

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4815

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in planning, constructing, and operating a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine, to facilitate the management and interpretation of the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2000

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

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in planning, constructing, and operating a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine, to facilitate the management and interpretation of the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site.

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 “Saint Croix Island  
5       Heritage Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1           (1) Saint Croix Island is located in the Saint  
2           Croix River, a river that forms part of the boundary  
3           between the State of Maine and Canada;

4           (2) the Island is the only international historic  
5           site in the National Park System;

6           (3) in 1604, French nobleman Pierre Dugua  
7           Sieur de Mons, accompanied by a courageous group  
8           of adventurers that included Samuel Champlain,  
9           landed on the Island and began the construction of  
10          a settlement;

11          (4) the French settlement on the Island in  
12          1604 and 1605 was the initial site of the first per-  
13          manent settlement in the New World, predating the  
14          English settlement of 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia;

15          (5) many people view the expedition that settled  
16          on the Island in 1604 as the beginning of the Aca-  
17          dian culture in North America;

18          (6) in October 1998, the National Park Service  
19          completed a general management plan to manage  
20          and interpret the Saint Croix Island International  
21          Historic Site;

22          (7) the plan addresses a variety of management  
23          alternatives, and concludes that the best manage-  
24          ment strategy entails developing an interpretive trail  
25          and ranger station at Red Beach, Maine, and a re-

1 regional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, in  
2 cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies;

3 (8) a 1982 memorandum of understanding,  
4 signed by the Department of the Interior and the  
5 Canadian Department for the Environment, outlines  
6 a cooperative program to commemorate the inter-  
7 national heritage of the Saint Croix Island site and  
8 specifically to prepare for the 400th anniversary of  
9 the settlement in 2004; and

10 (9) only 4 years remain before the 400th anni-  
11 versary of the settlement at Saint Croix Island, an  
12 occasion that should be appropriately commemo-  
13 rated.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to direct  
15 the Secretary of the Interior to take all necessary and ap-  
16 propriate steps to work with Federal, State, and local  
17 agencies, historical societies, and nonprofit organizations  
18 to facilitate the development of a regional heritage center  
19 in downtown Calais, Maine, before the 400th anniversary  
20 of the settlement of Saint Croix Island.

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) ISLAND.—The term “Island” means Saint  
24 Croix Island, located in the Saint Croix River, be-  
25 tween Canada and the State of Maine.

1           (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
3           rector of the National Park Service.

4 **SEC. 4. SAINT CROIX ISLAND REGIONAL HERITAGE CEN-**  
5 **TER.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide as-  
7           sistance in planning, constructing, and operating a re-  
8           gional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, to fa-  
9           cilitate the management and interpretation of the Saint  
10          Croix Island International Historic Site.

11          (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out sub-  
12          section (a) and in administering the Saint Croix Island  
13          International Historic Site, the Secretary may enter into  
14          cooperative agreements under appropriate terms and con-  
15          ditions with other Federal agencies, State and local agen-  
16          cies, and nonprofit organizations—

17                  (1) to provide exhibits, interpretive services (in-  
18                  cluding employing individuals to provide such serv-  
19                  ices), and technical assistance;

20                  (2) to conduct activities that facilitate the dis-  
21                  semination of information relating to the Saint Croix  
22                  Island International Historic Site;

23                  (3) to provide financial assistance for the con-  
24                  struction of the regional heritage center in exchange  
25                  for space in the center that is sufficient to interpret

1 the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site;  
2 and

3 (4) to assist with the operation and mainte-  
4 nance of the regional heritage center.

5 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 (a) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
8 appropriated to carry out this Act (including the de-  
9 sign and construction of the regional heritage cen-  
10 ter) \$2,000,000.

11 (2) EXPENDITURE.—Paragraph (1) authorizes  
12 funds to be appropriated on the condition that any  
13 expenditure of those funds shall be matched on a  
14 dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from non-Federal  
15 sources.

16 (b) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—There are au-  
17 thorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary  
18 to maintain and operate interpretive exhibits in the re-  
19 gional heritage center.

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