

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 449

To authorize the Gateway Visitor Center at Independence National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 1999

Mr. BORSKI (for himself, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Gateway Visitor Center at Independence National Historical Park, 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 “Gateway Visitor Center
5 Authorization Act of 1999”.

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

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The National Park Service completed and
9 approved in 1997 a general management plan for

1 Independence National Historical Park that estab-
2 lishes goals and priorities for the park's future.

3 (2) The general management plan for Inde-
4 pendence National Historical Park calls for the revi-
5 talization of Independence Mall and recommends as
6 a critical component of the Independence Mall's revi-
7 talization the development of a new "Gateway Visi-
8 tor Center".

9 (3) Such a visitor center would replace the ex-
10 isting park visitor center and would serve as an ori-
11 entation center for visitors to the park and to city
12 and regional attractions.

13 (4) Subsequent to the completion of the general
14 management plan, the National Park Service under-
15 took and completed a design project and master plan
16 for Independence Mall which includes the Gateway
17 Visitor Center.

18 (5) Plans for the Gateway Visitor Center call
19 for it to be developed and managed, in cooperation
20 with the Secretary of the Interior, by a nonprofit or-
21 ganization which represents the various public and
22 civic interests of the greater Philadelphia metropoli-
23 tan area.

24 (6) The Gateway Visitor Center Corporation, a
25 nonprofit organization, has been established to raise

1 funds for and cooperate in a program to design, de-
2 velop, construct, and operate the proposed Gateway
3 Visitor Center.

4 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
5 ize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a cooperative
6 agreement with the Gateway Visitor Center Corporation
7 to construct and operate a regional visitor center on Inde-
8 pendence Mall.

9 **SEC. 3. GATEWAY VISITOR CENTER AUTHORIZATION.**

10 (a) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, in
11 administering the Independence National Historical Park,
12 may enter into an agreement under appropriate terms and
13 conditions with the Gateway Visitor Center Corporation
14 (a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the
15 State of Pennsylvania) to facilitate the construction and
16 operation of a regional Gateway Visitor Center on Inde-
17 pendence Mall.

18 (b) OPERATIONS OF CENTER.—The Agreement shall
19 authorize the Corporation to operate the Center in co-
20 operation with the Secretary and to provide at the Center
21 information, interpretation, facilities, and services to visi-
22 tors to Independence National Historical Park, its sur-
23 rounding historic sites, the city of Philadelphia, and the
24 region, in order to assist in their enjoyment of the historic,

1 cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the
2 greater Philadelphia area.

3 (c) MANAGEMENT-RELATED ACTIVITIES.—The
4 Agreement shall authorize the Secretary to undertake at
5 the Center activities related to the management of Inde-
6 pendence National Historical Park, including, but not lim-
7 ited to, provision of appropriate visitor information and
8 interpretive facilities and programs related to Independ-
9 ence National Historical Park.

10 (d) ACTIVITIES OF CORPORATION.—The Agreement
11 shall authorize the Corporation, acting as a private non-
12 profit organization, to engage in activities appropriate for
13 operation of a regional visitor center that may include, but
14 are not limited to, charging fees, conducting events, and
15 selling merchandise, tickets, and food to visitors to the
16 Center.

17 (e) USE OF REVENUES.—Revenues from activities
18 engaged in by the Corporation shall be used for the oper-
19 ation and administration of the Center.

20 (f) PROTECTION OF PARK.—Nothing in this section
21 authorizes the Secretary or the Corporation to take any
22 actions in derogation of the preservation and protection
23 of the values and resources of Independence National His-
24 torical Park.

25 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) AGREEMENT.—The term “Agreement”
2 means an agreement under this section between the
3 Secretary and the Corporation.

4 (2) CENTER.—The term “Center” means a
5 Gateway Visitor Center constructed and operated in
6 accordance with the Agreement.

7 (3) CORPORATION.—The term “Corporation”
8 means the Gateway Visitor Center Corporation (a
9 nonprofit corporation established under the laws of
10 the State of Pennsylvania).

11 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior.

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