

Calendar No. 554

109TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
109-311

MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY STUDY

JULY 31, 2006.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 394]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the Act (H.R. 394) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a boundary study to evaluate the significance of the Colonel James Barrett Farm in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of the Minute Man National Historical Park, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the Act do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of H.R. 394 is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of including the Colonel James Barrett Farm as part of Minute Man National Historical Park, Massachusetts.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

On April 18 and 19, 1775, British troops marched from Cambridge, Massachusetts to the farm of colonial militia leader Colonel James Barrett in Concord in an effort to confiscate stolen brass cannons and arrest the American rebellion's leaders. In the weeks before the British patrol, Barrett's farm had been home to the cannons, munitions, and other arms, but the militia had received advanced warning of the British army's plan, and had hidden the arms in the fields and surrounding countryside.

At Concord, the militia forces, led in part by Colonel Barrett, engaged the British at the town's Old North Bridge and routed them. The British retreated and colonial militias harried them all the way back to Boston. The day's activities, which became known as the Battle of Lexington and Concord, marked the beginning of the war between Britain and the American colonies and the start of the colonial siege of Boston.

Minute Man National Historic Park, established by Congress on September 21, 1959, protects many of the locations associated with the Battle of Lexington and Concord, but not Colonel Barrett's farm. H.R. 394 would study the suitability and feasibility of protecting this 300-year-old homestead by incorporating it into Minute Man National Historic Park.

Save Our Heritage, Inc., a non-profit organization located in Concord, Massachusetts, purchased 3.5 acres of land surrounding the historic Barrett farmhouse in 2003 and the farmhouse itself in 2005. The organization supports H.R. 394 and is willing to transfer ownership of the property and farm to the National Park Service.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

H.R. 394 was introduced by Representative Meehan on January 26, 2005 and passed by the House of Representatives, on a voice vote, on November 16, 2005.

An identical bill, S. 2034, was introduced by Senators Kennedy and Kerry on November 17, 2005. The Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on both S. 2034 and H.R. 394 on April 6, 2006. At the business meeting on May 24, 2006, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered H.R. 394 favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on May 24, 2006, by a unanimous voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass H.R. 394.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1(a) defines the terms "Barrett's Farm" and "Secretary", as used in this Act.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary of the Interior, not later than two years after funds are made available, to study the suitability and feasibility of adding Colonel James Barrett Farm to Minute Man National Historic Park.

Subsection (c) describes the required contents of the study.

Subsection (d) requires the Secretary to report study findings to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Resources.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of the cost of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 394—An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a boundary study to evaluate the significance of the Colonel James Barrett Farm in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of the Minute Man National Historical Park, and for other purposes

H.R. 394 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to study, within two years, the suitability and feasibility of adding the Colonel James Barrett Farm to the Minute Man National Historical Park in Massachusetts. The proposed study would consider the significance of the farm during the Revolutionary War, opportunities for public enjoyment, and other operational and management issues.

Based on information from the National Park Service, CBO estimates that completing the proposed study would cost less than \$100,000 over the 2006–2007 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 394 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 394 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

On May 24, 2005, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 394, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 18, 2005. The House and Senate versions of this legislation are identical, as are the two cost estimates.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 394. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of H.R. 394, as ordered reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The views of the Administration on H.R. 394 were included in testimony received by the Committee at a hearing on the bill on April 6, 2006. This testimony follows:

STATEMENT OF SUE MASICA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2034 and H.R. 394, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to evaluate the significance of the Colonel James Barrett Farm in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to assess the suit-

ability and feasibility of including the farm in the National Park System as part of the Minute Man National Historical Park, and for other purposes. The Department supports the enactment of this bill.

If enacted, the bill would direct the Secretary to conduct a boundary study to evaluate the significance of Barrett's Farm, and to assess the suitability and feasibility of including the Farm as part of the Minute Man National Historical Park, a unit of the National Park System. The study, which is to be completed within two years after funds are made available for it, is to include an analysis of Barrett's Farm's significance with respect to the Revolutionary War. It must also analyze opportunities for public enjoyment of the property as part of Minute Man National Historical Park, and any operational, management, and private property issues that must be considered if the farm is added to the park. In addition, the study must include a determination by the Secretary of the feasibility of administering the farm as part of the Minute Man National Historical Park, taking into account its size, configuration, costs and any other appropriate factors, as well as an evaluation of other alternatives for management and resource protection of the property.

The Colonel James Barrett Farm is located at 448 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, Massachusetts, two miles from the town center and from Minute Man National Historical Park. The Barrett House was the home of Colonel James Barrett (1710–1779), commander of Middlesex County militia and one of the leading figures in the events that began the American Revolution in April, 1775. The property comprises six acres and includes land that has been farmed continuously since the 18th century as well as the historic 1705 farm house. Much of the surrounding acreage is owned by the Town of Concord and managed as agricultural conservation land.

The proposed study area of six acres is coterminous with the property listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes abutting properties that once were part of the original farm. In addition, the National Park Service recommends that approximately 40 acres of the town-owned lands which directly abut the farm (and which were once part of the original farm) also be included in the study area. Inclusion of these lands in the study area would allow the NPS to explore the options for increased collaboration with the town and for ways to support long-term management should Barrett's Farm be acquired and managed by the National Park Service in the future. The Town of Concord has expressed its support for inclusion of these resources in the study.

Colonel Barrett's Farm was a major hiding place for the colonists' stores of arms and ammunition. It was the farthest point that was targeted by the British expeditionary force sent from Boston to seize these weapons. The British troops headed there on April 19, 1775 but found nothing, the residents having been alerted by Paul Revere several

days earlier, in time to hide muskets, cannons and powder in the nearby fields. On that same day, Colonel Barrett ordered the advance to Concord's North Bridge that resulted in "the shot heard 'round the world" and the start of the Revolutionary War.

Minute Man National Historical Park encompasses 971 acres and includes the North Bridge, Lexington Green and the Battle Road trail, where the British both advanced and retreated. Including Barrett's Farm within the boundaries of Minute Man National Historical Park appears to offer many opportunities for resource preservation and interpretation. Barrett's Farm was the impetus for the British excursion to Concord on April 18, 1775 and the vigorous work of Colonel Barrett and his militia was the key reason for the British retreat following the encounter at the North Bridge.

The farm was considered for inclusion when Minute Man National Historical Park was established in 1959, but was at that time in private ownership and not available for acquisition. It has since been purchased by Save Our Heritage, a local nonprofit organization, which seeks to preserve it. The group has been working closely with the Town of Concord and has raised \$2 million to acquire and stabilize the property.

We believe that this study would allow the Secretary to explore further the feasibility of adding this important historical property to the National Park System.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to comment. This concludes my prepared remarks and I will be happy to answer any questions you or other committee members might have.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the Act H.R. 394, as ordered reported.

