

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5773

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a long-term ground lease for the operation and maintenance of Rock Creek, Langston, and East Potomac as golf courses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2008

Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. CLAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a long-term ground lease for the operation and maintenance of Rock Creek, Langston, and East Potomac as golf courses, 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. GOLF COURSE PRESERVATION AND MOD-**
4 **ERNIZATION.**

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

6 (1) Langston Golf Course, Rock Creek Golf
7 Course, and East Potomac Golf Course are owned
8 by the United States and are under the administra-

1 tive jurisdiction of the National Park Service, and
2 each golf course has a long history of service to the
3 general public as an integral part of the Nation's
4 capital, including services to local and regional resi-
5 dents, visitors, and tourists.

6 (2) Golf courses differ considerably from other
7 lands administered by the National Park Service be-
8 cause they require a significant and continuing in-
9 vestment that cannot be required of a conces-
10 sionaire.

11 (3) East Potomac Golf Course opened in 1920
12 with three courses to accommodate all levels of play,
13 including an 18-hole tournament-level course and
14 two 9-hole practice courses, and was initially seg-
15 regated, with African-Americans allowed to play on
16 Mondays.

17 (4) Rock Creek Golf Course opened in 1923 as
18 a 9-hole course, and in 1925 the course was com-
19 pleted as an 18-hole tournament-level course. This
20 course was located in Rock Creek Park, a major
21 recreation and picnic facility for residents.

22 (5) Langston Golf Course opened in 1939 as a
23 golf facility for African-Americans and has been the
24 home course of both the Royal Golf Club and the
25 Wake Robin Golf Club, the Nation's first golf clubs

1 for African-American men and women, respectively.
2 The golf course was named for John Mercer
3 Langston, the first African-American Congressman
4 from Virginia, elected in 1888.

5 (6) Each of the three courses contains valuable
6 historic components that must be maintained.

7 (7) Langston Golf Course is listed on the Na-
8 tional Register of Historic Places.

9 (8) Langston Golf Course is believed to be the
10 first regulation course built in the United States al-
11 most entirely on a refuse landfill.

12 (9) The first American-born golf professional of
13 African-American ancestry was John Shippen, who
14 was born in 1879 in the Anacostia area of Wash-
15 ington, DC, placed fifth in the second United States
16 Open golf tournament in 1896 at 16 years of age,
17 and helped found the Capitol City Golf Club in
18 1925.

19 (10) The Capitol City Open golf tournament
20 has made Langston Golf Course its home for the
21 past 40 years.

22 (11) The Capitol City Golf Club, renamed the
23 Royal Golf Club and Wake Robin Women's Club,
24 has historically promoted a safe golf facility for Afri-
25 can-Americans in Washington, DC, during an era of

1 few available facilities, and these two clubs remain
2 the oldest African-American golf clubs in the United
3 States.

4 (12) The Langston facility provides important
5 recreational outlets, instructional forums, and a
6 “safe haven center” for the enhancement of the lives
7 of inner city youth and other residents in Wash-
8 ington, DC.

9 (13) The Langston, Rock Creek, and East Po-
10 tomac golf courses provide a home for the Nation’s
11 important minority youth “First Tee” golf instruc-
12 tion and recreational program in Washington, DC.

13 (14) The Langston, Rock Creek, and East Po-
14 tomac golf courses have traditionally provided addi-
15 tional quality of life value to Washington, DC, and
16 regional residents and visitors and the golf courses
17 will reach their considerable potential once upgraded
18 to meet their athletic and historical promise.

19 (b) MANAGEMENT OF GOLF COURSES.—

20 (1) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this
21 section, the following apply:

22 (A) ROCK CREEK.—The term “Rock
23 Creek” means the federally owned golf course
24 and related facilities located at 16th and Rit-
25 tenhouse NW., Washington, DC 20011, within

1 the boundaries of 16th Street, NW. to the East;
2 Military Road, NW. to the South; Beach Drive
3 NW. to the West; and Sherrill Drive, NW. to
4 the North.

5 (B) LANGSTON.—The term “Langston”
6 means the federally owned golf course and re-
7 lated facilities located at 26th and Benning
8 Road NE., Washington, DC 20002, within the
9 boundaries of Anacostia River to the East;
10 Hickory Hill Road to the Northeast; Valley
11 Road NE. to the Northeast; Azalea Road NE.
12 to the North; Ellipse Road NE. to the West; M
13 Street NE. to the North; Maryland Avenue NE.
14 to the Northwest; 22nd Street NE. to the West;
15 26th Street to the West; and Benning Road
16 NE. to the South.

17 (C) EAST POTOMAC.—The term “East Po-
18 tomac” means the federally owned golf course
19 and related facilities located at 972 Ohio Drive
20 SW., Washington, DC 20024, within the bound-
21 aries of Ohio Drive to the East, South, and
22 West; and Buckeye Drive SW. to the North.

23 (D) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
24 means the Secretary of the Interior, acting

1 through the Director of the National Park
2 Service.

3 (c) CONTINUED LEASES.—The Secretary shall en-
4 sure, to the extent practicable, that month-to-month con-
5 cessions contracts are continued for the operation and
6 maintenance of Rock Creek and Langston until the lease
7 in force on the date of the enactment of this Act for East
8 Potomac expires, at which time the lease referred to in
9 subsection (c) shall commence.

10 (d) LEASE.—The lease referred to in subsection (e)
11 is a lease for the continued operation and maintenance
12 of Rock Creek, Langston, and East Potomac as golf
13 courses. A lease entered into under this section shall in-
14 clude the 3 golf courses in one lease agreement and re-
15 quire that the golf courses be operated and maintained
16 in a manner that—

17 (1) retains the historic nature of the courses in-
18 cluding an appropriate commemoration of the
19 Langston Golf Course’s historic place in African
20 American golf history;

21 (2) at least 2 of the 3 courses maintain fees re-
22 lated to use of the golf courses to be affordable in
23 light of the current fee system used today at the
24 courses;

1 (3) may allow fees collected at one golf course
2 to subsidize the maintenance and operation of one or
3 more of the other golf courses; and

4 (4) allows for a long-term ground lease on the
5 3 courses.

6 (e) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—The Secretary
7 shall solicit proposals, through a competitive process, to
8 procure the lease described in subsection (c) and may,
9 after such solicitation, enter into agreements to procure
10 the lease. The Secretary shall solicit the request for pro-
11 posals under this subsection in such a manner—

12 (1) to provide that the lease described in sub-
13 section (d) shall be entered into not later than 180
14 days after the effective date of this Act or not later
15 than 30 days after the expiration of the concession
16 contract for East Potomac; and

17 (2) which ensures, to the greatest extent prac-
18 ticable, the participation of disadvantaged business
19 enterprises among the equity partners of the spon-
20 sors of the proposals.

21 (f) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LAWS.—The Na-
22 tional Park Service Concessions Management Improve-
23 ment Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 5951 et seq.) shall not apply

1 to requests for proposals submitted and leases and agree-
2 ments entered into under this section.

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