

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2309

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 1998

Referred to the Committee on Resources

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## AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement for the construction and operation of the Gateway Visitor Center at Independence National Historical Park.

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 “Gateway Visitor Center  
5       Authorization Act of 1998”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) in 1997, the National Park Service com-  
4 pleted a general management plan for Independence  
5 National Historical Park that establishes goals and  
6 priorities for the future of the park;

7 (2) the plan calls for the revitalization of Inde-  
8 pendence Mall and recommends as a critical compo-  
9 nent of the revitalization the development of a new  
10 visitor center;

11 (3) such a visitor center would replace the exist-  
12 ing park visitor center and serve as an orientation  
13 center for visitors to the park and to city and re-  
14 gional attractions;

15 (4) after completing of the general management  
16 plan, the National Park Service completed a design  
17 project and master plan for Independence Mall that  
18 includes the Gateway Visitor Center;

19 (5) plans for the Gateway Visitor Center call  
20 for the center to be developed and managed, in co-  
21 operation with the Secretary of the Interior, by a  
22 nonprofit organization that represents the various  
23 public and civic interests of the Philadelphia metro-  
24 politan area; and

25 (6) the Gateway Visitor Center Corporation, a  
26 nonprofit organization, has been established to raise

1 funds for and cooperate in a program to design, de-  
 2 velop, construct, and operate the proposed Gateway  
 3 Visitor Center.

4 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-  
 5 ize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agree-  
 6 ment with the Gateway Visitor Center Corporation to con-  
 7 struct and operate a regional visitor center on Independ-  
 8 ence Mall in cooperation with the Secretary.

9 **SEC. 3. GATEWAY VISITOR CENTER.**

10 The Act of June 28, 1948 (16 U.S.C. 407m et seq.)  
 11 is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 **“SEC. 8. REGIONAL GATEWAY VISITOR CENTER.**

13 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) CENTER.—The term ‘Center’ means the  
 15 Gateway Visitor Center authorized by subsection (b).

16 “(2) CORPORATION.—The term ‘Corporation’  
 17 means Gateway Visitor Center Corporation, a non-  
 18 profit organization.

19 “(b) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior  
 20 may enter into an agreement under appropriate terms and  
 21 conditions with the Corporation to facilitate the construc-  
 22 tion and operation of the Gateway Visitor Center on Inde-  
 23 pendence Mall.

24 “(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The agreement  
 25 under subsection (b) shall—

1 “(1) authorize the Corporation—

2 “(A) to operate the Center in cooperation  
3 with the Secretary and provide at the Center  
4 information, interpretation, facilities, and serv-  
5 ices to visitors of Independence National His-  
6 torical Park, its surrounding historic sites, the  
7 city of Philadelphia, and the region, in order to  
8 assist in the enjoyment of the historic, cultural,  
9 educational, and recreational resources of the  
10 Philadelphia metropolitan area; and

11 “(B) to engage in activities appropriate for  
12 operation of a regional visitor center, which  
13 may include selling food, charging fees, con-  
14 ducting events, and selling merchandise and  
15 tickets to visitors to the Center; and

16 “(2) authorize the Secretary to undertake at  
17 the Center activities relating to the management of  
18 Independence National Historical Park, including  
19 provision of appropriate visitor information and in-  
20 terpretive facilities and programs related to the  
21 park.

22 “(d) REVENUES.—Revenues from the operation  
23 of the Center’s facilities and services shall be used  
24 to pay for expenses of operation.

1           “(e) PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION.—Noth-  
2           ing in this section authorizes the Secretary or the  
3           Corporation to take any action in derogation of the  
4           preservation and protection of the values and re-  
5           sources of Independence National Historical Park.”.

          Passed the Senate October 7 (legislative day, Octo-  
ber 2), 1998.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,  
*Secretary.*