

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2206

To authorize the President to reestablish the Civilian Conservation Corps as a means of providing gainful employment to unemployed and underemployed citizens of the United States through the performance of useful public work, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. LEE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. MCNERNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To authorize the President to reestablish the Civilian Conservation Corps as a means of providing gainful employment to unemployed and underemployed citizens of the United States through the performance of useful public work, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “21st Century Civilian  
5 Conservation Corps Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF CIVILIAN**  
2 **CONSERVATION CORPS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—In order to re-  
4 lieve the acute condition of widespread distress and unem-  
5 ployment existing in the United States and to provide for  
6 the restoration of depleted natural resources in the United  
7 States and the advancement of an orderly program of use-  
8 ful public works, the President may establish and operate  
9 a Civilian Conservation Corps to employ citizens of the  
10 United States, who are otherwise unemployed or under-  
11 employed, in the construction, maintenance, and carrying  
12 on of works of a public nature in connection with—

13 (1) the forestation of lands belonging to the  
14 United States or a State;

15 (2) the prevention of forest fires, floods, and  
16 soil erosion;

17 (3) plant pest and disease control;

18 (4) the construction, maintenance, or repair of  
19 paths, trails, and fire-lanes in units of the National  
20 Park System, public lands, and other lands under  
21 the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and  
22 units of the National Forest System; and

23 (5) such other work on Federal or State land  
24 incidental to or necessary in connection with any  
25 projects of the character enumerated in paragraphs

1 (1) through (4) that the President determines to be  
2 desirable.

3 (b) ROLE OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—To operate the  
4 Civilian Conservation Corps, the President may utilize ex-  
5 isting Federal departments and agencies, including the  
6 Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the  
7 National Guard Bureau, the Department of the Interior,  
8 the Department of Agriculture, the Army Corps of Engi-  
9 neers, the Department of Transportation, the Department  
10 of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and  
11 Federal governmental corporations.

12 (c) INCLUSION OF OTHER LANDS.—The President  
13 may extend the activities of the Civilian Conservation  
14 Corps to lands owned by a political subdivision of a State  
15 and lands in private ownership, but only for the purpose  
16 of conducting such kinds of cooperation work as are other-  
17 wise authorized by law in preventing and controlling forest  
18 fires and the attacks of forest tree pests and diseases and  
19 such work as is necessary and in the public interest to  
20 control floods.

21 (d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—For the purpose of car-  
22 rying out this Act, the President may enter into such con-  
23 tracts or agreements with States as may be necessary, in-  
24 cluding provisions for utilization of existing State adminis-  
25 trative agencies.

1           (e) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The Presi-  
2 dent, or the head of any department or agency authorized  
3 by the President to construct any project or to carry on  
4 any public works under this Act, may acquire real prop-  
5 erty for such project or public work by purchase, donation,  
6 condemnation, or otherwise.

7 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATION OF CIVILIAN CONSERVATION**  
8                                   **CORPS.**

9           (a) EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE.—If the President  
10 determines that amounts appropriated to carry out a Civil-  
11 ian Conservation Corps under this Act for a fiscal year  
12 will be insufficient to employ all of the citizens of the  
13 United States described in section 2(a) who are seeking  
14 or likely to seek employment in the Civilian Conservation  
15 Corps and continue the employment of current employees  
16 who desire to remain in the Civilian Conservation Corps,  
17 the President shall employ additional persons in the Civil-  
18 ian Conservation Corps in the following order of pref-  
19 erence:

20                   (1) Unemployed veterans of the Armed Forces  
21                   and unemployed members of the reserve components  
22                   of the Armed Forces.

23                   (2) Unemployed citizens who have exhausted  
24                   their entitlement to unemployment compensation.

1           (3) Unemployed citizens, who immediately be-  
2 fore employment in the Civilian Conservation Corps,  
3 are eligible for unemployment compensation payable  
4 under any State law or Federal unemployment com-  
5 pensation law, including any additional compensa-  
6 tion or extended compensation under such laws.

7           (4) Other citizens described in section 2(a).

8           (b) HOUSING AND CARE OF EMPLOYEES.—The  
9 President may provide housing for persons employed in  
10 the Civilian Conservation Corps and furnish them with  
11 such subsistence, clothing, medical attendance and hos-  
12 pitalization, and cash allowance, as may be necessary, dur-  
13 ing the period they are so employed.

14          (c) TRANSPORTATION.—The President may provide  
15 for the transportation of persons employed in the Civilian  
16 Conservation Corps to and from the places of employment.

17          (d) NON-DISCRIMINATION.—In employing citizens  
18 for the Civilian Conservation Corps, no discrimination  
19 shall occur in accordance with Federal employment law;  
20 except that no individual under conviction for crime and  
21 serving sentence therefore shall be employed under the  
22 provisions of this Act.

23 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24          (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
25 are authorized to be appropriated to the President

1 \$16,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through  
2 2021 to establish and operate a Civilian Conservation  
3 Corps under this Act.

4 (b) USE OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS APPROPRIATED  
5 FOR PUBLIC WORKS.—

6 (1) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—The President  
7 may use any moneys previously appropriated for  
8 public works and unobligated as of the date of the  
9 enactment of this Act to establish and operate a Ci-  
10 vilian Conservation Corps under this Act.

11 (2) USE TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT.—Not  
12 less than 80 percent of the funds utilized pursuant  
13 to paragraph (1) must be used to provide for the  
14 employment of individuals under this Act.

15 (3) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not  
16 apply to—

17 (A) unobligated moneys appropriated for  
18 public works on which actual construction has  
19 been commenced as of the date of the enact-  
20 ment of this Act or may be commenced within  
21 90 days after that date; and

22 (B) maintenance funds for river and har-  
23 bor improvements already allocated as of the  
24 date of the enactment of this Act.

1       (c) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appro-  
2       priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in  
3       subsection (a) or made available under subsection (b) shall  
4       remain available until expended.

5       **SEC. 5. TERMINATION.**

6       The authority of the President to establish and oper-  
7       ate a Civilian Conservation Corps under this Act expires  
8       on September 30, 2021.

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