115TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 6108

AN ACT

To provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, 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 "Preserving America's					
5	Battlefields Act".					
6	SEC. 2. CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ACT OF					
7	2002.					
8	8 Section 2 of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation					
9	Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–359) is amended to read					
10	as follows:					
11	"SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.					
12	"(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:					
13	"(1) Battlefields of the American Revolution,					
14	War of 1812 and the Civil War—					
15	"(A) provide a means for the people of the					
16	United States to understand our Nation's tur-					
17	bulent first century;					
18	"(B) serve as living memorials to those					
19	who fought and sacrificed in these conflicts to					
20	establish and maintain our freedom and liberty;					
21	"(C) serve as training grounds for our Na-					
22	tion's Armed Forces; and					
23	"(D) serve as heritage tourism destina-					
24	tions, generating revenue for local economies.					

1	"(2) According to the Report on the Nation's
2	Civil War Battlefields, prepared by the National
3	Park Service and updated in 2010, of the 383 Civil
4	War battlefields identified as national preservation
5	priorities—
6	"(A) only at 31 battlefields is more than
7	half of the surviving landscape permanently
8	protected;
9	"(B) at 227 battlefields, less than half of
10	the surviving landscape is permanently pro-
11	tected;
12	"(C) 65 battlefields have no protection at
13	all; and
14	"(D) 113 battlefields have been severely
15	hampered by development since the Civil War
16	or are on the verge of being overwhelmed.
17	"(3) According to the 2007 Report to Congress
18	on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War
19	and War of 1812 Sites in the United States, pre-
20	pared by the National Park Service, of the 243 prin-
21	cipal Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battle-
22	fields identified as national preservation priorities—
23	"(A) almost 70 percent lie within urban
24	areas as denoted in the 2000 U.S. Census:

1	"(B) 141 are lost or extremely fragmented,					
2	with residential and commercial development					
3	being the chief threats;					
4	"(C) 100 other battlefields retain signifi-					
5	cant features and lands from the period of bat					
6	tle, although on average these battlefields retain					
7	only 37 percent of the original historic scene;					
8	"(D) of these 100 surviving but diminished					
9	battle landscapes, 82 are partially owned and					
10	protected by public and nonprofit stewards, al-					
11	though the extent of that protection varies from					
12	site to site;					
13	"(E) 18 are without any legal protection;					
14	"(F) the condition of two battlefields is un-					
15	known, with additional research and survey					
16	being required to determine their exact location					
17	and condition; and					
18	"(G) the paucity of existing battlefield					
19	landscapes necessitates preservation and main-					
20	tenance of what precious little remains today.					
21	"(b) Purposes.—The purposes of this Act are—					
22	"(1) to act quickly and proactively to preserve					
23	and protect nationally significant battlefields of the					
24	American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War					

- 1 through conservation easements and fee-simple pur-2 chases of those battlefields from willing sellers; and "(2) to create partnerships among State and 3 local governments, regional entities, and the private 5 sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor 6 experience at nationally significant battlefields of the 7 American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War.". 8 SEC. 3. PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE. 9 Section 308103(f) of title 54, United States Code, is 10 amended to read as follows: 11 "(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to provide grants under this section \$15,000,000 for each fiscal vear through 2025, of which not more than 10 percent 14 15 may be used each fiscal year as follows: "(1) Not more than \$1,000,000 for projects 16 17 and programs that modernize battlefield interpretive
 - "(1) Not more than \$1,000,000 for projects and programs that modernize battlefield interpretive and educational assets through the deployment of technology, disbursed through the competitive grant process to non-profit organizations.
 - "(2) Not more than \$1,000,000 for grants to organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code to be used for projects that restore day-of-battle condi-

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- 1 tions on land preserved through Battlefield Land
- 2 Acquisition Grant Program funds.".

Passed the House of Representatives December 10, 2018.

Attest:

Clerk.

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