

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 2729  
OFFERED BY MR. LUJAN OF NEW MEXICO**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The National Environmental Research  
4 Parks are unique outdoor laboratories that provide  
5 opportunities for environmental studies on protected  
6 lands around Department of Energy facilities.

7 (2) In 1972, the Atomic Energy Commission  
8 established its first official environmental research  
9 park at the Savannah River site in South Carolina.

10 (3) In 1976, the Department of Energy defined  
11 the mission for the research parks in accordance  
12 with the recommendations of the multiagency review  
13 team for environmental research activities at the Sa-  
14 vannah River site.

15 (4) The mission of the research parks is to—

16 (A) conduct research and education activi-  
17 ties to assess and document environmental ef-  
18 fects associated with energy and weapons use;

1 (B) explore methods for eliminating or  
2 minimizing adverse effects of energy develop-  
3 ment and nuclear materials on the environment;

4 (C) train people in ecological and environ-  
5 mental sciences; and

6 (D) educate the public.

7 (5) The seven National Environmental Re-  
8 search Parks are located within six major ecological  
9 regions of the United States, covering more than  
10 half of the Nation.

11 (6) The parks are especially valuable research  
12 sites because within their borders they provide se-  
13 cure settings for scientists to conduct long-term re-  
14 search on a broad range of subjects including—

15 (A) plant succession;

16 (B) biomass production;

17 (C) population ecology;

18 (D) radioecology;

19 (E) ecological restoration; and

20 (F) thermal effects on freshwater eco-  
21 systems.

22 (7) The parks maintain several long-term data  
23 sets that are available nowhere else in the United  
24 States or in the world on amphibian populations,  
25 bird populations, and soil moisture and plant water

1 stress. These data sets are uniquely valuable for the  
2 detection of long-term shifts in climate.

3 (8) The maintenance of these parks by the De-  
4 partment of Energy is consistent with statutory obli-  
5 gations to promote sound environmental stewardship  
6 of Federal lands and to safeguard sites containing  
7 cultural and archeological resources.

8 (9) Public education and outreach activities car-  
9 ried out on these sites provide unique learning op-  
10 portunities, promote a stronger connection between  
11 these Federal facilities and the surrounding commu-  
12 nities, and enhance public confidence that the De-  
13 partment of Energy is fulfilling its environmental  
14 stewardship responsibilities.

15 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PARKS.**

16 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall  
17 designate the seven National Environmental Research  
18 Parks located on Department of Energy sites as perma-  
19 nent protected outdoor research reserves for the purposes  
20 of conducting long-term environmental research on the im-  
21 pacts of human activities on the natural environment. The  
22 seven National Environmental Research Parks shall in-  
23 clude—

24 (1) the Savannah River National Environ-  
25 mental Research Park;

1           (2) the Idaho National Environmental Research  
2     Park;

3           (3) the Los Alamos National Environmental  
4     Research Park;

5           (4) the Fermi Lab National Environmental Re-  
6     search Park;

7           (5) the Hanford National Environmental Re-  
8     search Park;

9           (6) the Oak Ridge National Environmental Re-  
10    search Park; and

11          (7) the Nevada National Environmental Re-  
12    search Park.

13   (b) PURPOSES.—Each site shall support—

14          (1) environmental research and monitoring ac-  
15    tivities to characterize and monitor present and fu-  
16    ture site conditions, and serve as control areas for  
17    comparison with environmental impacts of Depart-  
18    ment of Energy land management, energy tech-  
19    nology development, remediation, and other site ac-  
20    tivities outside the National Environmental Research  
21    Park areas. Areas of research and monitoring on the  
22    sites may include—

23                 (A) ecology of the site and the region;

24                 (B) population biology and ecology;

25                 (C) radioecology;

1 (D) effects of climate variability and  
2 change on ecosystems;

3 (E) ecosystem science;

4 (F) pollution fate and transport research;

5 and

6 (G) surface and groundwater modeling;

7 and

8 (2) public education and outreach activities con-  
9 sistent with subsection (d).

10 (e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—To ensure the inde-  
11 pendence of the research, monitoring, public education,  
12 and outreach activities conducted on each site, the Sec-  
13 retary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with a uni-  
14 versity, community college, or consortium of institutions  
15 of higher education with expertise in ecology and environ-  
16 mental science of the region in which the National Envi-  
17 ronmental Research Park is located.

18 (d) ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUT-  
19 REACH.—Each site shall support an outreach program to  
20 inform the public of the diverse ecological activities con-  
21 ducted at the park and to educate students at various lev-  
22 els in environmental science. Program activities may in-  
23 clude—

24 (1) on-site and in-classroom education pro-  
25 grams for elementary and secondary students;

1           (2) presentations to school, civic, and profes-  
2           sional groups;

3           (3) exhibits at local and regional events;

4           (4) development of educational projects and  
5           materials for students at all levels;

6           (5) undergraduate and community college in-  
7           ternships and graduate research opportunities; and

8           (6) regularly scheduled public tours.

9           (e) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall  
10          designate a National Environmental Research Park Coor-  
11          dinator within the Department of Energy Office of  
12          Science. The Coordinator shall—

13           (1) coordinate research activities among the  
14           National Environmental Research Parks as appro-  
15           priate;

16           (2) ensure that information on best practices  
17           for research, education, and outreach activities is  
18           shared among the sites; and

19           (3) serve as liaison to other Federal agencies to  
20           facilitate collaborative work at the Parks.

21          (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
22          are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of En-  
23          ergy, acting through the Director of the Office of Science,  
24          for carrying out this section \$35,000,000, including

- 1 \$5,000,000 for each National Environmental Research
- 2 Park, for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014.



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
OFFERED BY MS. GIFFORDS OF ARIZONA**

In section 2(b)(1), add at the end the following new  
subparagraph:

- 1 (H) environmental impacts of development
- 2 and use of energy generation technologies, in-
- 3 cluding renewable energy technologies.

