

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2535

To revise the boundary of the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 2008

Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON) introduced the following bill; which was read
twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To revise the boundary of the Martin Van Buren National
Historic Site, 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 “Martin Van Buren Na-
5 tional Historic Site Boundary Revision Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 As used in this Act:

8 (1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site”
9 means the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

1 in the State of New York established by Public Law
2 93–486 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) on October 26, 1974.

3 (2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
4 titled “Boundary Map, Martin Van Buren National
5 Historic Site”, numbered “460/80801”, and dated
6 January 2005.

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

9 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

10 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

11 (1) the historic site was established to preserve
12 and interpret the landscape, structures, and collec-
13 tions of the house known as “Lindenwald” in
14 Kinderhook, New York, which was owned by Martin
15 Van Buren, the eighth President of the United
16 States from 1839 to his death in 1862;

17 (2) the current boundary of the historic site,
18 encompassing about 39 acres of land, does not ade-
19 quately protect natural and cultural resources that
20 contribute to the significance of the historic site;

21 (3) the conservation easements acquired to pre-
22 serve the key agricultural views of the historic site
23 no longer offer adequate protection for the views;

24 (4) development of administrative buildings and
25 facilities required for future operations of the his-

1 toric site within the current boundaries of the his-
2 toric site may not be suitable due to the impacts of
3 those buildings and facilities on historic or scenic re-
4 sources; and

5 (5) a boundary study prepared by the National
6 Park Service in 2003 identifies about 331 acres of
7 land that, if acquired, would—

8 (A) help protect the agricultural character
9 and the quality of the setting of the historic
10 site; and

11 (B) increase opportunities for interpreta-
12 tion and education at the historic site.

13 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

14 (1) to protect the remaining contributing re-
15 sources significant to the historic site;

16 (2) to preserve a more accurate portrayal of
17 Lindenwald by reuniting remaining agricultural land
18 associated with the house through the acquisition of
19 the agricultural land from willing sellers;

20 (3) to enhance the interpretation of the broader
21 political and agrarian beliefs of President Van
22 Buren by—

23 (A) enabling public access to key agricul-
24 tural resources; and

1 (B) protecting the scenic values associated
2 with the historic site; and

3 (4) to enable the National Park Service to es-
4 tablish administrative facilities that do not intrude
5 on the resources or scenic values of the historic site.

6 **SEC. 4. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC SITE.**

7 (a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundary of the
8 historic site is adjusted to include approximately 261 acres
9 of land identified as the “PROPOSED PARK BOUND-
10 ARY”, as generally depicted on the map.

11 (b) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
12 acquire the land and any interests in the land described
13 in subsection (a) from willing sellers by donation, purchase
14 with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

15 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file
16 and available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
17 fices of the National Park Service.

18 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—Land acquired for the his-
19 toric site under this section shall be administered as part
20 of the historic site in accordance with applicable law (in-
21 cluding regulations).

22 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
24 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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