

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 548

To assist citizens, public and private institutions, and governments at all levels in planning, interpreting, and protecting sites where historic battles were fought on American soil during the armed conflicts that shaped the growth and development of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. GORDON of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To assist citizens, public and private institutions, and governments at all levels in planning, interpreting, and protecting sites where historic battles were fought on American soil during the armed conflicts that shaped the growth and development of the United States, 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 “Civil War Battlefield
5 Preservation Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to assist citizens, public
3 and private institutions, and governments at all levels in
4 planning, interpreting, and protecting sites where historic
5 battles were fought on American soil during the armed
6 conflicts that shaped the growth and development of the
7 United States, in order that present and future genera-
8 tions may learn and gain inspiration from the ground
9 where Americans made their ultimate sacrifice.

10 **SEC. 3. PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Using the established national
12 historic preservation program to the extent practicable,
13 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American
14 Battlefield Protection Program, shall encourage, support,
15 assist, recognize, and work in partnership with citizens,
16 Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, other public
17 entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofit or-
18 ganizations in identifying, researching, evaluating, inter-
19 preting, and protecting historic battlefields and associated
20 sites on a National, State, and local level.

21 (b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—To carry out sub-
22 section (a), the Secretary may use a cooperative agree-
23 ment, grant, contract, or other generally adopted means
24 of providing financial assistance.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 annually to
3 carry out this section, to remain available until expended.

4 **SEC. 4. BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) BATTLEFIELD REPORT.—The term “Battle-
7 field Report” means the document entitled “Report
8 on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields”, prepared by
9 the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated
10 July 1993.

11 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
12 ty” means a State or local government.

13 (3) ELIGIBLE SITE.—The term “eligible site”
14 means a site—

15 (A) that is not within the exterior bound-
16 aries of a unit of the National Park System;
17 and

18 (B) that is identified in the Battlefield Re-
19 port.

20 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the
22 American Battlefield Protection Program.

23 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
24 a battlefield acquisition grant program under which the
25 Secretary may provide grants to eligible entities to pay

1 the Federal share of the cost of acquiring interests in eligi-
2 ble sites for the preservation and protection of those eligi-
3 ble sites.

4 (c) NONPROFIT PARTNERS.—An eligible entity may
5 acquire an interest in an eligible site using a grant under
6 this section in partnership with a nonprofit organization.

7 (d) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share
8 of the total cost of acquiring an interest in an eligible site
9 under this section shall be not less than 50 percent.

10 (e) LIMITATION ON LAND USE.—An interest in an
11 eligible site acquired under this section shall be subject
12 to section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation
13 Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–8(f)(3)).

14 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to provide
16 grants under this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal
17 years 2009 through 2013.

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