

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3031

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Newtown Battlefield located in Chemung County, New York, and the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

Mr. REED introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Newtown Battlefield located in Chemung County, New York, and the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in 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 “Newtown Battlefield
5 Special Resource Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. 1779 BATTLE OF NEWTOWN STUDY.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) In 1972, the Newtown Battlefield was rec-
2 ognized by the Federal Government as a significant
3 historic resource by the designation of the Newtown
4 Battlefield National Historic Landmark, consisting
5 of approximately 2,100 acres in the towns of Ash-
6 land, Chemung, and Elmira in the County of
7 Chemung, New York.

8 (2) The Sullivan Campaign of 1779 was a sig-
9 nificant event in the history of American Revolu-
10 tionary War.

11 (3) The Battle of Newtown, fought on August
12 29, 1779, was the most significant military engage-
13 ment of the Sullivan Campaign.

14 (4) The National Park Service's 2007 Report
15 on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War
16 and War of 1812 Sites in the United States cat-
17 egorized Newtown Battlefield as a Class A site.

18 (5) The designation of Newtown Battlefield as
19 a Class A site evinces a conclusion that the battle-
20 field is a site of a military action with a vital objec-
21 tive or result that shaped the strategy, direction,
22 outcome, or perception of the Revolutionary War.

23 (6) The report also found that Newtown Battle-
24 field is a site that has experienced little alteration
25 since the Revolutionary War and that it is largely

1 unprotected by other public historic preservation
2 agencies or nonprofit organizations.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

4 (1) NEWTOWN BATTLEFIELD.—The term
5 “Newtown Battlefield” means the area encompassed
6 by the 1972 designation of the Newtown Battlefield
7 National Historic Landmark, and other associated
8 lands related to the Battle of Newtown located in
9 the towns of Elmira, Chemung, and Ashland, in
10 Chemung County, New York.

11 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior.

13 (c) STUDY.—Not later than 3 years after the date
14 that funds are made available for this section, the Sec-
15 retary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations,
16 conduct a special resource study to evaluate the signifi-
17 cance of the Newtown Battlefield in Chemung County,
18 New York, as well as the suitability and feasibility of its
19 inclusion in the National Park System.

20 (d) CRITERIA FOR STUDY.—In conducting the study
21 authorized by this Act, the Secretary shall use the criteria
22 for the study of areas for potential inclusion in the Na-
23 tional Park System contained in section 8(b) of Public
24 Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(b)).

1 (e) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study shall include an
2 analysis of the following:

3 (1) The significance of the Battle of Newtown
4 to the Sullivan Campaign and the significance of the
5 Campaign in relation to the military objectives of the
6 Continental Army in 1779.

7 (2) Opportunities for public enjoyment of the
8 Newtown Battlefield.

9 (3) Any operational, management, and private
10 property issues that need to be considered if the
11 Newtown Battlefield were added to the National
12 Park System.

13 (4) A determination of the feasibility of admin-
14 istering the Newtown Battlefield considering its size,
15 configuration, ownership, costs, and other factors.

16 (5) An evaluation of the adequacy of other al-
17 ternatives for the management and resource protec-
18 tion of the Newtown Battlefield.

19 (6) An analysis of the impact, economic and
20 otherwise, on the Chemung County community, of
21 the inclusion of Newtown Battlefield into the Na-
22 tional Park System.

23 (f) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Upon completion of
24 the study, the Secretary shall submit a report on the find-
25 ings of the study to the Committee on Natural Resources

1 of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on
2 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

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