

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2650

To prohibit the study or implementation of any plan to privatize, divest, or transfer any part of the mission, function, or responsibility of the National Park Service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

Mr. RAHALL (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. HOYER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To prohibit the study or implementation of any plan to privatize, divest, or transfer any part of the mission, function, or responsibility of the National Park Service.

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. PARK PROFESSIONALS PROTECTION.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Park Professionals Protection Act”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The National Park System is recognized
8 throughout the world as a model for the conserva-

1 tion and enjoyment of natural, scenic, recreational,
2 cultural, and historic resources.

3 (2) The National Park System would never
4 have achieved such status, nor could the system
5 maintain such status, without the professionalism,
6 dedication, and passion of the men and women of
7 the National Park Service.

8 (3) Current plans to privatize thousands of jobs
9 within the National Park Service ignore the unique
10 contributions made by the men and women of the
11 National Park Service and threaten to undermine
12 the entire National Park System.

13 (4) Scarce park operations and maintenance re-
14 sources are being diverted to pay private consultants
15 to study the current privatization scheme. According
16 to the National Park Service, these studies cost ap-
17 proximately \$3000 for each position proposed to be
18 privatized.

19 (5) Despite the millions of taxpayer dollars di-
20 verted to these studies, not a single report has been
21 published documenting any cost savings to be gen-
22 erated by the privatization of park operations.

23 (6) The current privatization scheme raises se-
24 rious questions regarding the ability of temporary
25 workers, provided by the lowest bidder, to adequately

1 fulfill the responsibilities of professional National
2 Park Service employees in the areas of conservation,
3 interpretation, emergency fire and rescue, and home-
4 land security.

5 (7) The current privatization scheme appears to
6 affect minority employees disproportionately, threat-
7 ening to significantly reduce the number of minority
8 employees within the National Park Service.

9 (8) Pendency of the current privatization
10 scheme is having detrimental impacts on the morale
11 of current employees and is discouraging high qual-
12 ity candidates from applying for positions within the
13 National Park Service.

14 (c) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
15 sion of law, the Secretary is prohibited from studying or
16 implementing any plan to privatize, divest, or transfer any
17 part of what is, as of the date of the enactment of this
18 section, the mission, function, or responsibility of the Na-
19 tional Park Service.

20 (d) REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding
21 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall withhold
22 any funds currently dedicated to the activities prohibited
23 under subsection (c) and shall reallocate those funds to
24 the operations and maintenance accounts within the Na-
25 tional Park Service

1 (e) NO EFFECT ON CERTAIN PLANS.—Nothing in
2 this section shall effect the authority, as of the date of
3 the enactment of this section, of a National Park Service
4 Superintendent to develop and implement concessions
5 management plans and commercial services plans cov-
6 ering, in whole or in part, the area managed by that Su-
7 perintendent.

8 (f) SECRETARY DEFINED.—The term “Secretary”
9 means the Secretary of the Interior and any person em-
10 ployed by the Secretary of the Interior in any capacity.

○