

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 437

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 29, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. SHAYS) 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.

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 of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) Hartford, Connecticut, home to Colt Manu-
9 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, including—

18 (A) the development of telegraph tech-
19 nology; and

20 (B) advancements in jet engine technology
21 by Francis Pratt and Amos Whitney, who
22 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—

4 (A) set the standard for excellence during
5 the Industrial Revolution; and

6 (B) continues to prove significant—

7 (i) as a place in which people of the
8 United States can learn about that impor-
9 tant period in history; and

10 (ii) by reason of the close proximity of
11 Coltsville to the Mark Twain House, Trin-
12 ity College, Old North Cemetery, and
13 many historic homesteads and
14 architecturally renowned buildings;

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

19 (8) the report on the study stated that—

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

1 (B) properties relating to precision manu-
2 facturing encompass more than merely fac-
3 tories; and

4 (C) further study, which should be under-
5 taken, may recommend inclusion of churches
6 and other social institutions.

7 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

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

14 (1) the national significance of the site and sur-
15 rounding area;

16 (2) the suitability and feasibility of designating
17 the site and surrounding area as a unit of the Na-
18 tional Park System; and

19 (3) the importance of the site to the history of
20 precision manufacturing.

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

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

2 Not later than 30 days after the date on which the
3 study under section 3(a) is completed, the Secretary shall
4 submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of
5 Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Nat-
6 ural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

7 (1) the findings of the study; and

8 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
9 Secretary.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
12 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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