

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4736

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Coltsville in the State of Connecticut for potential inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Coltsville in the State of Connecticut for potential inclusion in the National Park System, 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 “Coltsville Study Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Hartford, Connecticut, home to Colt Manu-
8 facturing Company (referred to in this Act as

1 “Colt”), played a major role in the Industrial Revo-
2 lution.

3 (2) Samuel Colt, founder of Colt, and his wife,
4 Elizabeth Colt, inspired Coltsville, a community in
5 the State of Connecticut that flourished during the
6 Industrial Revolution and included Victorian man-
7 sions, an open green area, botanical gardens, and a
8 deer park.

9 (3) The residence of Samuel and Elizabeth Colt
10 in Hartford, Connecticut, known as “Armsmear”, is
11 a national historic landmark, and the distinctive Colt
12 factory is a prominent feature of the Hartford, Con-
13 necticut, skyline.

14 (4) The Colt legacy is not only about firearms,
15 but also about industrial innovation and the develop-
16 ment of technology that would change the way of life
17 in the United States. Samuel Colt worked with Sam-
18 uel Morse in the development of the telegraph. Colt
19 contributed to the development of technology in
20 many ways, including as a training ground for jet
21 engine pioneers Francis Pratt and Amos Whitney,
22 who served as apprentices at Colt.

23 (5) The influence of Colt extended beyond the
24 United States when Samuel Colt was the first resi-

1 dent of the United States to open a manufacturing
2 plant overseas.

3 (6) Coltsville set the standard for excellence
4 during the Industrial Revolution and continues to
5 prove significant—

6 (A) as a place in which people of the
7 United States can learn about that important
8 period in history; and

9 (B) by reason of the close proximity of
10 Coltsville to the Mark Twain House, Trinity
11 College, Old North Cemetery, and many historic
12 homesteads and architecturally renowned build-
13 ings.

14 (7) In 1998, the National Park Service con-
15 ducted a special resource reconnaissance study of
16 the Connecticut River Valley to evaluate the signifi-
17 cance of precision manufacturing sites.

18 (8) The report on the study stated that—

19 (A) no other region of the United States
20 contains an equal concentration of resources re-
21 lating to the precision manufacturing theme
22 that began with firearms production;

23 (B) properties relating to precision manu-
24 facturing encompass more than merely fac-
25 tories; and

1 (C) further study, which should be under-
2 taken, may recommend inclusion of churches
3 and other social institutions.

4 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
6 date on which funds are made available to carry out this
7 Act, the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act
8 as the “Secretary”) shall complete a study of the site in
9 the State of Connecticut commonly known as “Coltsville”
10 to evaluate—

11 (1) the national significance of the site and sur-
12 rounding area;

13 (2) the suitability and feasibility of designating
14 the site and surrounding area as a unit of the Na-
15 tional Park System; and

16 (3) the importance of the site with respect to its
17 role in the history of precision manufacturing.

18 (b) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under
19 subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Pub-
20 lic Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–1 et seq.).

21 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

22 Not later than 30 days after the date on which the
23 study under section 3(a) is completed, the Secretary shall
24 submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of

1 Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Nat-
2 ural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—
3 (1) the findings of the study; and
4 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
5 Secretary regarding those findings.

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