

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2780

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

Mr. McCONNELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in 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. BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS STUDY.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) In 1994, the Mills Springs Battlefield in
6 Pulaski and Wayne Counties in Kentucky was des-

1 ignated as a National Historic Landmark by the De-
2 partment of the Interior.

3 (2) The Battle of Mill Springs was the first sig-
4 nificant Union victory in the western theater of the
5 Civil War.

6 (3) The outcome of the Battle of Mill Springs,
7 along with Union victories at Fort Henry and Fort
8 Donelson paved the way for a major battle at Shiloh,
9 Tennessee.

10 (4) In 1991, the National Park Service placed
11 the Mill Springs Battlefield on a list of endangered
12 battlefields, noting the impact of this battle to the
13 course of the Civil War.

14 (5) In 1992, the Mill Springs Battlefield Asso-
15 ciation formed, and utilizing Federal, State, and
16 local support has managed to preserve important
17 tracts of the battlefield, construct an interactive vis-
18 itor center, and educate the public about this his-
19 toric event.

20 (6) There is strong community interest in incor-
21 porating the Mill Springs Battlefield into the Na-
22 tional Park Service.

23 (7) The Mill Springs Battlefield Association has
24 expressed its desire to give the preserved battlefield
25 as a gift to the United States.

1 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

2 (1) MILL SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD.—The term
3 “Mill Springs Battlefield” means the area encom-
4 passed by the National Historic Landmark designa-
5 tions relating to the 1862 Battle of Mill Springs lo-
6 cated in the counties of Pulaski and Wayne in Ken-
7 tucky.

8 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior.

10 (c) STUDY.—Not later than 3 years from the date
11 funds are made available, the Secretary shall conduct a
12 special resource study to evaluate the significance of the
13 Mill Springs Battlefield in Kentucky, and the feasibility
14 of its inclusion in the National Park System.

15 (d) CRITERIA FOR STUDY.—The Secretary shall con-
16 duct the study authorized by this Act in accordance with
17 section 8(b) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(b)).

18 (e) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study shall include an
19 analysis of the following:

20 (1) The significance of the Battle of Mill
21 Springs to the outcome of the Civil War.

22 (2) Opportunities for public education about the
23 Civil War in Kentucky.

1 (3) Operational issues that should be considered
2 if the National Park System were to incorporate the
3 Mill Springs Battlefield.

4 (4) The feasibility of administering the Mill
5 Springs Battlefield considering its size, configura-
6 tion, and other factors, to include an annual cost es-
7 timate.

8 (5) The economic, educational, and other im-
9 pacts the inclusion of Mill Springs Battlefield into
10 the National Park System would have on the sur-
11 rounding communities in Pulaski and Wayne Coun-
12 ties.

13 (6) The effect of the designation of the Mill
14 Springs Battlefield as a unit of the National Park
15 System on—

16 (A) existing commercial and recreational
17 activities, including but not limited to hunting,
18 fishing, and recreational shooting, and on the
19 authorization, construction, operation, mainte-
20 nance, or improvement of energy production
21 and transmission infrastructure; and

22 (B) the authority of State and local gov-
23 ernments to manage those activities.

24 (7) The identification of any authorities, includ-
25 ing condemnation, that will compel or permit the

1 Secretary to influence or participate in local land use
2 decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on
3 non-Federal lands if the Mill Springs Battlefield is
4 designated as a unit of the National Park System.

5 (f) NOTIFICATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWN-
6 ERS.—Upon commencement of the study, owners of pri-
7 vate property adjacent to the battlefield will be notified
8 of the study's commencement and scope.

9 (g) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Upon completion of
10 the study, the Secretary shall submit a report on the find-
11 ings of the study to the Committee on Natural Resources
12 of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on
13 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

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