

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 318

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Castle Nugent Farms located on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Castle Nugent Farms located on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as a unit 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. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING**

4 **CASTLE NUGENT FARMS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Castle Nugent Farms, located on the south-
7 eastern shore of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, is
8 the largest parcel of privately-held land in the Virgin

1 Islands and has been an operating cattle ranch for
2 50 years.

3 (2) This land has the largest and healthiest
4 fringing coral reef anywhere in the Virgin Islands.

5 (3) It consists of Caribbean dry forest and
6 pasturelands with considerable cultural resources in-
7 cluding both pre-Columbian and post-European set-
8 tlement.

9 (4) Castle Nugent Farms contains a large his-
10 toric 17th century Danish estate house that sits on
11 over 4 miles of pristine Caribbean oceanfront prop-
12 erty.

13 (5) In addition to being an area for turtle nest-
14 ing and night heron nesting, it is the home for the
15 Senepol cattle breed, a unique breed of cattle that
16 was developed on St. Croix in the early 1900's to
17 adapt to the island's climate.

18 (b) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry
19 out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of des-
20 ignating Castle Nugent Farms as a unit of the National
21 Park System.

22 (c) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Section
23 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)) shall

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- 1 apply to the conduct and completion of the study required
- 2 by this section.

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