the mountain located at 63°04'12", by 151°00'18" in the State of Alaska shall be known and designated as “Denali” and that any reference in law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the mountain be deemed a reference to “Denali.”

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of costs of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

JUNE 21, 2013.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 155, a bill to designate a mountain in the state of Alaska as Denali, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 18, 2013.

CBO estimates that enacting this legislation to name a peak in Alaska would have no significant impact on the federal budget and would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. S. 155 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Jeff LaFave.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation

of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 155.

The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 155, as ordered reported.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

S. 155, as reported, does not contain any congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The testimony provided by the National Park Service at the April 23, 2013, Subcommittee on National Parks hearing on S. 155 follows:

STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 155, a bill to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Denali.

The National Park Service appreciates the long history and public interest for both the name Mount McKinley and the traditional Athabascan name, Denali. The Department respects the choice made by this legislation, and does not object to S. 155.

Located in what is now Denali National Park and Preserve, the highest peak in North America has been known by many names. The National Park Service's administrative history of the park notes that, "The Koyukon called it Deenaalee, the Lower Tanana named it Deenaadheet or Deennadhee, the Dena'ina called it Dghelay Ka'a, and at least six other Native groups had their own names for it.

"In the late 18th century various Europeans came calling, and virtually everyone who passed by was moved to comment on it. The Russians called it Bulshaia or Tenada, and though explorers from other nations were less specific, even the most hard-bitten adventurers were in awe of its height and majesty.

"No American gave it a name until Densmore's Mountain appeared in the late 1880s, and the name that eventually stuck—Mount McKinley—was not applied until the waning days of the nineteenth century," a gesture of support to then-President William McKinley.

In 1975, the State of Alaska officially recognized Denali as the name of the peak, and requested action by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to do the same.

In 1980, Congress changed the name of Mount McKinley National Park to Denali National Park and Preserve (P.L.

96–487, Section 202), but did not act on the name change for the mountain.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony, and I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members may have.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by S. 155, as ordered reported.

