

ACQUISITION OF WARREN PROPERTY FOR MORRISTOWN
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

SEPTEMBER 9, 1998.—Committed to the Committee on the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2776]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2776) to amend the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the establishment of the Morristown National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes” to authorize the acquisition of property known as the Warren property, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 2776 is to amend the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the establishment of the Morristown National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes” to authorize the acquisition of property known as the Warren property.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 2276 would amend the Act which provided for the establishment of the Morristown National Historical Park in New Jersey (16 U.S.C. 409 et seq.) by authorizing the acquisition of property known as the Warren property. This property, also known as Mount Kemble, was the strategically located winter headquarters of General George Washington during the winter of 1779–1780. Specifically, these were the high grounds occupied by 800 soldiers of a brigade commanded by Colonel (later General) John Stark. This acquisition would expand the Park by 15 acres which would

protect the Park's cultural landscape, improve the visitor experience, and provide for a more manageable Park boundary.

This 15-acre land parcel abuts the Jockey Hollow Encampment Area and has become available for purchase by a willing seller. The parcel presently contains a large residential structure, a guest cottage, and several outbuildings. Local zoning laws currently allow the land to be subdivided and the area is experiencing developmental pressure and growth. Furthermore, acquisition of this property would consolidate the existing irregular Park boundary which has, in the past, created some difficulties in Park administration and resource protection. Acquisition of this property would be secured by purchase, donation, purchase with appropriated funds, or by other means. The acquisition is not to exceed 15 acres of land and the interests therein. Approximately \$960,000 is needed to acquire the Warren property. H.R. 2776 has wide support by community groups as well as the National Park Service.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2776 was introduced on October 30, 1997, by Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. On March 26, 1998, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 2776, where Denis Galvin, Deputy Director of the National Park Service, testified in support of the bill. On May 21, 1998, the Subcommittee met to consider H.R. 2776 which was ordered favorably reported to the Full Committee by voice vote with no amendments. On July 29, 1998, the Full Resources Committee met to consider H.R. 2776. No amendments were offered and the bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 2(l)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 and Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact H.R. 2776.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 2776. However, clause 7(d) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XI

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(1)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, H.R. 2776 does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(1)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on the subject of H.R. 2776.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(1)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 2776 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, August 13, 1998.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2776, a bill to amend the act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of the Morristown National Historic Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes" to authorize the acquisition of property known as the Warren Property.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, *Director.*

Enclosure.

H.R. 2776—A bill to amend the act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of the Morristown National Historic Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes" to authorize the acquisition of property known as the Warren Property

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2776 would cost the federal government between \$1 million and \$3 million in fiscal year 1999. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2776 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire by purchase or other means about 15 acres of land abutting the Morristown National Historic Park in New Jersey. This acreage, known as the Warren property, would then be included in the

historical park. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that purchasing the property would cost between \$1 million and \$3 million. We estimate that the NPS would not incur any significant costs to develop or manage the additional acreage once it is acquired. This estimate is based on information provided by the NPS and by local government agencies.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

H.R. 2776 contains no unfunded mandates.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (new matter is printed in italic and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

ACT OF MARCH 2, 1933

AN ACT To provide for the creation of the Morristown National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes

* * * * *

SEC. 8. (a) In addition to any other lands or interest authorized to be acquired for inclusion in Morristown National Historical Park, and notwithstanding the first proviso of the first section of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may acquire by purchase, donation, purchase with appropriated funds, or otherwise, not to exceed 15 acres of land and interests therein comprising the property known as the Warren Property or Mount Kimble. The Secretary may expend such sums as may be necessary for such acquisition.

(b) Any lands or interests acquired under this section shall be included in and administered as part of the Morristown National Historical Park.