

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3222

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the 1657 signing of the Flushing Remonstrance in Queens, New York, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Flushing Remon-
3 strance Study Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Dutch involvement in North America start-
7 ed with Henry Hudson’s 1609 voyage on the ship,
8 Half Moon, employed by the Dutch East India Com-
9 pany.

10 (2) After 1640, New Netherland gradually
11 began to transform from a chain of trading posts
12 into a settlement colony.

13 (3) As Dutch and English settlers moved closer
14 to one another, they began to assimilate in what
15 would later become Queens County.

16 (4) The Dutch and English settlements had not
17 been without conflict. Although the Dutch Republic
18 was well known for its toleration of other faiths, Di-
19 rector General Peter Stuyvesant and his council
20 thought that liberty of worship should not be grant-
21 ed to Quakers.

22 (5) When Quakers began to arrive in Flushing,
23 the colonial government issued an ordinance that
24 formally banned the practice of all religions outside
25 of the Dutch Reformed Church.

1 (6) On December 27, 1657, 30 Flushing resi-
2 dents signed what was later called the Flushing Re-
3 monstrance, objecting to this order. None of the
4 remonstrance’s authors were Quakers.

5 (7) Dutch colonial authorities proceeded to ar-
6 rest the signers of the Flushing Remonstrance. In
7 1662, John Bowne defied the ban and allowed
8 Quakers to hold services in his house. Bowne was
9 fined and banished to the Dutch Republic for show-
10 ing contempt for secular authority.

11 (8) Bowne was later exonerated after appealing
12 to the guarantees of religious liberty before the
13 Dutch West India Company and returned to Flush-
14 ing in 1664. The colony later fell to British control
15 on September 24, 1664.

16 (9) The Flushing Remonstrance is now consid-
17 ered by many to be instrumental in the development
18 of religious liberty in the United States and a pre-
19 cursor to the First Amendment to the United States
20 Constitution.

21 (10) In 1957, the United States Postal Service
22 released a 3-cent postage stamp commemorating the
23 300th Anniversary of the signing of the Flushing
24 Remonstrance which read, “Religious Freedom in
25 America”.

1 (11) Queens remained rural and agricultural
2 through the 18th and 19th Centuries. Although its
3 Dutch identity diminished, the tolerance of diversity
4 that has harbored Quakers and other religious sects
5 in the Dutch Colonial period continues to this day.
6 Queens is the most ethnically diverse urban area in
7 the world, with a population of over 2,200,000 rep-
8 resenting over 100 different nations and speaking
9 over 138 different languages.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

11 As used in this Act:

12 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of the Interior.

14 (2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
15 means the John Bowne House located at 3701
16 Bowne Street, Queens, New York, the Friends Meet-
17 ing House located at 137–17 Northern Boulevard,
18 Queens, New York, and other resources in the vicin-
19 ity of Flushing related to the history of religious
20 freedom during the era of the signing of the Flush-
21 ing Remonstrance.

22 **SEC. 4. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**

23 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special
24 resource study of the study area.

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

3 (1) evaluate the national significance of the
4 study area’s resources based on their relationship to
5 the history of religious freedom associated with the
6 signing of the Flushing Remonstrance;

7 (2) determine the suitability and feasibility of
8 designating resources within the study area as a unit
9 of the National Park System;

10 (3) consider other alternatives for preservation,
11 protection, and interpretation of the study area by
12 Federal, State, or local governmental entities, or pri-
13 vate and nonprofit organizations;

14 (4) identify properties related to the John
15 Bowne House that could potentially meet criteria for
16 designation as a National Historic Landmark;

17 (5) consult with interested Federal, State, or
18 local governmental entities, private and nonprofit or-
19 ganizations, or any other interested individuals;

20 (6) evaluate the impact of the proposed action
21 on the flow of commerce and commercial activity,
22 job opportunities, and any adverse economic effects
23 that could not be avoided if the proposal is imple-
24 mented;

1 (7) identify cost estimates for any Federal ac-
2 quisition, development, interpretation, operation, and
3 maintenance associated with the alternatives;

4 (8) analyze the effect of the designation of the
5 study area as a unit of the National Park System
6 on—

7 (A) existing recreational activities, and on
8 the authorization, construction, operation,
9 maintenance, or improvement of energy produc-
10 tion and transmission infrastructure; and

11 (B) the authority of State and local gov-
12 ernments to manage those activities; and

13 (9) identify any authorities, including con-
14 demnation, that will compel or permit the Secretary
15 to influence or participate in local land use decisions
16 (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal
17 lands if the study area is designated a unit of the
18 National Park System.

19 (c) NOTIFICATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWN-
20 ERS.—Upon the commencement of the study, owners of
21 private property in or adjacent to the study area shall be
22 notified of the study’s commencement and scope.

23 (d) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under
24 subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with sec-

1 tion 8(c)) of the National Park System General Authori-
2 ties Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(e)).

3 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
4 on which funds are first made available for the study
5 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the
6 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
8 Resources of the Senate a report containing the results
9 of the study and any conclusions and recommendations of
10 the Secretary.

Passed the House of Representatives September 15,
2014.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.