

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5471

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Gateway Communities Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 11, 2018

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. POE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Gateway Communities Improvement Program, 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 “American Gateway  
5       Communities Economic Development and Conservation  
6       Act”.

7       **SEC. 2. GATEWAY COMMUNITIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

8       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
9       the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Interior  
10       shall establish an American Gateway Communities Eco-

1 nomic Development and Conservation Program (in this  
2 section referred to as the “Program”) to assist covered  
3 entities to improve gateways to units of the National Park  
4 System.

5 (b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the Pro-  
6 gram, the Secretary may award a grant, on a competitive  
7 basis, to a covered entity.

8 (c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under  
9 the Program, a covered entity shall submit to the Sec-  
10 retary an application at such time, in such form, and con-  
11 taining such information as the Secretary may require.  
12 Applications should address the economic development  
13 benefits associated with the proposed activity.

14 (d) GRANT USES.—Grant amounts awarded under  
15 the Program may be used to—

16 (1) facilitate a planning, study, or design com-  
17 ponent of an activity described in paragraphs (2),  
18 (3), (4), (5), or (6) in collaboration with local resi-  
19 dents, businesses, elected officials, representatives of  
20 the unit of the National Park System nearby and  
21 other affected public agencies;

22 (2) prepare a general plan and visual design  
23 guidance that reflect the goals of the Gateway Com-  
24 munity and are in harmony with the visual, historic

1 and cultural character of the nearby unit of the Na-  
2 tional Park Service;

3 (3) carry out, with respect to a public space, a  
4 landscaping project that is consistent with local  
5 character and with the scenic, historic and cultural  
6 character of the nearby National Park System unit;

7 (4) provide wayfinding and interpretation mark-  
8 ers to assist visitors to the relevant unit of the Na-  
9 tional Park System with orientation or interpreta-  
10 tion, including but not limited to markers at key  
11 sites of scenic, historic, or cultural value, so long as  
12 all wayfinding markers have a non-intrusive design  
13 that keeps with the character of the gateway com-  
14 munity and the unit of the National Park System;

15 (5) establish a scenic easement to protect a  
16 view of the relevant unit of the National Park Sys-  
17 tem; and

18 (6) mitigation of visual blight including screen-  
19 ing or removal of elements not in keeping with the  
20 desired visual, historic and cultural character of the  
21 Gateway Community and the unit of the National  
22 Park System.

23 (e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost  
24 of an activity assisted with grant amounts awarded under  
25 the Program shall be not more than 50 percent.

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 to carry out the  
3 Program.

4 (g) COVERED ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the  
5 term “covered entity” means a local government entity  
6 that serves an area located within 5 miles of a public en-  
7 trance to a unit of the National Park System. The Sec-  
8 retary shall have the discretion of waiving the 5-mile limit  
9 in cases where compatibility between the visual, historic  
10 and cultural character of a gateway community beyond the  
11 5-mile limit and the unit of the National Park System is  
12 significant to both as jointly attested to by the local gov-  
13 ernment entity and the National Park Service.

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