

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2896

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

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

A BILL

To establish the 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 that—

1 (1) in 1970, the Secretary of the Interior des-
2 ignated the Pullman Historic District as a National
3 Historic Landmark District because of—

4 (A) the significance of the District to the
5 labor history, social history, architecture, and
6 urban planning of the United States; and

7 (B) the pivotal role of events in the Dis-
8 trict in creating the first national Labor Day
9 holiday in the world;

10 (2) between 1880 and 1884, George M. Pull-
11 man, owner of the Pullman Palace Car Company,
12 built the Pullman community, which was envisioned
13 by Pullman as an industrial town that would provide
14 employees with—

15 (A) a model community; and

16 (B) suitable living conditions;

17 (3) the town developed by George M. Pullman,
18 which consisted of over 1,000 buildings and homes,
19 was awarded “The World’s Most Perfect Town” at
20 the International Hygienic and Pharmaceutical Ex-
21 position in 1896;

22 (4) the Pullman factory site is a true symbol of
23 the historic struggle in the United States to achieve
24 fair labor practices for the working class, with the

1 original factory serving as the catalyst for the first
2 industry-wide strike in the United States;

3 (5) in the midst of economic depression in
4 1894, to protest unsafe conditions and reductions in
5 pay, Pullman factory workers initiated a strike
6 that—

7 (A) when taken up as a cause by the
8 American Railway Union, crippled the entire
9 rail industry;

10 (B) continued even in the face of a Federal
11 injunction and a showdown between laborers
12 and Federal troops that turned violent and
13 deadly; and

14 (C) set a national example for the ability
15 of working people in the United States to
16 change the existing system in favor of more just
17 practices for protecting workers rights and safe-
18 ty;

19 (6) following the deaths of a number of workers
20 at the hands of the United States military and
21 United States Marshals during the 1894 strike, Con-
22 gress unanimously voted to approve rush legislation
23 that created a national Labor Day holiday, which
24 was signed into law by President Grover Cleveland
25 6 days after the end of the strike;

1 (7) the Pullman Palace Car Company also
2 played an important role in African-American and
3 early civil rights history through the legacy of the
4 Pullman porters, many of whom were ex-slaves and
5 employed in a heavily discriminatory environment
6 immediately following the Civil War;

7 (8) the Pullman porters, who served diligently
8 between the 1870s and the 1960s, have been com-
9 mended for—

10 (A) their level of service and attention to
11 detail; and

12 (B) their contributions to the development
13 of the African-American middle class;

14 (9) the information, ideas, and commerce the
15 Pullman porters carried across the country while
16 traveling on trains helped to bring education and
17 wealth to African-American communities throughout
18 the United States;

19 (10) the positive role of the Pullman porters in
20 the historical image of the first-class service that
21 was made available on Pullman cars is unmistak-
22 able;

23 (11) the Pullman community was the seminal
24 home to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters,
25 which—

1 (A) was founded by civil rights pioneer A.
2 Philip Randolph in 1925;

3 (B) was the first African-American labor
4 union with a collective bargaining agreement;

5 (C) fought—

6 (i) against discrimination; and

7 (ii) in support of just labor practices;

8 and

9 (D) helped lay the groundwork for what
10 became the great Civil Rights Movement of the
11 20th Century;

12 (12) the Pullman community is—

13 (A) a paramount illustration of the work of
14 architect Solon Spencer Beman;

15 (B) a well-preserved example of 19th cen-
16 tury community planning, architecture, and
17 landscape design; and

18 (C) comprised of a number of historic
19 structures, including the Administration Clock
20 Tower Building, Hotel Florence, Greenstone
21 Church, Market Square, and hundreds of units
22 of rowhouses built for Pullman workers;

23 (13) the preservation of the Pullman site has
24 been threatened by—

25 (A) plans for demolition in 1960; and

1 (B) a fire in 1998, which damaged the
2 iconic clock tower and the rear erecting shops;

3 (14) the diligent efforts of community organiza-
4 tions, foundations, nonprofit organizations, resi-
5 dents, the State, and units of local government in
6 the restoration and preservation of the District after
7 the 1998 fire were vital to the protection of the Pull-
8 man site;

9 (15) due to the historic and architectural sig-
10 nificance of the District, the District is designated
11 as—

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

14 (B) an Illinois State Landmark; and

15 (C) a City of Chicago Landmark District;

16 and

17 (16) the preservation, enhancement, economic,
18 and tourism potential and management of the im-
19 portant historic and architectural resources of the
20 Park requires cooperation and partnerships from
21 among local property owners, the Federal Govern-
22 ment, the State, units of local government, the pri-
23 vate and nonprofit sectors, and the more than 100
24 civic organizations that have expressed support for

1 community preservation through the establishment
2 of the Pullman National Historical Park.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Pull-
6 man National Historical Park established by section
7 4(a).

8 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior.

10 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
11 of Illinois.

12 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PULLMAN NATIONAL HISTOR-**
13 **ICAL PARK.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—There is es-
15 tablished in the State a unit of the National Park System,
16 to be known as the “Pullman National Historical Park”—

17 (1) to preserve and interpret for the benefit of
18 future generations—

19 (A) the significant labor, industrial, civil
20 rights, and social history of the Park;

21 (B) the significant architectural structures
22 in the Park; and

23 (C) the role of the Pullman community in
24 the creation of the first national Labor Day
25 holiday in the world;

1 (2) to coordinate preservation, protection, and
2 interpretation efforts of the Park by the Federal
3 Government, the State, units of local government,
4 and private and nonprofit organizations; and

5 (3) to coordinate appropriate management op-
6 tions necessary to ensure the protection, preserva-
7 tion, and interpretation of the many significant as-
8 pects of the Park.

9 (b) PARK BOUNDARY.—The boundary of the Park—

10 (1) shall be established by the Secretary; but

11 (2) shall not exceed the boundary of the ap-
12 proximately 300-acre Pullman Historic District in
13 Chicago, which is between—

14 (A) 103rd Street on the north;

15 (B) 115th Street on the south;

16 (C) Cottage Grove Avenue on the west;

17 and

18 (D) the Norfolk & Western Rail Line on

19 the east.

20 (c) INCLUSION OF HISTORIC SITES.—On conveyance
21 by the State to the Secretary, the Park shall include—

22 (1) the Pullman Factory Complex, including the
23 Clock Tower Building and rear erecting shops; and

1 (2) the approximately 13 acres of land on which
2 the structures described in paragraph (1) are lo-
3 cated.

4 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer
6 land within the boundary of the Park in accordance
7 with—

8 (1) this Act; and

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

11 (A) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and
12 sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and
13 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

14 (B) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States
15 Code.

16 (b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary
17 may enter into cooperative agreements with the State or
18 other public and nonpublic entities, under which the Sec-
19 retary may identify, interpret, and provide assistance for
20 the preservation of non-Federal land within the bound-
21 aries of the Park and at sites in close proximity to the
22 Park but located outside the boundaries of the Park, in-
23 cluding providing for placement of directional and inter-
24 pretive signage, exhibits, and technology-based interpre-
25 tive devices.

1 (c) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—The Secretary may ac-
2 quire for inclusion in the Park any land (including inter-
3 ests in land), buildings, or structures owned by the State
4 or any other political, private, or nonprofit entity by dona-
5 tion, transfer, exchange, or purchase from a willing seller.

6 (d) TECHNICAL AND PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.—
7 The Secretary may provide public interpretation and tech-
8 nical assistance for the preservation of historic structures
9 of, the maintenance of the cultural landscape of, and local
10 preservation planning for, related historic and cultural re-
11 sources within the boundaries of the Park.

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

17 (1) section 100502 of title 54, United States
18 Code; and

19 (2) any other applicable laws.

20 (f) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act modifies any au-
21 thority of the Federal Government to carry out Federal
22 laws on Federal land located in the Park.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums

3 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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