

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3929

To establish Pullman National Historical Park in the State of Illinois as
a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2014

Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr.
DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was re-
ferred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish Pullman National Historical Park in the State
of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System, 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 “Pullman National His-
5 torical Park Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Pullman Historical District was des-
9 igned as a National Historic Landmark (NHL)

1 District in 1970 by the Secretary of the Interior for
2 its significance to American labor history, social his-
3 tory, architecture, urban planning, and the events
4 that took place at Pullman were pivotal in creating
5 the world's first national Labor Day holiday.

6 (2) The Historic Pullman District, built be-
7 tween the years of 1880 and 1884, was established
8 by George M. Pullman, owner of the Pullman Palace
9 Car Company. Pullman envisioned an industrial
10 town that provided employees with a model commu-
11 nity and suitable living conditions for workers and
12 their families. The town, which consisted of over
13 1,000 buildings and homes, was awarded "The
14 World's Most Perfect Town" at the International
15 Hygienic and Pharmaceutical Exposition in 1896.

16 (3) The Pullman factory site is a true symbol
17 of the historic American struggle to achieve fair
18 labor practices for the working class, with the origi-
19 nal factory serving as the catalyst for the first in-
20 dustry-wide strike in the United States. In the midst
21 of economic depression in 1894, Pullman factory
22 workers initiated a strike to protest unsafe condi-
23 tions and reductions in pay that, when taken up as
24 a cause by the American Railway Union (ARU),
25 crippled the entire rail industry. The strike contin-

1 ued even in the face of a Federal injunction and a
2 showdown between laborers and Federal troops that
3 turned violent and deadly. But the strike also set a
4 national example for the ability of working Ameri-
5 cans to change the existing system in favor of more
6 just practices for protecting workers rights and safe-
7 ty.

8 (4) The Pullman community was the site of the
9 famous 1894 Pullman labor strike. Following the
10 deaths of a number of workers at the hands of the
11 U.S. military and U.S. Marshals during that strike,
12 the United States Congress unanimously voted to
13 approve rush legislation that created a national
14 Labor Day holiday. President Grover Cleveland
15 signed it into law a mere six days after the end of
16 the strike.

17 (5) The Pullman Car Company also played an
18 important role in African-American and early Civil
19 Rights history through the legacy of the Pullman
20 Porters. Many of the Pullman Porters were ex-slaves
21 who were employed in a heavily discriminatory envi-
22 ronment immediately following the Civil War. These
23 men, who served diligently between the 1870s and
24 the 1960s, have been commended for their level of
25 service and attention to detail, as well as their con-

1 tributions to the development of the Black middle
2 class. The information, ideas, and commerce they
3 carried across the country (while traveling on trains)
4 helped to bring education and wealth to Black com-
5 munities everywhere. Their positive role in the his-
6 torical image of the first-class service that was made
7 available on Pullman cars is unmistakable.

8 (6) Pullman was the seminal home to the
9 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first Afri-
10 can-American labor union with a collective bar-
11 gaining agreement, founded by civil rights pioneer A.
12 Philip Randolph in 1925. This union fought against
13 discrimination and in support of just labor practices,
14 and helped lay the groundwork for what became the
15 great Civil Rights Movement of the 20th century.

16 (7) The Pullman community is a paramount il-
17 lustration of the work of architect Solon Spencer
18 Beman and a well-preserved example of 19th cen-
19 tury community planning, architecture, and land-
20 scape design. The community is comprised of a
21 number of historic structures, including the Admin-
22 istration (Clock-tower) Building, Hotel Florence,
23 Greenstone Church, Market Square, and hundreds
24 of units of row houses built for Pullman workers.

1 (8) The preservation of Pullman has been
2 threatened by plans for demolition in 1960 and by
3 a fire in 1998, which damaged the iconic clock-tower
4 and the rear erecting shops. The restoration and
5 preservation led by the diligent efforts of community
6 organizations, foundations, non-profits, residents,
7 and the local and State government were vital to the
8 protection of the site.

9 (9) Due to the Pullman’s historic and architec-
10 tural significance, the site is designated as—

11 (A) a registered National Historic Land-
12 mark District;

13 (B) an Illinois State Landmark; and

14 (C) a City of Chicago Landmark District.

15 (10) The preservation, enhancement, economic,
16 and tourism potential and management of the Pull-
17 man National Historical Park’s important historical
18 and architectural resources requires cooperation and
19 partnerships from among local property owners,
20 local, State, and Federal Government entities, the
21 private and non-profit sectors, and more than 100
22 civic organizations who have expressed support for
23 community preservation through the creation of
24 Pullman National Historical Park.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PULLMAN NATIONAL HISTOR-**
2 **ICAL PARK.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—There is here-
4 by established Pullman National Historical Park in the
5 State of Illinois for the purposes of—

6 (1) preserving and interpreting for the benefit
7 of future generations the significant labor, industrial
8 and social history; the significant civil rights history;
9 and the significant architectural structures in Pull-
10 man National Historical Park;

11 (2) preserving and interpreting for the benefit
12 of future generations the role of Pullman in the cre-
13 ation of the world’s first national Labor Day holi-
14 day;

15 (3) coordinating preservation, protection, and
16 interpretation efforts by Federal, State, or local gov-
17 ernmental entities, and/or private and nonprofit or-
18 ganizations; and

19 (4) coordinating appropriate management op-
20 tions needed to ensure the protection, preservation,
21 and interpretation of the many significant aspects of
22 the site.

23 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of Pullman Na-
24 tional Historical Park should reflect and not exceed the
25 boundaries of the Pullman Historic District in Chicago,
26 which is between 103rd Street on the north, 115th Street

1 on the south, Cottage Grove Avenue on the west, and the
2 Norfolk & Western Rail Line on the east. The area encom-
3 passes about 300 acres. The National Park Service would
4 initially own only the Pullman Factory Complex, including
5 the Administration/Clock Tower Building and rear erect-
6 ing shops and the approximately 13 acres of land on which
7 the structures sit, which would be conveyed to the Na-
8 tional Park Service by the State of Illinois. All future land,
9 buildings, and assets could be transferred to the Federal
10 Government by donation, transfer, or exchange only.

11 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
13 administer Pullman National Historical Park in accord-
14 ance with—

15 (1) this Act; and

16 (2) the laws generally applicable to units of the
17 National Park System, including—

18 (A) the National Park Service Organic Act
19 (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

20 (B) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C.
21 461 et seq.).

22 Additionally, nothing in this law modifies any authority
23 of the United States to carry out Federal laws on Federal
24 land located within the Park.

1 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
2 may also enter into cooperative agreements with the State
3 or other public and non-public parties, under which the
4 Secretary may identify, interpret, and provide assistance
5 for the preservation of non-Federal properties within the
6 Park (and at sites in close proximity to the Park but out-
7 side boundaries), including providing for placement of di-
8 rectional and interpretive signage, exhibits, and tech-
9 nology-based interpretive devices.

10 (c) LAND AND PROPERTY ACQUISITION.—All land,
11 buildings, structures, or interests in land owned by the
12 State or any other political, private, or non-profit entity
13 may be acquired by the Federal Government by donation,
14 transfer, exchange, or purchase from a willing seller.

15 (d) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 fiscal
16 years after the date on which funds are first made avail-
17 able to carry out this Act, the Secretary, in consultation
18 with the State, shall complete a general management plan
19 for the Park in accordance with—

20 (1) section 12(b) of the National Park System
21 General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–7(b)); and

22 (2) any other applicable laws.

○