

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2838

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2009

Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. CLAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## 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. GOLF COURSE PRESERVATION AND MOD-**  
4       **ERNIZATION.**

5       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6               (1) Langston Golf Course, Rock Creek Golf  
7       Course, and East Potomac Golf Course are owned  
8       by the United States and are under the administra-

1        tive jurisdiction of the National Park Service, and  
2        each golf course has a long history of service to the  
3        general public as an integral part of the Nation's  
4        capital, including services to local and regional resi-  
5        dents, visitors, and tourists.

6            (2) Golf courses differ considerably from other  
7        lands administered by the National Park Service be-  
8        cause they require a significant and continuing in-  
9        vestment that cannot be required of a conces-  
10       sionaire.

11           (3) East Potomac Golf Course opened in 1920  
12        with three courses to accommodate all levels of play,  
13        including an 18-hole tournament-level course and  
14        two 9-hole practice courses, and was initially seg-  
15        regated, with African-Americans allowed to play on  
16        Mondays.

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

22           (5) Langston Golf Course opened in 1939 as a  
23        golf facility for African-Americans and has been the  
24        home course of both the Royal Golf Club and the  
25        Wake Robin Golf Club, the Nation's first golf clubs

1 for African-American men and women, respectively.  
2 The golf course was named for John Mercer  
3 Langston, the first African-American Congressman  
4 from Virginia, elected in 1888.

5 (6) Each of the three courses contains valuable  
6 historic components that must be maintained.

7 (7) Langston Golf Course is listed on the Na-  
8 tional Register of Historic Places.

9 (8) Langston Golf Course is believed to be the  
10 first regulation course built in the United States al-  
11 most entirely on a refuse landfill.

12 (9) The first American-born golf professional of  
13 African-American ancestry was John Shippen, who  
14 was born in 1879 in the Anacostia area of Wash-  
15 ington, DC, placed fifth in the second United States  
16 Open golf tournament in 1896 at 16 years of age,  
17 and helped found the Capitol City Golf Club in  
18 1925.

19 (10) The Capitol City Open golf tournament  
20 has made Langston Golf Course its home for the  
21 past 40 years.

22 (11) The Capitol City Golf Club, renamed the  
23 Royal Golf Club and Wake Robin Women's Club,  
24 has historically promoted a safe golf facility for Afri-  
25 can-Americans in Washington, DC, during an era of

1 few available facilities, and these two clubs remain  
2 the oldest African-American golf clubs in the United  
3 States.

4 (12) The Langston facility provides important  
5 recreational outlets, instructional forums, and a  
6 “safe haven center” for the enhancement of the lives  
7 of inner city youth and other residents in Wash-  
8 ington, DC.

9 (13) The Langston, Rock Creek, and East Po-  
10 tomac golf courses provide a home for the Nation’s  
11 important minority youth “First Tee” golf instruc-  
12 tion and recreational program in Washington, DC.

13 (14) The Langston, Rock Creek, and East Po-  
14 tomac golf courses have traditionally provided addi-  
15 tional quality of life value to Washington, DC, and  
16 regional residents and visitors and the golf courses  
17 will reach their considerable potential once upgraded  
18 to meet their athletic and historical promise.

19 (b) MANAGEMENT OF GOLF COURSES.—

20 (1) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this  
21 section, the following apply:

22 (A) ROCK CREEK.—The term “Rock  
23 Creek” means the federally owned golf course  
24 and related facilities located at 16th and Rit-  
25 tenhouse NW, Washington, DC 20011, within

1 the boundaries of 16th Street NW to the East;  
2 Military Road NW to the South; Beach Drive  
3 NW to the West; and Sherrill Drive NW to the  
4 North.

5 (B) LANGSTON.—The term “Langston”  
6 means the federally owned golf course and re-  
7 lated facilities located at 26th and Benning  
8 Road NE, Washington, DC 20002, within the  
9 boundaries of Anacostia River to the East;  
10 Hickory Hill Road to the Northeast; Valley  
11 Road NE to the Northeast; Azalea Road NE to  
12 the North; Ellipse Road NE to the West; M  
13 Street NE to the North; Maryland Avenue NE  
14 to the Northwest; 22nd Street NE to the West;  
15 26th Street to the West; and Benning Road NE  
16 to the South.

17 (C) EAST POTOMAC.—The term “East Po-  
18 tomac” means the federally owned golf course  
19 and related facilities located at 972 Ohio Drive  
20 SW, Washington DC 20024, within the bound-  
21 aries of Ohio Drive to the East, South, and  
22 West; and Buckeye Drive SW to the North.

23 (D) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
24 means the Secretary of the Interior, acting

1 through the Director of the National Park  
2 Service.

3 (c) LEASE EXPIRATION DATES.—The Secretary shall  
4 ensure, that upon the expiration of the lease currently in  
5 force for East Potomac, that any new lease for East Poto-  
6 mac shall be set to expire on the same date as the lease  
7 currently in force for Langston and Rock Creek and upon  
8 the expiration of Langston, Rock Creek, and the new lease  
9 for East Potomac, the lease referred to in subsection (d)  
10 shall commence.

11 (d) LEASE.—The lease referred to in subsection (e)  
12 is a lease for the continued operation and maintenance  
13 of Rock Creek, Langston, and East Potomac as golf  
14 courses. A lease entered into under this section shall in-  
15 clude the 3 golf courses in one lease agreement and re-  
16 quire that the golf courses be operated and maintained  
17 in a manner that—

18 (1) retains the historic nature of the courses in-  
19 cluding an appropriate commemoration of the  
20 Langston Golf Course's historic place in African-  
21 American golf history;

22 (2) at least 2 of the 3 courses maintain fees re-  
23 lated to use of the golf courses to be affordable in  
24 light of the current fee system used today at the  
25 courses;

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

4           (4) allows for a long-term ground lease on the  
5           3 courses.

6           (e) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—The Secretary  
7           shall solicit proposals, through a competitive process, to  
8           procure the lease described in subsection (d) and may,  
9           after such solicitation, enter into agreements to procure  
10          the lease. The Secretary shall solicit the request for pro-  
11          posals under this subsection in such a manner which en-  
12          sures, to the greatest extent practicable, the participation  
13          of disadvantaged business enterprises among the equity  
14          partners of the sponsors of the proposals.

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

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