

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 145

To require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 12, 2015

Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CORKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. THUNE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown.

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 Access
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) during the period in October 2013 in which
2 there was a lapse in appropriations (referred to in
3 this section as the “Government shutdown”), the
4 National Park Service entered into agreements with
5 the States of Arizona, Colorado, New York, South
6 Dakota, Tennessee, and Utah to temporarily reopen
7 iconic national treasures in the National Park Sys-
8 tem, such as the Grand Canyon, Mount Rushmore,
9 and the Statue of Liberty;

10 (2) pursuant to the agreements described in
11 paragraph (1), the States listed in paragraph (1) ad-
12 vanced approximately \$2,000,000 to the National
13 Park Service to pay for park operations during the
14 Government shutdown;

15 (3) the units of the National Park System that
16 were temporarily reopened using State funds also
17 collected gate entry fees;

18 (4) the Government shutdown ended when Con-
19 gress passed the Continuing Appropriations Act,
20 2014 (Public Law 113–46), which retroactively
21 funded Federal agencies and Federal employee sala-
22 ries for the period of time during which the Govern-
23 ment was shut down;

24 (5) by virtue of the retroactive appropriation
25 made by Congress, the National Park Service re-

1 tained an unintended shutdown windfall from the
2 States listed in paragraph (1) of approximately
3 \$2,000,000; and

4 (6) the States listed in paragraph (1) that en-
5 tered into agreements described in paragraph (1)
6 with the National Park Service should be fully reim-
7 bursed for advancing funds to maintain public ac-
8 cess to iconic national treasures in the National
9 Park System during the Government shutdown.

10 **SEC. 3. REFUND OF FUNDS USED BY STATES TO OPERATE**
11 **NATIONAL PARKS DURING SHUTDOWN.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
13 Park Service shall refund to each State all funds of the
14 State that were used to reopen and temporarily operate
15 a unit of the National Park System during the period in
16 October 2013 in which there was a lapse in appropriations
17 for the unit.

18 (b) FUNDING.—Funds of the National Park Service
19 that are appropriated after the date of enactment of this
20 Act shall be used to carry out this section.

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