

SEC. 9. UPDATED REPORT REGARDING WATER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY.

Section 11(b) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, as redesignated by section 7, is amended by adding at the end the following: "The report submitted under this subsection shall include an assessment of current and likely future political tensions over water sources and multidisciplinary assessment of the expected impacts of global climate change on water supplies in 10, 25, and 50 years."

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2009 and for each subsequent fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, pursuant to the criteria set forth in the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-121).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) GENERAL WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Up to 20 percent of the amounts appropriated to implement this Act may be used to support general water resource management activities that improve countries' overall water sources.

(2) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Any amounts appropriated to implement this Act that are not used to carry out the activities described in paragraph (1) shall be allocated for activities related to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 626. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation entitled the Lower Mississippi River National Historic Site Study Act. This bill will direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in Plaquemines Parish along the Lower Mississippi River Area as a unit of the National Park System. I cannot think of a more timely occasion to reintroduce this bill as Secretary Salazar is expected to be touring southeast Louisiana tomorrow.

The first step to becoming a unit in the National Park System is to conduct a special resources study to determine whether an area possesses nationally significant natural, cultural, or recreational resources to be eligible for favorable consideration. This is exactly what my bill does—it asks the Department of the Interior to take the first step in determining what I already know—that the Lower Mississippi River Area would be a suitable and feasible asset to the National Park Service.

I am proud to come to the floor today to reintroduce this bill. This area has vast historical significance and is an area with rich cultural history. In the 1500s, Spanish explorers traveled along the banks of the river. In 1682, Robert de LaSalle claimed all the land drained by the area. In 1699, the area became the site of the first fortification on the Lower Mississippi river, known as Fort Mississippi. Since then, it has been the

home to 10 different fortifications, including Fort St. Philip and Fort Jackson.

Fort St. Philip, which was originally built in 1749, played a key role during the Battle of New Orleans when soldiers blocked the British navy from going upriver. Fort Jackson was built at the request of GEN Andrew Jackson and partially constructed by famous local Civil War General P.G.T. Beauregard. This fort was the site of the famous Civil War battle known as the Battle of Forts which is also referred to as the "night the war was lost." Mr. President, as you can see, from a historical perspective, this area has many treasures that provide us a glimpse into our past. These are areas that have national significance. They should be maintained and preserved.

There are also many other important and unique attributes to this area. This area is home to the longest continuous river road and levee system in the United States. It is also home to the ancient Head of Passes site, to the Plaquemines Bend, and to two national wildlife refuges.

Finally, this area has a rich cultural heritage. Over the years, many different cultures have made this area home including Creoles, Europeans, Indians, Yugoslavs, African-Americans and Vietnamese. These cultures have worked together to create the infrastructure for transportation of our nation's energy which is being produced by these same people out in the Gulf of Mexico off our shores. They have also created a fishing industry that contributes to Louisiana's economy.

I think it is easy to see why this area would make an excellent addition to the National Park Service. That is why I am reintroducing this bill—to begin the process of adding this area as a unit to the National Park Service by conducting a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of bringing this area into the system. I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly enact this bill.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 675. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 684 proposed by Mr. BINGAMAN to the bill H.R. 146, to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes.

SA 676. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 146, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

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SA 678. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 146, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 679. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment

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SA 680. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 684 proposed by Mr. BINGAMAN to the bill H.R. 146, supra.

SA 681. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 146, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 682. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 146, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 683. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 146, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 684. Mr. BINGAMAN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 146, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 675. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 684 proposed by Mr. BINGAMAN to the bill H.R. 146, to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . EMINENT DOMAIN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act (or an amendment made by this Act), no land or interest in land (other than access easements) shall be acquired under this Act by eminent domain.

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At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . LIMITATIONS ON NEW CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the National Park Service) (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall not begin any new construction in units of the National Park System until the Secretary determines that all existing sites, structures, trails, and transportation infrastructure of the National Park Service are—

- (1) fully operational;
- (2) fully accessible to the public; and
- (3) pose no health or safety risk to the general public or employees of the National Park Service.

(b) EXCLUSIONS.—Subsection (a) shall not affect—

- (1) the replacement of existing structures in cases in which rehabilitation costs exceed new construction costs; or
- (2) any new construction that the Secretary determines to be necessary for public safety.

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