

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3894

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Pullman Historic Site in Chicago, Illinois, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2012

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Pullman Historic Site in Chicago, Illinois, 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 “Pullman Historic Site
5 National Park Service Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The Historic Pullman District, built be-
9 tween the years of 1880 and 1884, was established
10 by George M. Pullman, owner of the Pullman Palace

1 Car Company. Pullman envisioned an industrial
2 town that provided employees with a model commu-
3 nity and suitable living conditions for workers and
4 their families. The town, which consisted of over
5 1,000 buildings and homes, was awarded “The
6 World’s Most Perfect Town” at the International
7 Hygienic and Pharmaceutical Exposition in 1896.

8 (2) The Pullman factory site is a true symbol
9 of the historic American struggle to achieve fair
10 labor practices for the working class, with the origi-
11 nal factory serving as the catalyst for the first in-
12 dustry-wide strike in the United States. In the midst
13 of economic depression in 1894, factory workers
14 there initiated a strike to protest unsafe labor and
15 reductions in pay that when taken up as a cause by
16 the American Railway Union (ARU) crippled the en-
17 tire rail industry. The Pullman conceived strike con-
18 tinued even in the face of a federal injunction and
19 Federal troops were sent to Chicago by President
20 Grover Cleveland to end the strike. Efforts made by
21 the Pullman workers set a national example for the
22 ability of working Americans to change the existing
23 system in favor of more just practices.

24 (3) The Pullman Car Company plays an impor-
25 tant role in both American, African American and

1 early Civil Rights History through the legacy of the
2 Pullman Porters, all black and many ex-slaves re-
3 ceiving paid work in a heavily discriminatory envi-
4 ronment immediately following the Civil War. These
5 men, who served diligently between the 1870s and
6 the 1960s, have been commended for their level of
7 service and attention to detail, as well as their con-
8 tributions to the development of the black middle
9 class. The information, ideas, and commerce they
10 carried across the country helped to bring education
11 and wealth to the black community, and their role
12 in the historical image of the Pullman car is unmis-
13 takable. The struggles of A. Philip Randolph and
14 the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first
15 black union established in 1925, against discrimina-
16 tion and in support of just labor practices, helped
17 lay the groundwork for the beginnings of the Civil
18 Rights Movement.

19 (4) The preservation of Pullman has been
20 threatened by plans for demolition in 1960 and by
21 a fire in 1998, which damaged the iconic clock-tower
22 and surrounding manufacturing buildings. The res-
23 toration and preservation led by the diligent efforts
24 of community organizations, foundations, non-prof-

1 its, residents and the local and state government,
2 were vital to the protection of the site.

3 (5) Due to the Pullman's historic and architec-
4 tural significance, the site is designated as—

5 (A) a registered National Historic Land-
6 mark District;

7 (B) an Illinois State Landmark; and

8 (C) a City of Chicago Landmark district.

9 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**

10 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall con-
11 duct a special resource study of the historic Pullman site
12 in Chicago, Illinois.

13 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under sub-
14 section (a), the Secretary shall—

15 (1) evaluate the national significance of the
16 site;

17 (2) determine the suitability and feasibility of
18 designating the site as a unit of the National Park
19 System;

20 (3) consider other alternatives for preservation,
21 protection, and interpretation of the site by Federal,
22 State, or local governmental entities, or private and
23 nonprofit organizations;

1 (4) consult with interested Federal, State, or
2 local governmental entities, private and nonprofit or-
3 ganizations, or any other interested individuals;

4 (5) consider the appropriate management op-
5 tions needed to ensure the protection, preservation,
6 and interpretation of the site; and

7 (6) identify cost estimates for any Federal ac-
8 quisition, development, interpretation, operation, and
9 maintenance associated with the alternatives.

10 (c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under
11 subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with sec-
12 tion 8 of National Park Service General Authorities Act
13 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

14 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
15 on which funds are first made available for the study
16 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the
17 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
19 Resources of the Senate a report containing the results
20 of the study and any conclusions and recommendations of
21 the Secretary.

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