

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1034

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of César Estrada Chávez and the farm labor movement.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. OWENS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of César Estrada Chávez and the farm labor movement.

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. CÉSAR ESTRADA CHÁVEZ STUDY ACT.**

4       (a) SHORT TITLE.— This Act may be cited as the  
5       “César Estrada Chávez Lands Legacy Study Act”.

6       (b) FINDINGS.— Congress finds the following:

7               (1) On March 31, 1927, César Estrada Chávez  
8       was born on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona.

1           (2) At age 10, Chávez and his family became  
2 migrant farm workers after they lost their farm in  
3 the Great Depression.

4           (3) Throughout his youth and into adulthood,  
5 Chávez migrated across the Southwest, laboring in  
6 fields and vineyards.

7           (4) During this period, Chávez was exposed to  
8 the hardships and injustices of farm worker life.

9           (5) In 1952, Chávez’s life as an organizer and  
10 public servant began when he left the fields and  
11 joined the Community Service Organization, a com-  
12 munity-based self-help organization.

13           (6) While with the Community Service Organi-  
14 zation, Chávez conducted—

15                   (A) voter registration drives; and

16                   (B) campaigns against racial and economic  
17 discrimination.

18           (7) During the late 1950s and early 1960s,  
19 Chávez served as the national director of the Com-  
20 munity Service Organization.

21           (8) In 1962, Chávez founded the National  
22 Farm Workers Association, an organization that—

23                   (A) was the first successful farm workers  
24 union in the United States; and

1           (B) became known as the “United Farm  
2           Workers of America”.

3           (9) From 1962 to 1993, as leader of United  
4           Farm Workers of America, Chávez achieved for tens  
5           of thousands of farm workers—

6                   (A) dignity and respect;

7                   (B) fair wages;

8                   (C) medical coverage;

9                   (D) pension benefits;

10                  (E) humane living conditions; and

11                  (F) other rights and protections.

12           (10) The leadership and humanitarianism of  
13           César Chávez continue to influence and inspire mil-  
14           lions of citizens of the United States to seek social  
15           justice and civil rights for the poor and  
16           disenfranchised.

17           (11) The life of César Chávez and his family  
18           provides an outstanding opportunity to illustrate and  
19           interpret the history of agricultural labor in the  
20           western United States.

21           (c) RESOURCE STUDY.—Not later than 3 years after  
22           the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the  
23           Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”)  
24           shall complete a resource study of sites in the State of  
25           Arizona, the State of California, and other States that are

1 significant to the life of César E. Chávez and the farm  
2 labor movement in the western United States to deter-  
3 mine—

4 (1) appropriate methods for preserving and in-  
5 terpreting the sites; and

6 (2) whether any of the sites meets the criteria  
7 for listing on the National Register of Historic  
8 Places or designation as a national historic land-  
9 mark under—

10 (A) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C.  
11 461 et seq.); and

12 (B) the National Historic Preservation Act  
13 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

14 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the study under  
15 this section, the Secretary shall—

16 (1) consider the criteria for the study of areas  
17 for potential inclusion in the National Park System  
18 under section 8(b)(2) of Public Law 91–383 (16  
19 U.S.C. 1a–5(b)(2)); and

20 (2) consult with—

21 (A) the César E. Chávez Foundation;

22 (B) the United Farm Workers Union;

23 (C) State and local historical associations  
24 and societies; and

1 (D) the State Historic Preservation Offi-  
2 cers of the State of Arizona, the State of Cali-  
3 fornia, and any other State in which a site de-  
4 scribed in subsection (a) is located.

5 (e) REPORT.—On completion of the study under sub-  
6 section (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee  
7 on Resources of the House of Representatives and the  
8 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-  
9 ate a report on—

10 (1) the findings of the study; and

11 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

12 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
13 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
14 essary to carry out this section.

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