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105TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
{ 105-400

HYDE PARK, NEW YORK

OCTOBER 9 (legislative day, OCTOBER 2), 1998.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2241]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 2241) to provide for the acquisition of lands formerly occupied by the Franklin D. Roosevelt family at Hyde Park, New York, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. 2241 is to allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, with appropriated or donated funds, or by donation, lands that were formerly owned by Franklin D. Roosevelt or his family in Hyde Park, New York for addition to the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site or the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The estate home of Franklin D. Roosevelt formerly encompassed approximately 1,200 acres in Hyde Park, New York. The National Park Service administers portions of the estate as the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, which encompasses 290 acres, and the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, which encompasses 180 acres. The National Park Service has identified additional parcels of land important to the preservation and restoration of the historic and scenic views around the two historic sites.

Current authority for land acquisition at the park is limited to the acceptance of donated lands only. S. 2241 would expand the ac-

quisition authority to allow the National Park Service to acquire lands with appropriated or donated funds.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 2241 was introduced June 26, 1998 by Senator Murkowski, at the request of the administration, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation held a hearing on S. 2241 on September 17, 1998.

At its business meeting on September 24, 1998, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 2241, favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on September 24, 1998, by a unanimous voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 2241, as described herein.

SUMMARY OF S. 2241

S. 2241 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands located in Hyde Park, New York, owned by Franklin Delano Roosevelt or his family at the time of his death as depicted on the map entitled "F.D. Roosevelt Property Entire Park" dated July 26, 1962, and numbered FDR-NHS 3008. Any land acquired would be administered as part of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site or as part of the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site. S. 2241 authorizes the necessary appropriations to carry out this Act.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Congressional Budget Office estimate of the costs of this measure has been requested but was not received at the time the report was filed. When the report is available, the Chairman will request it to be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 2241. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards of significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from enactment of S. 2241, as ordered reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

S. 2241 was introduced at the request of the Administration. On March 11, 1998, the Department of the Interior transmitted a letter to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee requesting

that the bill be introduced and passed. A copy of the letter, and the testimony of the National Park Service follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, May 26, 1998.

Hon. ALBERT GORE, Jr.,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT. Enclosed is a draft bill "To provide for the acquisition of lands formerly occupied by the Franklin D. Roosevelt family at Hyde Park, New York, and for other purposes."

We recommend the bill be introduced referred to the appropriate committee, and enacted.

The purpose of the legislation is to allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands and interests therein that were owned by Franklin Delano Roosevelt or his family at the time of his death, as depicted on the map referenced in the bill, by means of purchase using appropriated or donated funds, by donation, or exchange. The lands would be added to and managed as part of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site or the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site.

This would expand the current acquisition authority at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. Currently the Secretary's authority to acquire land owned by FDR or his family at the time of his death is by means of donation only. The National Park Service's priority at the site would continue to be land acquisition by donation. With regard to the property where Roosevelt's Top Cottage is situated, the National Park Service would acquire such property by donation only. This bill, upon enactment, would allow the use of appropriated funds for purchase of lands where donation is infeasible.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no obligation to the enactment of the enclosed draft legislation from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

DONALD BARRY,
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

STATEMENT OF DESTRY JARVIS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Subcommittee today to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2241, a bill to provide for the acquisition of certain lands formerly occupied by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Family. The Department supports this legislation as currently written.

S. 2241 would authorize the National Park Service to acquire, by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, donation, or otherwise, lands or interests in lands in the

properties located at Hyde Park, New York, that were owned by President Franklin D. Roosevelt or his family at the time of his death.

The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site preserves the estate and memorial gravesite of the only four-term president of the United States and one of the pivotal figures of the 20th Century. Here and at the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, which the National Park Service also administers and manages in Hyde Park, New York, the National Park Service seeks to enhance public understanding of the life and work of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt. The estate, named "Springwood" by the family, held a special spot in the heart and mind of the President. Both he and Eleanor chose the family rose garden as their final resting place and personal memorial. The preservation of the cultural landscape and viewshed that so influenced President Roosevelt is as important as the preservation of the structures and collections.

The lands of Franklin D. Roosevelt formerly encompassed approximately 1200 acres in the Town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York. The National Park Service currently administers portions of this estate as the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site (290 acres) and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (180 acres). The National Park Service in its 1989 land protection plan identified additional lands as important to preserving the character of the historic sites as well as for the preservation and restoration of historic and scenic viewsheds to and from the sites. The land protection plan is consistent with the park's 1977 approved master plan.

President Roosevelt's 1948 deed of property to the United States stipulates that views of the Hudson River will be maintained. These views are currently obscured by vegetation on such tracts as the open park Hodhome Tract—a 57-acre parcel located between the Roosevelt home and the Hudson River, which has been the subject of a large commercial development proposal and is not fully protected from similar proposals in the future. In addition, several adjacent former Roosevelt properties are vulnerable to development. Development of these properties, under existing zoning policies, would seriously impact both historic sites. Under existing law, the park can only acquire property by donation. The owners of the properties, however, have not indicated a willingness to donate these lands. Where lands can be acquired through donation, such as the Top Cottage property (approximately 36 acres), the national park will strive to acquire them using appropriated funds. Land acquisition would be subject to the availability of funding for NPS priorities.

Enactment of this legislation would give the National Park Service greater acquisition authority and would enable the Service to further its mission to preserve these historic resources and viewsheds.

This concludes my remarks, I would be happy to answer any questions.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by S. 2241, as ordered reported.

