

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 140

To establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area 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 “Thomas Cole National
5 Historic Site Designation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Hudson River school of landscape paint-
9 ing was inspired by Thomas Cole and was character-

1 ized by a group of 19th century landscape artists
2 who recorded and celebrated the landscape and wil-
3 derness of the United States, particularly in the
4 Hudson River Valley region in the State of New
5 York;

6 (2) Thomas Cole is recognized as the United
7 States's most prominent landscape and allegorical
8 painter of the mid-19th century;

9 (3) located in Greene County, New York, the
10 Thomas Cole House, also known as Thomas Cole's
11 Cedar Grove, is listed on the National Register of
12 Historic Places and has been designated as a Na-
13 tional Historic Landmark;

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

20 (5) the State of New York has established the
21 Hudson River Valley Greenway to promote the pres-
22 ervation, public use, and enjoyment of the natural
23 and cultural resources of the Hudson River Valley
24 region; and

1 (6) establishment of the Thomas Cole National
2 Historic Site will provide—

3 (A) opportunities for the illustration and
4 interpretation of cultural themes of the heritage
5 of the United States; and

6 (B) unique opportunities for education,
7 public use, and enjoyment.

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

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

12 (2) to help maintain the integrity of the setting
13 in the Hudson River Valley region that inspired ar-
14 tistic expression;

15 (3) to coordinate the interpretive, preservation,
16 and recreational efforts of Federal, State, and other
17 entities in the Hudson Valley region in order to en-
18 hance opportunities for education, public use, and
19 enjoyment; and

20 (4) to broaden understanding of the Hudson
21 River Valley region and its role in the history and
22 culture of the United States.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site”
 2 means the Thomas Cole National Historic Site es-
 3 tablished by section 4.

4 (2) HUDSON RIVER ARTIST.—The term “Hud-
 5 son River artist” means an artist associated with the
 6 Hudson River school of landscape painting.

7 (3) PLAN.—The term “plan” means the general
 8 management plan developed under section 6(d).

9 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 10 the Secretary of the Interior.

11 (5) SOCIETY.—The term “Society” means the
 12 Greene County Historical Society of Greene County,
 13 New York, that owns the Thomas Cole House, stu-
 14 dio, and other property comprising the historic site.

15 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HIS-**
 16 **TORIC SITE.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, as an af-
 18 filiated area of the National Park System, the Thomas
 19 Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York.

20 (b) DESCRIPTION.—The historic site shall consist of
 21 the Thomas Cole House and studio, comprising approxi-
 22 mately 3.4 acres, located at 218 Spring Street in the vil-
 23 lage of Catskill, New York, as generally depicted on the
 24 boundary map numbered TCH/80002, and dated March
 25 1992.

1 **SEC. 5. RETENTION OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF**
 2 **HISTORIC SITE BY GREENE COUNTY HISTORI-**
 3 **CAL SOCIETY.**

4 Under a cooperative agreement entered into under
 5 section 6(b)(1), the Greene County Historical Society of
 6 Greene County, New York, shall own, manage, and oper-
 7 ate the historic site.

8 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION OF HISTORIC SITE.**

9 (a) **APPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM**
 10 **LAWS.**—Under a cooperative agreement entered into
 11 under subsection (b)(1), the historic site shall be adminis-
 12 tered by the Society in a manner consistent with this Act
 13 and all laws generally applicable to units of the National
 14 Park System, including—

15 (1) the Act entitled “An Act to establish a Na-
 16 tional Park Service, and for other purposes”, ap-
 17 proved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

18 (2) the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the
 19 preservation of historic American sites, buildings,
 20 objects, and antiquities of national significance, and
 21 for other purposes”, approved August 21, 1935 (16
 22 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

23 (b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—

24 (1) **ASSISTANCE TO SOCIETY.**—The Secretary
 25 may enter into cooperative agreements with the
 26 Society—

1 (A) to preserve the Thomas Cole House
2 and other structures in the historic site; and

3 (B) to assist with education programs and
4 research and interpretation of the Thomas Cole
5 House and associated landscapes in the historic
6 site.

7 (2) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
8 enter into cooperative agreements with the State of
9 New York, the Society, the Thomas Cole Founda-
10 tion, and other public and private entities to—

11 (A) further the purposes of this Act; and

12 (B) develop, present, and fund art exhibits,
13 resident artist programs, and other appropriate
14 activities related to the preservation, interpreta-
15 tion, and use of the historic site.

16 (c) ARTIFACTS AND PROPERTY.—

17 (1) PERSONAL PROPERTY GENERALLY.—The
18 Secretary may acquire personal property associated
19 with, and appropriate for, the interpretation of the
20 historic site.

21 (2) WORKS OF ART.—The Secretary may ac-
22 quire works of art associated with Thomas Cole and
23 other Hudson River artists for the purpose of dis-
24 play at the historic site.

25 (d) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September
2 30, 2000, under a cooperative agreement entered
3 into under section 6(b)(1), the Society, with the as-
4 sistance of the Secretary, shall develop a general
5 management plan for the historic site.

6 (2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan shall in-
7 clude recommendations for regional wayside exhibits,
8 to be carried out through cooperative agreements
9 with the State of New York and other public and
10 private entities.

11 (3) AUTHORITY.—The plan shall be prepared in
12 accordance with section 12(b) of Public Law 91–383
13 (16 U.S.C. 1a–7(b)).

14 (4) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—On the completion
15 of the plan, the Secretary shall provide a copy of the
16 plan to—

17 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
18 Resources of the Senate; and

19 (B) the Committee on Resources of the
20 House of Representatives.

21 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

○