

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4986

To establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sewall-Belmont House
5 Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Sewall-Belmont House was designated
9 as a National Historic Landmark, National Historic

1 Site, and an affiliated area of the National Park
2 Service in 1974;

3 (2) beginning in 1929, the Sewall-Belmont
4 House served as the headquarters of the National
5 Woman's Party, founded by Alice Paul (1885–
6 1977), the most significant figure in the final phase
7 of the struggle for a constitutional amendment
8 granting women the right to vote;

9 (3) Alice Paul revived the movement, employing
10 dramatic techniques, White House demonstrations,
11 hunger strikes, and relentless political pressure, to
12 achieve victory just prior to the 1920 election; and

13 (4) in June 2015, the National Park Service
14 completed a feasibility study of the Sewall-Belmont
15 House National Historic Site, in which the National
16 Park Service determined that—

17 (A) the Sewall-Belmont House National
18 Historic Site met the criteria for inclusion in
19 the National Park System, confirming national
20 significance, suitability, feasibility, and the need
21 for direct National Park Service management;
22 and

23 (B) the Sewall-Belmont House would help
24 fill identified gaps in the National Park System
25 related to the 20th century women's rights

1 movement and strengthening the overall inter-
2 pretation of women’s history.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to estab-
4 lish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site as
5 a unit of the National Park System to preserve and pro-
6 tect the site and to interpret the nationally significant re-
7 sources related to the women’s rights movement.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior.

12 (2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
13 titled “Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site
14 Proposed Boundary”, numbered 896/129106, and
15 dated July 2015.

16 (3) NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.—The term “na-
17 tional historic site” means the Sewall-Belmont
18 House National Historic Site established under sec-
19 tion 4(a).

20 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE AS A**
21 **UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the
23 Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site is estab-
24 lished as a unit of the National Park System, to be known
25 as the “Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site”.

1 (b) CONDITIONS.—The national historic site shall not
2 be established as a unit of the National Park System until
3 the date on which the Secretary determines that—

4 (1) the National Woman’s Party has trans-
5 ferred the land and any improvements to the land
6 within the boundaries described in subsection (c) to
7 the Secretary; and

8 (2) the Secretary and the National Woman’s
9 Party have entered into a Management Agreement
10 in accordance with subsection (d).

11 (c) BOUNDARIES.—The national historic site shall
12 consist of the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic
13 Site, also known as the “Sewall-Belmont House and Mu-
14 seum”, located at 144 Constitution Avenue, Northeast,
15 Washington, DC, as depicted on the map.

16 (d) MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT.—The Secretary may
17 enter into a management agreement with the National
18 Woman’s Party that provides for—

19 (1) National Park Service operation and main-
20 tenance of the national historic site;

21 (2) the National Woman’s Party to retain own-
22 ership and management of the National Woman’s
23 Party collection, which includes an extensive library
24 and archival and museum holdings relating to the
25 women’s suffrage movement; and

1 (3) collaboration and cooperation by the Na-
2 tional Park Service and the National Woman’s Party
3 on management and interpretation of the Sewall-
4 Belmont House National Historic Site.

5 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall admin-
6 ister the national historic site in accordance with—

7 (1) this Act; and

8 (2) the laws generally applicable to units of the
9 National Park Service, including—

10 (A) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and
11 sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and
12 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

13 (B) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States
14 Code.

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