

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1051

To establish the Centennial Historic District in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2009

Mr. CASEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Centennial Historic District in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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 “Centennial District Au-
5 thorization Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Centennial District in the Common-
9 wealth of Pennsylvania was the site of an inter-

1 national exhibition to celebrate the Centennial of the
2 United States in 1876;

3 (2) held only 11 years after the end of the Civil
4 War, the Centennial Exhibition was both a national
5 celebration of unity and a recognition by the world
6 community that the United States was emerging as
7 the leading country in the world;

8 (3) the Centennial Exhibition displayed 60,000
9 exhibits from more than 28 countries around the
10 world in 240 buildings and hosted nearly 10,000,000
11 visitors, which is estimated to be nearly 25 percent
12 of the population of the United States at the time
13 of the Exhibition;

14 (4) the Centennial Exhibition became the center
15 of cultural, technological, economic, and geopolitical
16 development in the United States by demonstrating
17 groundbreaking innovations, including root beer, the
18 telephone, kindergarten, the typewriter, the phono-
19 graph, and the monorail;

20 (5) there are more than 100 United States
21 companies that displayed at the Centennial Exhi-
22 bition that are still in business today, including
23 Bausch and Lomb, John Deere, Campbell's, Heinz,
24 and Wyeth;

1 (6) the Centennial District is located in Fair-
2 mount Park, which is listed on the National Register
3 of Historic Places;

4 (7) Memorial Hall, a centerpiece of the Centen-
5 nial celebration is—

6 (A) listed on the National Register of His-
7 toric Places; and

8 (B) being renovated to join other cultural
9 institutions as an anchor for the Centennial
10 District; and

11 (8) the Centennial District would commemorate
12 the historic significance of the Centennial celebration
13 in the history of the United States.

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

15 (1) to preserve and interpret for the educational
16 and inspirational benefit of the public the contribu-
17 tion to the heritage of the United States of certain
18 historic and cultural land in the Centennial Historic
19 District, with an emphasis on harnessing the unique
20 urban environment of the District for the edu-
21 cational and recreational values offered by the Dis-
22 trict; and

23 (2) to enhance economic and cultural redevelop-
24 ment in the District by preserving the history of the
25 United States Centennial Celebration.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) CITY.—The term “City” means the City of
4 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

5 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
6 means the Fairmount Park Commission.

7 (3) DISTRICT.—The term “District” means the
8 Centennial Historic District established by section
9 4(a).

10 (4) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “manage-
11 ment plan” means the plan prepared under section
12 5(b).

13 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
14 means—

15 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; or

16 (B) the head of any Federal agency to
17 which funds are appropriated to carry out this
18 Act.

19 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTENNIAL HISTORIC DIS-**
20 **TRICT.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
22 City the Centennial Historic District.

23 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The District shall be comprised
24 of land in the City under the jurisdiction of the Commis-
25 sion, the boundaries of which are depicted on map “A”

1 of the maps entitled “Fairmount Park’s Proposed Centen-
2 nial Authorization Boundary” and dated December 2007.

3 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION OF CENTENNIAL HISTORIC DIS-**
4 **TRICT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants
6 to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, any State
7 or local government agencies, any nonprofit entities des-
8 igned by the Secretary to operate the District, and any
9 leaseholders for—

10 (1) the preparation of the management plan;

11 and

12 (2) the implementation of projects approved by
13 the Secretary under the management plan.

14 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prepare
16 a plan for the development of historic, architectural,
17 natural, cultural, recreational, and interpretive re-
18 sources within the District.

19 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The management plan
20 shall include—

21 (A) an evaluation of—

22 (i) the condition of historic and archi-
23 tectural resources in the District; and

24 (ii) the environmental conditions in
25 the District; and

1 (B) recommendations for—

2 (i) rehabilitating, reconstructing, and
3 adaptively reusing the historic and archi-
4 tectural resources evaluated under sub-
5 paragraph (A)(i);

6 (ii) preserving viewsheds, focal points,
7 and streetscapes in the District;

8 (iii) establishing gateways to the Dis-
9 trict;

10 (iv) establishing and maintaining
11 parks and public spaces in the District;

12 (v) developing public parking areas in
13 the District;

14 (vi) improving pedestrian and vehic-
15 ular circulation in the District; and

16 (vii) improving security in the Dis-
17 trict.

18 (c) RESTORATION, MAINTENANCE, AND INTERPRE-
19 TATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
21 into cooperative agreements with the City, any
22 agents of the City, and designated partners within
23 the District under which the Secretary may mark,
24 interpret, improve, restore, and provide technical as-
25 sistance with respect to the preservation and inter-

1 pretation of any property of historical or cultural
2 significance in the District, as identified in the man-
3 agement plan.

4 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A cooperative agreement
5 entered into under paragraph (1) shall contain pro-
6 visions requiring that—

7 (A) the Secretary have the right of access
8 at reasonable times to public portions of the
9 property for interpretive and other purposes;
10 and

11 (B) no changes or alterations be made to
12 the property unless the changes or alterations
13 are approved by all parties to the cooperative
14 agreement.

15 (d) CAPITAL PROJECTS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
17 financial assistance to projects for capital improve-
18 ments in the District in accordance with this sub-
19 section.

20 (2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for financial
21 assistance under paragraph (1), an entity shall sub-
22 mit to the Secretary an application that includes a
23 description of the manner in which the proposed
24 project would further the purposes of the District.

1 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making amounts
2 available under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

3 (A) consider which proposed projects pro-
4 vide the greatest leverage of Federal funds; and

5 (B) give priority consideration to projects
6 relating to—

7 (i) providing gateways to, and signage
8 for, the District;

9 (ii) improving historical monuments in
10 the District;

11 (iii) maintaining public parks and
12 spaces in the District;

13 (iv) establishing a trail in the District;

14 (v) maintaining and improving the
15 lake in the District;

16 (vi) providing streetscape and lighting
17 for the Girard Gateway;

18 (vii) improving pedestrian and vehic-
19 ular traffic circulation and parking at the
20 western end of the Centennial Exhibition
21 grounds; and

22 (viii) restoring Memorial Hall.

23 (C) CONDITIONS.—Any amounts provided
24 under this subsection shall be subject to an
25 agreement between the Secretary and the re-

1 recipient of the financial assistance providing that
2 if the project assisted is converted or disposed
3 of for purposes contrary to the purposes of this
4 Act, as determined by the Secretary, the United
5 States shall be entitled to compensation from
6 the recipient of the financial assistance in an
7 amount that is equal to the greater of—

8 (i) the amount of any funds made
9 available to the project under this Act; or

10 (ii) the amount of the increased value
11 of the project attributable to the funds
12 made available to the project under this
13 Act, as determined at the time of the con-
14 version or disposal.

15 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
17 priated to the Secretary—

18 (1) \$39,500,000 for capital projects under sec-
19 tion 5(d); and

20 (2) \$5,500,000 for planning and technical as-
21 sistance.

22 (b) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.—Amounts
23 made available for projects under subsection (a)(1) shall
24 not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the project pro-
25 vided financial assistance.

1 (c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to
2 expend amounts made available under this Act shall expire
3 5 years after the date on which the amounts are appro-
4 priated.

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