

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 762

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 18, 1999

Referred to the Committee on Resources

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance of the Miami Circle site in the State of Florida as well as the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of Biscayne National Park, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) the Tequesta Indians were one of the ear-
4 liest groups to establish permanent villages in south-
5 east Florida;

6 (2) the Tequestas had one of only two North
7 American civilizations that thrived and developed
8 into a complex social chiefdom without an agricul-
9 tural base;

10 (3) the Tequesta sites that remain preserved
11 today are rare;

12 (4) the discovery of the Miami Circle, occupied
13 by the Tequesta approximately 2,000 years ago, pre-
14 sents a valuable new opportunity to learn more
15 about the Tequesta culture; and

16 (5) Biscayne National Park also contains and
17 protects several prehistoric Tequesta sites.

18 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to direct
19 the Secretary to conduct a special resource study to deter-
20 mine the national significance of the Miami Circle site as
21 well as the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the
22 National Park System as part of Biscayne National Park.

23 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

25 (1) MIAMI CIRCLE.—The term “Miami Circle”
26 means the property in Miami-Dade County of the

1 State of Florida consisting of the three parcels de-
 2 scribed in Exhibit A in the appendix to the summons
 3 to show cause and notice of eminent domain pro-
 4 ceedings, filed February 18, 1999, in Miami-Dade
 5 County v. Brickell Point, Ltd., in the circuit court
 6 of the 11th judicial circuit of Florida in and for
 7 Miami-Dade County.

8 (2) PARK.—The term “Park” means Biscayne
 9 National Park in the State of Florida.

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

13 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
 15 date funds are made available, the Secretary shall conduct
 16 a special resource study as described in subsection (b). In
 17 conducting the study, the Secretary shall consult with the
 18 appropriate American Indian tribes and other interested
 19 groups and organizations.

20 (b) COMPONENTS.—In addition to a determination of
 21 national significance, feasibility, and suitability, the spe-
 22 cial resource study shall include the analysis and rec-
 23 ommendations of the Secretary with respect to—

1 (1) which, if any, particular areas of or sur-
2 rounding the Miami Circle should be included in the
3 Park;

4 (2) whether any additional staff, facilities, or
5 other resources would be necessary to administer the
6 Miami Circle as a unit of the Park; and

7 (3) any impact on the local area that would re-
8 sult from the inclusion of Miami Circle in the Park.

9 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after comple-
10 tion of the study, the Secretary shall submit a report de-
11 scribing the findings and recommendations of the study
12 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
13 the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United
14 States House of Representatives.

15 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
17 essary to carry out this Act.

Passed the Senate October 14, 1999.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.