

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4073

To authorize the National Park Service to coordinate programs with, provide technical assistance to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 1996

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. STOKES, Mr. REGULA, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CREMEANS, Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. HOKE, Mr. KASICH, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. BOEHNER, Ms. PRYCE, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. NEY, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. JACOBS, Mr. ZIMMER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. TOWNS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the National Park Service to coordinate programs with, provide technical assistance to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) the story of the Underground Railroad,
2 which links historical themes related to slavery, the
3 desire for freedom, inter-racial cooperation, and the
4 African-American experience, is unique and nation-
5 ally significant;

6 (2) elements of the story of the Underground
7 Railroad are not adequately represented and pro-
8 tected;

9 (3) an entity to interpret and preserve the story
10 of the Underground Railroad is appropriate and nec-
11 essary; and

12 (4) the National Underground Railroad Free-
13 dom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, has been established
14 to commemorate historic themes related to slavery,
15 the desire for freedom, inter-racial cooperation, and
16 the African-American experience and to relate these
17 themes to the ongoing struggle for freedom among
18 men, women, and children around the world.

19 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

20 The purposes of this Act are—

21 (1) to recognize the importance of the Under-
22 ground Railroad, the sacrifices made by those in
23 search of freedom from tyranny and oppression, and
24 the sacrifices made by those who helped those indi-
25 viduals in search of freedom;

1 (2) to encourage and assist the National Under-
2 ground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati,
3 Ohio, in becoming a principal interpretive center of
4 the Underground Railroad experience in the United
5 States; and

6 (3) to provide a role for the Federal Govern-
7 ment in enhancing public understanding and appre-
8 ciation of the Underground Railroad and in preserv-
9 ing the many resources of the Underground Rail-
10 road.

11 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS; TECHNICAL ASSIST-**
12 **ANCE; AFFILIATED STATUS.**

13 (a) COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS.—The Secretary
14 of the Interior may coordinate the Underground Railroad
15 interpretive programs of the National Park Service with
16 the interpretive activities of the National Underground
17 Railroad Freedom Center (in this Act referred to as the
18 “Center”), which is to be built in Cincinnati, Ohio, and
19 is to be devoted to the story of the Underground Railroad.

20 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
21 provide technical assistance to the Center in developing
22 the interpretative programs of the Center.

23 (c) RELATIONSHIP TO NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—
24 The Secretary shall treat the Center as an affiliated area
25 of the National Park System.

1 **SEC. 4. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS; PARTNERSHIP.**

2 (a) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of
3 the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with
4 the State of Ohio, the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, and other
5 public or private entities to provide technical assistance
6 to the Center.

7 (b) PARTNERSHIP.—The National Park Service may
8 work in partnership with the Center in the efforts of the
9 Center to disseminate information on the Underground
10 Railroad.

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