

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3063

To revise the boundary of Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2007

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To revise the boundary of Martin Van Buren National
Historic Site, 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 “Martin Van Buren Na-
5 tional Historic Site Boundary Revision Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 As used in this Act:

8 (1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site”
9 means the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

1 in the State of New York, as authorized by Public
2 Law 93–486 on October 26, 1974.

3 (2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
4 titled “Boundary Map, Martin Van Buren National
5 Historic Site”, numbered “460/80801” and dated
6 January 2005.

7 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of the Interior.

9 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

10 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

11 (1) the historic site was established to preserve
12 and interpret the landscape, structures, and collec-
13 tions of “Lindenwald”, in Kinderhook, New York,
14 owned by Martin Van Buren, the eighth President
15 of the United States (1837–1841) from 1839 to his
16 death in 1862;

17 (2) the current boundary, encompassing about
18 39 acres of land, does not adequately protect natural
19 and cultural resources that contribute to the signifi-
20 cance of the historic site;

21 (3) the conservation easements acquired to pre-
22 serve the historic site’s key agricultural views no
23 longer offer adequate protection for those views;

24 (4) administrative buildings and facilities re-
25 quired for future operations of the historic site may

1 not be suitable to be developed within its current
2 boundaries due to impacts on historic or scenic re-
3 sources; and

4 (5) a boundary study prepared by the National
5 Park Service in 2003 identifies about 331 acres of
6 lands that, if acquired, would help protect the agri-
7 cultural character and the quality of the setting of
8 the historic site and increase opportunities for inter-
9 pretation and education.

10 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

11 (1) to protect the remaining contributing re-
12 sources significant to the historic site;

13 (2) to preserve a more accurate portrayal of
14 Van Buren’s Lindenwald by reuniting remaining ag-
15 ricultural lands associated with the house through
16 their acquisition from willing sellers;

17 (3) to enhance the interpretation of Van
18 Buren’s broader political and agrarian beliefs by en-
19 abling public access to key agricultural resources
20 and to protect scenic values associated with the his-
21 toric site; and

22 (4) to enable the National Park Service to es-
23 tablish administrative facilities that do not intrude
24 upon the historic site’s resources or scenic values.

1 **SEC. 4. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC SITE.**

2 (a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on the date
3 of enactment of this Act, the boundary of the historic site
4 is adjusted to include approximately 261 acres of land
5 identified as the “PROPOSED PARK BOUNDARY”, as
6 generally depicted on the map.

7 (b) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
8 acquire the lands and interests in lands referred to in sub-
9 section (a) from a willing seller by donation, purchase with
10 donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

11 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file
12 and available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
13 fices of the National Park Service.

14 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—Land acquired for the his-
15 toric site by this section shall be administered as part of
16 the historic site in accordance with applicable laws and
17 regulations.

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

19 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
20 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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