

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2406, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. HECK OF NEVADA**

At the end of the bill, add the following:

1 **TITLE XVII—GOOD SAMARITAN**
2 **SEARCH AND RECOVERY**

3 **SEC. 1701. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This title may be cited as the “Good Samaritan
5 Search and Recovery Act”.

6 **SEC. 1702. EXPEDITED ACCESS TO CERTAIN FEDERAL**
7 **LAND.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

9 (1) **ELIGIBLE.**—The term “eligible”, with re-
10 spect to an organization or individual, means that
11 the organization or individual, respectively, is—

12 (A) acting in a not-for-profit capacity; and

13 (B) composed entirely of members who, at
14 the time of the good Samaritan search-and-re-
15 covery mission, have attained the age of major-
16 ity under the law of the State where the mis-
17 sion takes place.

18 (2) **GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH-AND-RECOVERY**
19 **MISSION.**—The term “good Samaritan search-and-
20 recovery mission” means a search conducted by an

1 eligible organization or individual for 1 or more
2 missing individuals believed to be deceased at the
3 time that the search is initiated.

4 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Ag-
6 riculture, as applicable.

7 (b) PROCESS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary shall develop
9 and implement a process to expedite access to Fed-
10 eral land under the administrative jurisdiction of the
11 Secretary for eligible organizations and individuals
12 to request access to Federal land to conduct good
13 Samaritan search-and-recovery missions.

14 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The process developed and
15 implemented under this subsection shall include pro-
16 visions to clarify that—

17 (A) an eligible organization or individual
18 granted access under this section—

19 (i) shall be acting for private pur-
20 poses; and

21 (ii) shall not be considered to be a
22 Federal volunteer;

23 (B) an eligible organization or individual
24 conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recov-
25 ery mission under this section shall not be con-

1 sidered to be a volunteer under section
2 102301(e) of title 54, United States Code;

3 (C) chapter 171 of title 28, United States
4 Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort
5 Claims Act”), shall not apply to an eligible or-
6 ganization or individual carrying out a privately
7 requested good Samaritan search-and-recovery
8 mission under this section; and

9 (D) an eligible organization or entity who
10 conducts a good Samaritan search-and-recovery
11 mission under this section shall serve without
12 pay from the Federal Government for such
13 service.

14 (c) **RELEASE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM LI-**
15 **ABILITY.**—The Secretary shall not require an eligible or-
16 ganization or individual to have liability insurance as a
17 condition of accessing Federal land under this section, if
18 the eligible organization or individual—

19 (1) acknowledges and consents, in writing, to
20 the provisions described in subparagraphs (A)
21 through (D) of subsection (b)(2); and

22 (2) signs a waiver releasing the Federal Gov-
23 ernment from all liability relating to the access
24 granted under this section and agrees to indemnify
25 and hold harmless the United States from any

1 claims or lawsuits arising from any conduct by the
2 eligible organization or individual on Federal land.

3 (d) APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF REQUESTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall notify
5 an eligible organization or individual of the approval
6 or denial of a request by the eligible organization or
7 individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-
8 and-recovery mission under this section by not later
9 than 48 hours after the request is made.

10 (2) DENIALS.—If the Secretary denies a re-
11 quest from an eligible organization or individual to
12 carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mis-
13 sion under this section, the Secretary shall notify the
14 eligible organization or individual of—

15 (A) the reason for the denial of the re-
16 quest; and

17 (B) any actions that the eligible organiza-
18 tion or individual can take to meet the require-
19 ments for the request to be approved.

20 (e) PARTNERSHIPS.—Each Secretary shall develop
21 search-and-recovery-focused partnerships with search-and-
22 recovery organizations—

23 (1) to coordinate good Samaritan search-and-
24 recovery missions on Federal land under the admin-
25 istrative jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

1 (2) to expedite and accelerate good Samaritan
2 search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing indi-
3 viduals on Federal land under the administrative ju-
4 risdiction of the Secretary.

5 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
6 of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to
7 Congress a joint report describing—

8 (1) plans to develop partnerships described in
9 subsection (e)(1); and

10 (2) efforts carried out to expedite and accel-
11 erate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission
12 efforts for missing individuals on Federal land under
13 the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary
14 pursuant to subsection (e)(2).

