

## HR 3370

Refuge System Protection Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Public Lands and Natural Resources

**Introduced:** Jun 19, 2019

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. (Jul 1, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3370>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Jun 19, 2019
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Jun 25, 2019
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Jul 9, 2019
Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Jul 9, 2019
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jul 15, 2019

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Appropriations Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 19, 2019
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 1, 2019

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 1899	Identical bill	Jun 19, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## Refuge System Protection Act

This bill authorizes the Department of Justice (DOJ), at the request of the Department of the Interior, to bring in a district court a civil action against any individual or entity that destroys, causes the loss of, causes Interior to make risk mitigation efforts with respect to, or injures any resource that is within the boundaries any land or water that is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The bill also authorizes DOJ, at the request of Interior, to bring in a district court an in rem action against any instrumentality (e.g., a vessel, vehicle, or aircraft) that destroys, causes the loss of, causes Interior to make risk mitigation efforts with respect to, or injures any such system resource.

Among others, it shall be an affirmative defense in either type of action that the destruction of, loss of, risk mitigation regarding, or injury to a system resource was caused by an otherwise legal act or omission that occurred outside the boundaries of the resource.

In either type of action, the court may award response costs and damages.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 1, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.
- **Jun 19, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 19, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.