

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2194

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in planning and developing a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7, 2000

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in planning and developing a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine.

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 “Saint Croix Island
5 Heritage Act”.

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

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) Saint Croix Island is located in the Saint
2 Croix River, a river that is the boundary between
3 the State of Maine and Canada;

4 (2) the Island is the only international historic
5 site in the National Park System;

6 (3) in 1604, French nobleman Pierre Dugua
7 Sieur de Mons, accompanied by a courageous group
8 of adventurers that included Samuel Champlain,
9 landed on the Island and began the construction of
10 a settlement;

11 (4) the French settlement on the Island in
12 1604 and 1605—

13 (A) was the initial site of the first perma-
14 nent European settlement in the New World;
15 and

16 (B) set a precedent for early French claims
17 in New France;

18 (5) many people view the expedition that settled
19 on the Island in 1604 as the beginning of the Aca-
20 dian culture in North America;

21 (6) in October, 1998, the National Park Service
22 completed a general management plan to manage
23 and interpret the Saint Croix Island International
24 Historic Site;

1 (7) the plan addresses a variety of management
2 alternatives, and concludes that the best manage-
3 ment strategy entails developing an interpretive trail
4 and ranger station at Red Beach, Maine, and a re-
5 gional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, in
6 cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies;
7 and

8 (8) only 4 years remain before the 400th anni-
9 versary of the settlement at Saint Croix Island, an
10 occasion that should be appropriately commemo-
11 rated.

12 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to direct
13 the Secretary of the Interior to take all necessary and ap-
14 propriate steps to work with Federal, State, and local
15 agencies, historical societies, and nonprofit organizations
16 to facilitate the development of a regional heritage center
17 in downtown Calais, Maine before the 400th anniversary
18 of the settlement of Saint Croix Island.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) ISLAND.—The term “Island” means Saint
22 Croix Island, located in the Saint Croix River, be-
23 tween Canada and the State of Maine.

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
3 rector of the National Park Service.

4 **SEC. 4. SAINT CROIX ISLAND REGIONAL HERITAGE CEN-**
5 **TER.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide as-
7 sistance in planning and developing (including leasing) a
8 regional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, to fa-
9 cilitate the management and interpretation of the Saint
10 Croix Island International Historic Site.

11 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out sub-
12 section (a), the Secretary may enter into cooperative
13 agreements with State and local agencies and nonprofit
14 organizations—

15 (1) to provide exhibits, interpretive services (in-
16 cluding employing individuals to provide such serv-
17 ices), and technical assistance;

18 (2) to conduct activities that facilitate the dis-
19 semination of information relating to the Saint Croix
20 Island International Historic Site; and

21 (3) to lease space in the regional heritage cen-
22 ter.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$2,500,000.

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