

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 710

To authorize a feasibility study on the preservation of certain Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 1999

Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize a feasibility study on the preservation of certain Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Vicksburg Campaign
5 Trail Battlefields Preservation Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) there are situated along the Vicksburg
9 Campaign Trail in the States of Mississippi, Lou-

1 isiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee the sites of several
 2 key Civil War battles;

3 (2) the battlefields along the Vicksburg Cam-
 4 paign Trail are collectively of national significance in
 5 the history of the Civil War; and

6 (3) the preservation of those battlefields would
 7 vitally contribute to the understanding of the herit-
 8 age of the United States.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
 10 ize a feasibility study to determine what measures should
 11 be taken to preserve certain Civil War battlefields along
 12 the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

13 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) CAMPAIGN TRAIL STATE.—The term “Cam-
 16 paign Trail State” means each of the States of Mis-
 17 sissippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee, in-
 18 cluding political subdivisions of those States.

19 (2) CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Civil War
 21 battlefield” means the land and interests in
 22 land that is the site of a Civil War battlefield,
 23 including structures on or adjacent to the land,
 24 as generally depicted on the Map.

1 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Civil War
2 battlefield” includes—

3 (i) the battlefields at Helena and Ar-
4 kansas Post, Arkansas;

5 (ii) Goodrich’s Landing near Transyl-
6 vania, and sites in and around Lake Provi-
7 dence, East Carroll Parish, Louisiana;

8 (iii) the battlefield at Milliken’s Bend,
9 Madison Parish, Louisiana;

10 (iv) the route of Grant’s march
11 through Louisiana from Milliken’s Bend to
12 Hard Times, Madison and Tensas Par-
13 ishes, Louisiana;

14 (v) the Winter Quarters at Tensas
15 Parish, Louisiana;

16 (vi) Grant’s landing site at
17 Bruinsburg, and the route of Grant’s
18 march from Bruinsburg to Vicksburg, Clai-
19 borne, Hinds, and Warren Counties, Mis-
20 sissippi;

21 (vii) the battlefield at Port Gibson (in-
22 cluding Shaifer House, Bethel Church, and
23 the ruins of Windsor), Claiborne County,
24 Mississippi;

1 (viii) the battlefield at Grand Gulf,
2 Claiborne County, Mississippi;

3 (ix) the battlefield at Raymond (in-
4 cluding Waverly, (the Peyton House)),
5 Hinds County, Mississippi;

6 (x) the battlefield at Jackson, Hinds
7 County, Mississippi;

8 (xi) the Union siege lines around
9 Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi;

10 (xii) the battlefield at Champion Hill
11 (including Coker House), Hinds County,
12 Mississippi;

13 (xiii) the battlefield at Big Black
14 River Bridge, Hinds and Warren Counties,
15 Mississippi;

16 (xiv) the Union fortifications at
17 Haynes Bluff, Confederate fortifications at
18 Snyder's Bluff, and remnants of Federal
19 exterior lines, Warren County, Mississippi;

20 (xv) the battlefield at Chickasaw
21 Bayou, Warren County, Mississippi;

22 (xvi) Pemberton's Headquarters at
23 Warren County, Mississippi;

24 (xvii) the site of actions taken in the
25 Mississippi Delta and Confederate for-

1 tifications near Grenada, Grenada County,
2 Mississippi;

3 (xviii) the site of the start of
4 Greirson's Raid and other related sites,
5 LaGrange, Tennessee; and

6 (xix) any other sites considered appro-
7 priate by the Secretary.

8 (3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
9 titled “Vicksburg Campaign Trail National Battle-
10 fields”, numbered _____, and dated _____.

11 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
13 rector of the National Park Service.

14 **SEC. 4. FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete
17 a feasibility study to determine what measures should be
18 taken to preserve Civil War battlefields along the Vicks-
19 burg Campaign Trail.

20 (b) COMPONENTS.—In completing the study, the Sec-
21 retary shall—

22 (1) enter into contracts with entities to use ad-
23 vanced technology such as remote sensing, river
24 modeling, and flow analysis to determine which
25 property included in the Civil War battlefields

1 should be preserved, restored, managed, maintained,
2 or acquired due to the national historical signifi-
3 cance of the property;

4 (2) evaluate options for the establishment of a
5 management entity for the Civil War battlefields
6 consisting of a unit of government or a private non-
7 profit organization that—

8 (A) administers and manages the Civil
9 War battlefields; and

10 (B) possesses the legal authority to—

11 (i) receive Federal funds and funds
12 from other units of government or other
13 organizations for use in managing the Civil
14 War battlefields;

15 (ii) disburse Federal funds to other
16 units of government or other nonprofit or-
17 ganizations for use in managing the Civil
18 War battlefields;

19 (iii) enter into agreements with the
20 Federal government, State governments, or
21 other units of government and nonprofit
22 organizations; and

23 (iv) acquire land or interests in land
24 by gift or devise, by purchase from a will-

1 ing seller using donated or appropriated
2 funds, or by donation;

3 (3) make recommendations to the Campaign
4 Trail States for the management, preservation, and
5 interpretation of the natural, cultural, and historical
6 resources of the Civil War battlefields;

7 (4) identify appropriate partnerships among
8 Federal, State, and local governments, regional enti-
9 ties, and the private sector, including nonprofit orga-
10 nizations and the organization known as “Friends of
11 the Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail”, in fur-
12 therance of the purposes of this Act; and

13 (5) recommend methods of ensuring continued
14 local involvement and participation in the manage-
15 ment, protection, and development of the Civil War
16 battlefields.

17 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
18 of completion of the study under this section, the Sec-
19 retary shall submit a report describing the findings of the
20 study to—

21 (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
22 sources of the Senate; and

23 (2) the Committee on Resources of the House
24 of Representatives.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
3 \$1,500,000.

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