

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1253

To establish a fund for the National Park Centennial Challenge, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2007

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish a fund for the National Park Centennial Challenge, and for other purposes.

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 “National Park Centen-
5 nial Challenge Fund Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) our national parks are icons of America;

9 (2) the one hundredth anniversary of the Na-
10 tional Park System will be in 2016;

1 (3) it is appropriate for all Americans to help
2 in the efforts to enhance our parks as the country
3 gets ready for this centennial celebration;

4 (4) the President has proposed a National Park
5 Centennial Initiative that, over ten years, will pro-
6 vide up to \$3,000,000,000 to prepare parks for an-
7 other century of conservation, preservation, and en-
8 joyment; and

9 (5) a part of that Initiative is the establishment
10 of a Centennial Challenge to encourage individuals,
11 foundations, and the private sector to donate money
12 each year by providing up to \$100,000,000 in dedi-
13 cated Federal funding to match donations for signa-
14 ture projects and programs.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to estab-
16 lish a fund in the Treasury that will be used to finance
17 signature projects and programs to enhance the National
18 Park System as it approaches its centennial in 2016 and
19 to prepare the parks for another century of conservation,
20 preservation, and enjoyment.

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) CHALLENGE FUND.—The term “Challenge
24 Fund” means the National Park Centennial Chal-
25 lenge Fund.

1 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
2 the Director of the National Park Service.

3 (3) QUALIFIED DONATION.—The term “quali-
4 fied donation” means a cash non-Federal donation
5 to the National Park Service that the Director cer-
6 tifies is for a listed signature project or program.

7 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 Secretary of the Interior.

9 (5) SIGNATURE PROJECT OR PROGRAM.—The
10 term “signature project or program” means any
11 project or program identified by the Director as one
12 that will help prepare the national parks for another
13 century of conservation, preservation, and enjoy-
14 ment.

15 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
17 Treasury a fund to be known as the National Park Cen-
18 tennial Challenge Fund. The Challenge Fund shall consist
19 of:

20 (1) Qualified donations transferred from the
21 Donations to the National Park Service account, in
22 accordance with section 6(a).

23 (2) Amounts appropriated from the general
24 fund of the Treasury, in accordance with section
25 6(b).

1 (b) AVAILABILITY.—All amounts deposited in the
2 Challenge Fund shall be available, subject to restrictions
3 in section 6(c), to the Secretary for signature projects and
4 programs under this Act without further appropriation
5 and without fiscal year limitation. No monies shall be
6 available for indirect administrative costs. The expendi-
7 ture of amounts in the Challenge Fund shall follow Fed-
8 eral procurement and financial laws and standards.

9 **SEC. 5. SIGNATURE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.**

10 (a) LIST.—The Secretary, acting through the Direc-
11 tor, shall develop a list of signature projects and programs
12 eligible for funding from the Challenge Fund. The list
13 shall be submitted to the President and to the Committees
14 on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources in
15 the United States Senate, and to the Committees on Ap-
16 propriations and Natural Resources in the House of Rep-
17 resentatives.

18 (b) SIGNATURE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—For
19 purposes of this Act, a signature project or program shall
20 be a project or program identified by the Director as one
21 that will help prepare the national parks for another cen-
22 tury of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment.

23 (c) UPDATES.—The Secretary, acting through the
24 Director, may, from time to time as the Secretary or Di-
25 rector finds necessary, add any project or program to the

1 list developed pursuant to subsection (a) that the Director
2 believes is a signature project or program. If the Director
3 adds any project or program to the list, the Secretary shall
4 notify the Committees referred to in subsection (a) at the
5 time the project or program is added.

6 **SEC. 6. DONATIONS AND MATCHING FEDERAL FUNDS.**

7 (a) **QUALIFIED DONATIONS.**—Beginning on October
8 1, 2007, and ending on September 30, 2017, the Secretary
9 may transfer to the Challenge Fund qualified donations
10 of cash, including cash to liquidate a letter of credit, re-
11 ceived by the National Park Service.

12 (b) **MATCHING AMOUNT.**—There is hereby appro-
13 priated in each fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2007,
14 and ending on September 30, 2017, an amount equal to
15 the qualified donations received and the pledge of dona-
16 tions through letters of credit in the same fiscal year, not
17 to exceed \$100,000,000 in any one year. In no case may
18 the matching amount exceed the amount of donations re-
19 ceived or pledged in any year. For the purpose of this sub-
20 section, the Secretary may consider a donation for any fis-
21 cal year to be received when a pledge of a donation for
22 that fiscal year is guaranteed and a valid irrevocable letter
23 of credit is issued for such purposes.

24 (c) **OBLIGATIONS.**—The Secretary may not obligate
25 any amounts based on a letter of credit, or amounts to

1 match a letter of credit pursuant to subsection (b), until
2 amounts from that letter of credit are deposited in the
3 Challenge Fund.

4 (d) SOLICITATION.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-
5 strued as expanding any authority that exists on the date
6 of its enactment with respect to the ability of the National
7 Park Service and its employees to receive or solicit for do-
8 nations.

9 **SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

10 The Secretary shall provide with the submission of
11 the President's budget a list of the signature projects and
12 programs and the status of their funding.

13 **SEC. 8. REGULATIONS.**

14 The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as
15 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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