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108TH CONGRESS
*1st Session*
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPORT
108–161

# COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

JUNE 18, 2003.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. POMBO, from the Committee on Resources, submitted the following

## R E P O R T

together with

## ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 21]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 21) commemorating the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the concurrent resolution be agreed to.

### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of House Concurrent Resolution 21 is to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

### BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In 1803, the United States acquired the Louisiana Purchase for $15 million, which doubled the size of the country overnight (totally 827,987 square miles or nearly 600,000,000 acres) and brought vast natural resources that had been as yet untapped. To quote Tallyrand, "You have made a noble bargain for yourselves and I suppose you will make the most of it." For the United States, it was only the beginning of an expansion that would stretch from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. All or part of fifteen States were created from the land acquired in this purchase. It made possible the travels of Lewis and Clark, whose invaluable insight into the peoples and land beyond the Mississippi River emboldened many Americans to search for a new life out West. Around the world, the American Frontier became synonymous with the search for spiritual, economic, and political freedom. The Louisiana Pur-

chase helped shape the American destiny. Commemoration of the Louisiana Purchase and the related opening of the West can enhance public understanding of the impact of the democratic westward expansion on American society.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

H. Con. Res. 21 was introduced on January 28, 2003, by Congressman David Vitter (R–LA). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. On June 11, 2003, the Full Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands was discharged from further consideration of the bill by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered and the bill was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

## COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 and Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

## COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. H. Con. Res. 21 is merely a bill commemorating the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase and no cost is involved.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. This bill does not authorize funding and therefore, clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. The Committee has determined that H. Con. Res. 21 entails no cost to the federal government and therefore, no cost estimate was requested from the Congressional Budget Office.

## COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104–4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

## ADDITIONAL VIEWS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, DC, June 17, 2003.*

Chairman RICHARD POMBO,
*Committee on Resources, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO: Please accept my statement concerning H. Con. Res. 21, Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, which was consideration and accepted by unanimous consent during the Full Committee Resources Mark-up Session held on July 11, 2003.

> It is my pleasure to support H. Con. Res. 21, a resolution Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase. Two hundred years ago Thomas Jefferson peacefully purchased the largest land acquisition in American history, which inevitably developed into a prosperous and culturally diverse portion of the heartland of the United States. A significant part of the Louisiana Purchase, the mighty Mississippi River—the lifeline of the nation—plays a pivotal part in the U.S. economy and vital role in the lives and heritage of our people. The people of the great state of Louisiana salute Mr. Jefferson's work and the momentous role of the Louisiana Purchase in our nation's history. May the great spirit and diplomatic altruism of the Louisiana Purchase continue.

Thank you for your cooperation. With warm regards, I am.

Very truly yours,

BILLY TAUZIN,
*Member of Congress.*

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