

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2663

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2004

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Castle Nugent Farms located on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as a unit of 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING**
2 **CASTLE NUGENT FARMS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) Castle Nugent Farms, located on the south-
5 eastern shore of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, is
6 the largest parcel of privately-held land in the Virgin
7 Islands and has been an operating cattle ranch for
8 50 years.

9 (2) This land has the largest and healthiest
10 fringing coral reef anywhere in the Virgin Islands.

11 (3) It consists of Caribbean dry forest and
12 pasturelands with considerable cultural resources in-
13 cluding both pre-Columbian and post-European set-
14 tlement.

15 (4) Castle Nugent Farms contains a large his-
16 toric 17th century Danish estate house that sits on
17 over 4 miles of pristine Caribbean oceanfront prop-
18 erty.

19 (5) In addition to being an area for turtle nest-
20 ing and night heron nesting, it is the home for the
21 Senepol cattle breed, a unique breed of cattle that
22 was developed on St. Croix in the early 1900's to
23 adapt to the island's climate.

24 (b) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry
25 out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of des-

1 ignating Castle Nugent Farms as a unit of the National
2 Park System.

3 (c) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Section
4 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)) shall
5 apply to the conduct and completion of the study required
6 by this section.

Passed the House of Representatives September 21,
2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.