

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3257

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 conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Western Reserve Herit-*
3 *age Areas Study Act”.*

4 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING THE**
5 **WESTERN RESERVE, OHIO.**

6 *(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:*

7 *(1) The area that encompasses the modern-day*
8 *counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage,*
9 *Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron,*
10 *Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, and Ashland in Ohio with the*
11 *rich history in what was once the Western Reserve,*
12 *has made a unique contribution to the cultural, polit-*
13 *ical and industrial development of the United States.*

14 *(2) The Western Reserve is distinctive as the*
15 *land settled by the people of Connecticut after the*
16 *Revolutionary War. The Western Reserve holds a*
17 *unique mark as the original wilderness land of the*
18 *West that many settlers migrated to in order to begin*
19 *life outside of the original 13 colonies.*

20 *(3) The Western Reserve played a significant*
21 *role in providing land to the people of Connecticut*
22 *whose property and land was destroyed during the*
23 *Revolution. These settlers were descendants of the*
24 *brave immigrants who came to the Americas in the*
25 *17th century.*

1 (4) *The Western Reserve offered a new destina-*
2 *tion for those who moved west in search of land and*
3 *prosperity. The agricultural and industrial base that*
4 *began in the Western Reserve still lives strong in these*
5 *prosperous and historical counties.*

6 (5) *The heritage of the Western Reserve remains*
7 *transfixed in the counties of Trumbull, Mahoning,*
8 *Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Sum-*
9 *mit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, and Ash-*
10 *land in Ohio. The people of these counties are proud*
11 *of their heritage as shown through the unwavering at-*
12 *tempts to preserve agricultural land and the indus-*
13 *trial foundation that has been embedded in this re-*
14 *gion since the establishment of the Western Reserve.*
15 *Throughout these counties, historical sites, and mark-*
16 *ers preserve the unique traditions and customs of its*
17 *original heritage.*

18 (6) *The counties that encompass the Western Re-*
19 *serve continue to maintain a strong connection to its*
20 *historic past as seen through its preservation of its*
21 *local heritage, including historic homes, buildings,*
22 *and centers of public gatherings.*

23 (7) *There is a need for assistance for the preser-*
24 *vation and promotion of the significance of the West-*
25 *ern Reserve as the natural, historic and cultural her-*

1 *itage of the counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ash-*
2 *tabula, Portage, Geagua, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit,*
3 *Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa and Ashland*
4 *in Ohio.*

5 *(8) The Department of the Interior is responsible*
6 *for protecting the Nation's cultural and historical re-*
7 *sources. There are significant examples of such re-*
8 *sources within these counties and what was once the*
9 *Western Reserve to merit the involvement of the Fed-*
10 *eral Government in the development of programs and*
11 *projects, in cooperation with the State of Ohio and*
12 *other local governmental entities, to adequately con-*
13 *serve, protect, and interpret this heritage for future*
14 *generations, while providing opportunities for edu-*
15 *cation and revitalization.*

16 *(b) STUDY.—*

17 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in con-*
18 *sultation with the State of Ohio, the counties of*
19 *Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geagua,*
20 *Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain,*
21 *Erie, Ottawa, and Ashland, and other appropriate or-*
22 *ganizations, carry out a study regarding the suit-*
23 *ability and feasibility of establishing the Western Re-*
24 *serve Heritage Area in these counties in Ohio.*

1 (2) *CONTENTS.*—*The study shall include anal-*
2 *ysis and documentation regarding whether the Study*
3 *Area—*

4 (A) *has an assemblage of natural, historic,*
5 *and cultural resources that together represent*
6 *distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy*
7 *of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and*
8 *continuing use, and are best managed through*
9 *partnerships among public and private entities*
10 *and by combining diverse and sometimes non-*
11 *contiguous resources and active communities;*

12 (B) *reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and*
13 *folklife that are a valuable part of the national*
14 *story;*

15 (C) *provides outstanding opportunities to*
16 *conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic fea-*
17 *tures;*

18 (D) *provides outstanding recreational and*
19 *educational opportunities;*

20 (E) *contains resources important to the*
21 *identified theme or themes of the Study Area*
22 *that retain a degree of integrity capable of sup-*
23 *porting interpretation;*

24 (F) *includes residents, business interests,*
25 *nonprofit organizations, and local and State*

1 *governments that are involved in the planning,*
2 *have developed a conceptual financial plan that*
3 *outlines the roles for all participants, including*
4 *the Federal Government, and have demonstrated*
5 *support for the concept of a national heritage*
6 *area;*

7 *(G) has a potential management entity to*
8 *work in partnership with residents, business in-*
9 *terests, nonprofit organizations, and local and*
10 *State governments to develop a national heritage*
11 *area consistent with continued local and State*
12 *economic activity;*

13 *(H) has a conceptual boundary map that is*
14 *supported by the public; and*

15 *(I) has potential or actual impact on pri-*
16 *vate property located within or abutting the*
17 *Study Area.*

18 *(c) BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY AREA.—The Study*
19 *Area shall be comprised of the counties of Trumbull,*
20 *Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geagua, Lake, Cuyahoga,*

- 1 *Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, and Ash-*
- 2 *land in Ohio.*

Passed the House of Representatives September 21,
2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.