

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3247

To provide for the designation of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park
in the State of Michigan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 10 (legislative day, JULY 9), 2008

Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Nat-
ural Resources

A BILL

To provide for the designation of the River Raisin National
Battlefield Park in the State of Michigan.

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 “River Raisin National
5 Battlefield Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the War of 1812, often referred to as
9 “America’s Second War of Independence”, was sig-

1 nificant in the development of the United States be-
2 cause the War—

3 (A) helped forge a national identity;

4 (B) retained and solidified the northern
5 border with Canada; and

6 (C) firmly established the sovereignty of
7 the United States;

8 (2) in section 603 of division I of the Omnibus
9 Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996
10 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5 note; Public Law 104–333), Con-
11 gress found that “the historical integrity of many
12 Revolutionary War sites and War of 1812 sites is at
13 risk”;

14 (3) the River Raisin battlefield is the site of a
15 major engagement of the War of 1812;

16 (4) the battles and subsequent massacre at the
17 River Raisin were some of the most significant mili-
18 tary events of the entire War;

19 (5) approximately 65 United States prisoners
20 were killed or burned alive the day after the second
21 battle;

22 (6) out of the nearly 1,000 United States sol-
23 diers and militia members who participated in the
24 battle, only 33 escaped death or capture;

1 (7) the defeat of the United States forces at
 2 Frenchtown, now Monroe, Michigan, the subsequent
 3 massacre, and the burning of the settlement were
 4 described by General William Henry Harrison as a
 5 “national calamity”;

6 (8) the outrage stemming from the catastrophe
 7 aided recruitment efforts for the successful United
 8 States campaign in the spring of 1813;

9 (9) soldiers marching to Canada the following
 10 summer passed through the ashes of Frenchtown
 11 and were so moved by the tragic scene that the sol-
 12 diers were spurred on to victory at the Battle of the
 13 Thames, where the soldiers shouted the emotional
 14 battle cry, “Remember the Raisin!”;

15 (10) the events that occurred on the River Rai-
 16 sin battlefield remain a significant moment in
 17 United States history; and

18 (11) the River Raisin battlefield where so many
 19 citizens died defending the United States deserves
 20 the highest degree of Federal protection and inter-
 21 pretation.

22 **SEC. 3. RIVER RAISIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—If Monroe County or Wayne
 24 County, Michigan, or other willing landowners in either
 25 County offer to donate to the United States land relating

1 to the Battles of the River Raisin on January 18 and 22,
2 1813, or the aftermath of the battles, the Secretary of the
3 Interior (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall
4 accept the donated land.

5 (b) DESIGNATION OF PARK.—On the acquisition of
6 land under subsection (a) that is of sufficient acreage to
7 permit efficient administration, the Secretary shall des-
8 ignate the acquired land as a unit of the National Park
9 System, to be known as “River Raisin National Battlefield
10 Park”.

11 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
12 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
13 the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
15 Resources of the Senate a report describing the progress
16 made with respect to—

17 (1) acquiring real property under subsection
18 (a); and

19 (2) designating the River Raisin National Bat-
20 tlefield Park.

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