

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6866

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Newtown Battlefield located in Chemung County, New York, and the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Parks System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Newtown Battlefield located in Chemung County, New York, and the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Parks System, 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. 1779 BATTLE OF NEWTOWN STUDY.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) In 1973 the Battle of Newtown was recog-
6 nized by the Federal Government as a significant
7 historic resource by the establishment of the New-

1 town Battlefield National Historic Landmark, con-
2 sisting of approximately 2,100 acres in the towns of
3 Ashland, Chemung, and Elmira in the County of
4 Chemung, New York.

5 (2) The Sullivan Campaign of 1779 was a sig-
6 nificant event in the history of American Revolu-
7 tionary War.

8 (3) The Battle of Newtown, held August 29,
9 1779, was the most significant military engagement
10 of the Sullivan Campaign.

11 (4) The National Park Service's 2005 Report
12 on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War
13 and War of 1812 Sites in the United States cat-
14 egorized Newtown Battlefield as a Class A site.

15 (5) The designation of Newtown Battlefield as
16 a Class A site evinces a conclusion that the battle-
17 field is a site of a military action with a vital objec-
18 tive or result that shaped the strategy, direction,
19 outcome, or perception of the Revolutionary War.

20 (6) The report also found that Newtown Battle-
21 field is a site that has experienced little alteration
22 since the Revolutionary War and that it is largely
23 unprotected by other public historic preservation
24 agencies or nonprofit organizations.

25 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

1 (1) NEWTOWN BATTLEFIELD.—The term
2 “Newtown Battlefield” means the area encompassed
3 by the 1973 designation of the Newtown Battlefield
4 National Historic Landmark, and located in the
5 towns of Elmira, Chemung, and Ashland, in
6 Chemung County, New York.

7 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of the Interior.

9 (c) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date
10 that funds are made available for this section, the Sec-
11 retary shall conduct a special resource study to evaluate
12 the significance of the Newtown Battlefield in Chemung
13 County, New York, as well as the suitability and feasibility
14 of its inclusion in the National Park System.

15 (d) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study shall include
16 an analysis of the following:

17 (1) The significance of the Battle of Newtown
18 to the Sullivan Campaign and the significance of the
19 Campaign in relation to the military objectives of the
20 Continental Army in 1779.

21 (2) Opportunities for public enjoyment of the
22 Newtown Battlefield.

23 (3) Any operational, management, and private
24 property issues that need to be considered if the

1 Newtown Battlefield were added to the National
2 Park System.

3 (4) A determination of the feasibility of admin-
4 istering the Newtown Battlefield considering its size,
5 configuration, ownership, costs, and other factors.

6 (5) An evaluation of the adequacy of other al-
7 ternatives for the management and resource protec-
8 tion of the Newtown Battlefield.

9 (6) An analysis of the impact, economic and
10 otherwise, on the Chemung County community, of
11 the inclusion of Newtown Battlefield into the Na-
12 tional Park System.

13 (e) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Upon completion of
14 the study, the Secretary shall submit a report on the find-
15 ings of the study to Committee on Natural Resources of
16 the House of Representatives and to the Committee on
17 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

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