

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4033

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a long-term ground lease for the operation and maintenance of Rock Creek, Langston, and East Potomac as golf courses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2007

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a long-term ground lease for the operation and maintenance of Rock Creek, Langston, and East Potomac as golf courses, 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 “Golf Course Preserva-
5 tion and Modernization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Langston Golf Course, Rock Creek Golf
2 Course, and East Potomac Golf Course are owned
3 by the United States and are under the administra-
4 tive jurisdiction of the National Park Service, and
5 each golf course has a long history of service to the
6 general public as an integral part of the nation's
7 capital, including services to local and regional resi-
8 dents, visitors, and tourists.

9 (2) East Potomac Golf Course was opened in
10 1920 with three courses to accommodate all levels of
11 play, including an 18-hole tournament level course
12 and two 9-hole practice courses, and was initially
13 segregated, with African-Americans only permitted
14 to play on Mondays.

15 (3) Rock Creek Golf Course opened in 1923 as
16 a 9-hole course, and in 1925 the course was com-
17 pleted as an 18-hole tournament level course. This
18 course was located in Rock Creek Park, a major
19 recreation and picnic facility for residents.

20 (4) Langston Golf Course opened in 1939 as a
21 segregated golf facility for African-Americans, is list-
22 ed in the National Register of Historic Places, and
23 has been the home course of both the Royal Golf
24 Club and the Wake Robin Golf Club, the nation's
25 first clubs for African-American men and women, re-

1 spectively. The golf course was named for John Mer-
2 cer Langston, the first African-American Congress-
3 man from Virginia, elected in 1888.

4 (5) Unlike other National Park Service facili-
5 ties, golf courses require unique capital investments
6 to keep them maintained and operational.

7 (6) The National Park Service has continuously
8 struggled to manage and maintain each of these
9 three courses.

10 (7) Concession restrictions do not generate suf-
11 ficient revenue for the National Park Service or con-
12 cessionaires to provide affordable recreation while
13 properly maintaining and making the capital invest-
14 ments required for golf courses today.

15 (8) Each of the three courses contains valuable
16 historic components that must be maintained.

17 (9) Concessions restrictions will continue to
18 cause deterioration, disrepair, and limited public use,
19 reducing the quality of play and jeopardizing the
20 historic preservation of the courses.

21 (10) These courses together constitute an un-
22 dervalued and underused asset that can be main-
23 tained and modernized as affordable facilities for use
24 by the general public if an appropriate lease ar-
25 rangement is used that encourages private invest-

1 ment in keeping with the existing Federal proce-
2 dures.

3 (11) The National Park Service recently issued
4 a request for bids for continued concession operation
5 of the Langston and Rock Creek Golf Courses under
6 one concession contract for seven years; however, the
7 capital improvement necessary to maintain and mod-
8 ernize the courses and to prevent their deterioration
9 is not possible using a traditional concession con-
10 tract.

11 (12) A long-term lease for the three courses to-
12 gether, designed outside of the constraints of conces-
13 sion law, will encourage private investment in these
14 courses, improve and modernize the courses, ensure
15 affordable play, and preserve the historic nature of
16 them.

17 **SEC. 3. MANAGEMENT OF GOLF COURSES.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section,
19 the following apply:

20 (1) ROCK CREEK.—The term “Rock Creek”
21 means the federally owned golf course and related
22 facilities located at 16th and Rittenhouse NW,
23 Washington, DC 20011, within the boundaries of
24 16th Street, NW to the East; Military Road, NW to

1 the South; Beach Drive NW to the West; and
2 Sherrill Drive, NW to the North.

3 (2) LANGSTON.—The term “Langston” means
4 the federally owned golf course and related facilities
5 located at 26th and Benning Road NE, Washington,
6 DC 20002, within the boundaries of Anacostia River
7 to the East; Hickory Hill Road to the Northeast;
8 Valley Road NE to the Northeast; Azalea Road NE
9 to the North; Ellipse Road NE to the West; M
10 Street NE to the North; Marlyand Avenue NE to
11 the Northwest; 22nd Street NE to the West; 26th
12 Street to the West; and Benning Road NE to the
13 South.

14 (3) EAST POTOMAC.—The term “East Poto-
15 mac” means the federally owned golf course and re-
16 lated facilities located at 972 Ohio Drive SW, Wash-
17 ington DC 20024, within the boundaries of Ohio
18 Drive to the East, South, and West; and Buckeye
19 Drive SW to the North.

20 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
22 rector of the National Park Service.

23 (b) CONTINUED LEASES.—The Secretary shall en-
24 sure, to the extent practicable, that month-to-month con-
25 cessions contracts are continued for the operation and

1 maintenance of Rock Creek and Langston until the lease
2 in force on the date of the enactment of this Act for East
3 Potomac expires, at which time the lease referred to in
4 subsection (c) shall commence.

5 (c) LEASE.—The lease referred to in subsection (d)
6 is a lease for the continued operation and maintenance
7 of Rock Creek, Langston, and East Potomac as golf
8 courses. A lease entered into under this section shall in-
9 clude the 3 golf courses in one lease agreement and re-
10 quire that the golf courses be operated and maintained
11 in a manner that—

12 (1) retains the historic nature of the courses;

13 (2) at least 2 of the 3 courses require fees re-
14 lated to use of the golf courses to be affordable in
15 light of the current fee system used today at the
16 courses;

17 (3) may allow fees collected at one golf course
18 to subsidize the maintenance and operation of one or
19 more of the other golf courses; and

20 (4) allows for a long-term ground lease on the
21 3 courses.

22 (d) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—The Secretary
23 shall solicit proposals, through a competitive process, to
24 procure the lease described in subsection (b) and may,
25 after such solicitation, enter into agreements to procure

1 the lease. The Secretary shall solicit the request for pro-
2 posals under this subsection in such a manner—

3 (1) to provide that the lease described in sub-
4 section (c) shall be entered into not later than 180
5 days after the effective date of this Act or not later
6 than 30 days after the expiration of the concession
7 contract for East Potomac; and

8 (2) which ensures, to the greatest extent prac-
9 ticable, the participation of disadvantaged business
10 enterprises among the equity partners of the spon-
11 sors of the proposals.

12 (e) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LAWS.—The Na-
13 tional Park Service Concessions Management Improve-
14 ment Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 5951 et seq.) shall not apply
15 to requests for proposals submitted and leases and agree-
16 ments entered into under this Act.

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