

Schuylkill River can have a heritage corridor that we can work on.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I certainly want to thank both gentlemen from Pennsylvania for their introduction of this piece of legislation. I note with interest the mentioning of Susquehanna County as part of a very strong cultural heritage as part of our American history. In my little reading of history, I recall that the Susquehanna River has a very profound historical event that transpired as far as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is concerned, and I wanted to note that as a matter of record. I do want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 940, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ACT

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 658) to establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 658

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Thomas Cole National Historic Site Act".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Findings and purposes.

Sec. 4. Establishment of Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

Sec. 5. Retention of ownership and management of historic site by Greene County Historical Society.

Sec. 6. Administration of historic site.

Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) The term "historic site" means the Thomas Cole National Historic Site established by section 4 of this Act.

(2) The term "Hudson River artists" means artists who were associated with the Hudson River school of landscape painting.

(3) The term "plan" means the general management plan developed pursuant to section 6(d).

(4) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) The term "Society" means the Greene County Historical Society of Greene County, New York, which owns the Thomas Cole home, studio, and other property comprising the historic site.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Hudson River school of landscape painting was inspired by Thomas Cole and was characterized by a group of 19th century landscape artists who recorded and celebrated the landscape and wilderness of America, particularly in the Hudson River Valley region in the State of New York.

(2) Thomas Cole is recognized as America's most prominent landscape and allegorical painter of the mid-19th century.

(3) Located in Greene County, New York, the Thomas Cole House, also known as Thomas Cole's Cedar Grove, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated as a National Historic Landmark.

(4) Within a 15 mile radius of the Thomas Cole House, an area that forms a key part of the rich cultural and natural heritage of the Hudson River Valley region, significant landscapes and scenes painted by Thomas Cole and other Hudson River artists, such as Frederic Church, survive intact.

(5) The State of New York has established the Hudson River Valley Greenway to promote the preservation, public use, and enjoyment of the natural and cultural resources of the Hudson River Valley region.

(6) Establishment of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site will provide opportunities for the illustration and interpretation of cultural themes of the heritage of the United States and unique opportunities for education, public use, and enjoyment.

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

(1) to preserve and interpret the home and studio of Thomas Cole for the benefit, inspiration, and education of the people of the United States;

(2) to help maintain the integrity of the setting in the Hudson River Valley region that inspired artistic expression;

(3) to coordinate the interpretive, preservation, and recreational efforts of Federal, State, and other entities in the Hudson Valley region in order to enhance opportunities for education, public use, and enjoyment; and

(4) to broaden understanding of the Hudson River Valley region and its role in American history and culture.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—There is established, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York.

(b) *DESCRIPTION.*—The historic site shall consist of the home and studio of Thomas Cole, comprising approximately 3.4 acres, located at 218 Spring Street, in the village of Catskill, New York, as generally depicted on the boundary map numbered TCH/80002, and dated March 1992.

SEC. 5. RETENTION OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC SITE BY GREENE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Greene County Historical Society of Greene County, New York, shall continue to

own, administer, manage, and operate the historic site.

SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION OF HISTORIC SITE.

(a) *APPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM LAWS.*—The historic site shall be administered in a manner consistent with this Act and all laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.; commonly known as the National Park Service Organic Act), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.; commonly known as the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act).

(b) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.*—

(1) *ASSISTANCE TO SOCIETY.*—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the Society to preserve the Thomas Cole House and other structures in the historic site and to assist with education programs and research and interpretation of the Thomas Cole House and associated landscapes.

(2) *OTHER ASSISTANCE.*—To further the purposes of this Act, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of New York, the Society, the Thomas Cole Foundation, and other public and private entities to facilitate public understanding and enjoyment of the lives and works of the Hudson River artists through the provision of assistance to develop, present, and fund art exhibits, resident artist programs, and other appropriate activities related to the preservation, interpretation, and use of the historic site.

(c) *ARTIFACTS AND PROPERTY.*—The Secretary may acquire personal property associated with, and appropriate for, the interpretation of the historic site.

(d) *GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—Within two complete fiscal years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a general management plan for the historic site with the cooperation of the Society. Upon the completion of the plan, the Secretary shall provide a copy of the plan to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives. The plan shall include recommendations for regional wayside exhibits, to be carried out through cooperative agreements with the State of New York and other public and private entities. The plan shall be prepared in accordance with section 12(b) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-1 et seq.; commonly known as the National Park System General Authorities Act).

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 658 would establish the Thomas Cole Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System. This bill is the result of the dedication of the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) and retired Congressman Jerry Solomon, also from New York, who worked hard to protect this historic site. The Thomas Cole House is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been

designated as a national historic landmark. H.R. 658 also authorizes the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with both public and private entities relating to the preservation, the interpretation and use of this historic site.

One of the private entities, the Greene County Historical Society, shall continue to own, manage and operate this historic site.

This bill also directs the historical society with assistance from the Secretary to develop a management plan for the site within 2 fiscal years of enactment. This bill is supported by the administration, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 658.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 658 establishes the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

Mr. Thomas Cole, who lived from 1801 to 1848, was the founder of an American artistic movement known as the Hudson River School. Mr. Cole painted landscapes of the American wilderness. Students and followers included such artists as Frederick Church, Alfred Dierstadt, and Thomas Moran. This school of painting, with its focus on natural landscapes, is closely associated with the beginning of the conservation movement.

The Thomas Cole property, known as Cedar Grove, is located in Catskill, New York. Originally encompassing 88 acres, the home and grounds now occupy 3.4 acres. The property has been designated a national historic landmark. In 1991, the National Park Service completed a suitability and a feasibility study of the Thomas Cole property.

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Legislation dealing with the Thomas Cole property has been around since the early 1900s. Hearings were held on a nearly identical bill, H.R. 1301, in the 105th Congress. That legislation was favorably reported by the Committee on Resources, passed the House last September, but unfortunately, action was not completed on the measure prior to adjournment.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Resources adopted a minor amendment to H.R. 658 that made a clarifying change requested by the National Park Service. We believe this is a good change in the bill, and support the bill. I do urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Again, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) for his management of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY).

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), for bringing up this legislation, and also thanking the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) of the Committee on Rules, the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the ranking member, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ), and my friends on the other side for their assistance here.

This legislation, as has been said, Mr. Speaker, would allow the Greene County Historical Society to remain as owners and operators of the Thomas Cole House while establishing the site as an affiliated area of the national park system.

Essentially what this legislation does, it allows for the historical society to develop interpretive programs related to the facility. It also requires an annual general management plan by the historical society. Both of these things I think are very important to the continued health and welfare of the Thomas Cole House.

I am a strong supporter of preserving our national historical sites generally, and specifically here as it relates to the Thomas Cole House. The circumstances of the Thomas Cole House make this an important piece of legislation, given its age. It is a true national treasure in the heart of one of the most scenic areas of the Nation, New York's Hudson River Valley.

As has been stated, Thomas Cole was one of the country's preeminent landscape painters in the earlier 19th century. His work inspired generations of artists, including Frederick Church and Thomas Moran, to chronicle the growth of the young United States and help to generate interest in our country's natural beauty.

Today the paintings provide insight and reflect the growth of what is the uniquely American spirit. In passing this legislation, we will preserve this school of art and the very residence Thomas Cole worked from within in creating many of his paintings, as well as the landscapes these artists painted of the beautiful Hudson River Valley.

Last year the legislation passed the House. It was not passed by the Senate point. That was because there was some language in the bill that the Senate objected to regarding the purchase by the Secretary of the Interior of the paintings and artwork. We have revised that and made amendments to make that language more palatable. I am confident that the Senate will pass it this year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the committee and the National Park Service for their assistance, as well as the local organizations in my district

who worked strenuously to see this bill passed, and who worked as a partnership to ensure the continuation of the Thomas Cole House. I look forward to seeing the Thomas Cole site become an important addition to the National Park Service.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation that will provide the Thomas Cole National Historic Site with appropriate federal recognition and assistance. It is appropriate because Thomas Cole continues to be a major figure in our nation's history, and an important influence on many Americans who would not recognize his name.

As founder of the Hudson River School of American Painting, Thomas Cole stood at the beginning of a long line of artists who taught Americans to love and appreciate dramatic landscapes. It is hard for us now to imagine a time when places like the Hudson Highlands, the Grand Canyon, and the mountain peaks of the east and west were not treasured, but that was largely the case before Thomas Cole's time. They were regarded as obstacles or places of danger. His paintings showed people they were beautiful; his allegories invested them with meaning. If it were not for Thomas Cole, we might not have our national parks today; we would almost certainly not have our long tradition of landscape art.

I hope this legislation will enable more people to learn about Thomas Cole and his followers and the history of how our people came to appreciate the beauty of nature and the landscape. I further hope it will bring more people to the Hudson Valley that Cole loved and painted, and educate them about the role that the Hudson Valley—through its natural features, its people, and its history—has had in defining our country's vision of itself.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 658, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FISHERMAN'S PROTECTIVE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1651) to amend the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967 to extend the period during which reimbursement may