

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2485

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in planning and constructing a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine.

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 “Saint Croix Island
5 Heritage Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) Saint Croix Island is located in the Saint
4 Croix River, a river that is the boundary between
5 the State of Maine and Canada;

6 (2) the Island is the only international historic
7 site in the National Park System;

8 (3) in 1604, French nobleman Pierre Dugua
9 Sieur de Mons, accompanied by a courageous group
10 of adventurers that included Samuel Champlain,
11 landed on the Island and began the construction of
12 a settlement;

13 (4) the French settlement on the Island in
14 1604 and 1605 was the initial site of the first per-
15 manent settlement in the New World, predating the
16 English settlement of 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia;

17 (5) many people view the expedition that settled
18 on the Island in 1604 as the beginning of the Aca-
19 dian culture in North America;

20 (6) in October, 1998, the National Park Service
21 completed a general management plan to manage
22 and interpret the Saint Croix Island International
23 Historic Site;

24 (7) the plan addresses a variety of management
25 alternatives, and concludes that the best manage-
26 ment strategy entails developing an interpretive trail

1 and ranger station at Red Beach, Maine, and a re-
2 gional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, in
3 cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies;

4 (8) a 1982 memorandum of understanding,
5 signed by the Department of the Interior and the
6 Canadian Department for the Environment, outlines
7 a cooperative program to commemorate the inter-
8 national heritage of the Saint Croix Island site and
9 specifically to prepare for the 400th anniversary of
10 the settlement in 2004; and

11 (9) only 4 years remain before the 400th anni-
12 versary of the settlement at Saint Croix Island, an
13 occasion that should be appropriately commemo-
14 rated.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to direct
16 the Secretary of the Interior to take all necessary and ap-
17 propriate steps to work with Federal, State, and local
18 agencies, historical societies, and nonprofit organizations
19 to facilitate the development of a regional heritage center
20 in downtown Calais, Maine before the 400th anniversary
21 of the settlement of Saint Croix Island.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

1 (1) ISLAND.—The term “Island” means Saint
2 Croix Island, located in the Saint Croix River, be-
3 tween Canada and the State of Maine.

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
6 rector of the National Park Service.

7 **SEC. 4. SAINT CROIX ISLAND REGIONAL HERITAGE CEN-**
8 **TER.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide as-
10 sistance in planning, constructing, and operating a re-
11 gional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, to fa-
12 cilitate the management and interpretation of the Saint
13 Croix Island International Historic Site.

14 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out sub-
15 section (a), in administering the Saint Croix Island Inter-
16 national Historic Site, the Secretary may enter into coop-
17 erative agreements under appropriate terms and condi-
18 tions with other Federal agencies, State and local agencies
19 and nonprofit organizations—

20 (1) to provide exhibits, interpretive services (in-
21 cluding employing individuals to provide such serv-
22 ices), and technical assistance;

23 (2) to conduct activities that facilitate the dis-
24 semination of information relating to the Saint Croix
25 Island International Historic Site;

1 (3) to provide financial assistance for the con-
2 struction of the regional heritage center in exchange
3 for space in the center that is sufficient to interpret
4 the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site;
5 and

6 (4) to assist with the operation and mainte-
7 nance of the regional heritage center.

8 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 (a) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
11 appropriated to carry out this Act (including the de-
12 sign and construction of the regional heritage cen-
13 ter) \$2,000,000.

14 (2) EXPENDITURE.—Paragraph (1) authorizes
15 funds to be appropriated on the condition that any
16 expenditure of those funds shall be matched on a
17 dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from non-Federal
18 sources.

19 (b) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—There are au-
20 thorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary

1 to maintain and operate interpretive exhibits in the re-
2 gional heritage center.

Passed the Senate October 5 (legislative day, Sep-
tember 22), 2000.

Attest:

Secretary.

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