



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Honorable Morris K. Udall
Chairman, Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MAR 29 1984

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your request for our views on H.R. 2638, a bill "To preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's Capital."

We recommend against the enactment of this legislation.

The boundary stones that are the subject of the bill were erected pursuant to the Act of July 16, 1790, authorizing the President to appoint three Commissioners to survey a permanent seat of government. On January 21, 1791, President George Washington designated the location of the Federal District, and directed the Commissioners to survey and define a 10 mile square District. The boundary stones were subsequently placed to mark the District boundary.

Since 1915, the Daughters of the American Revolution have undertaken the responsibility of protecting the stones. We understand that this organization may no longer be able to do so.

In 1981, the National Park Service estimated that approximately \$360,000 would be required to carry out the provisions of previously proposed legislation similar to this bill. Approximately \$245,000 would be needed to survey the stones, prepare a conditions report, and prepare a relocation, replacement, and marker plan. Another \$115,000 would be needed to carry out such a plan.

We do not believe such expenditures can be justified in a period of budgetary constraints, and we therefore recommend against the enactment of H.R. 2638.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,


ASSISTANT SECRETARY

G. Ray Arnett

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION **H. R. 2638**

To preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's Capital.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 1983

Mr. FAUNTROY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's Capital.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That this Act may be cited as the "National Capital
4 Boundary Stones Act".

5 SEC. 2. (a) Congress finds that because of the deterio-
6 rating condition and neglect of the forty original boundary
7 stones delimiting the ten-mile square first set aside by the
8 State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia as the
9 "seat of government of the United States", there is a need to

1 provide for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of
2 such stones.

3 (b) The purposes of this Act are to—

4 (1) assign responsibility for the preservation, pro-
5 tection, and maintenance of the boundary stones;

6 (2) assure perpetuity of these important historic
7 boundary stones for future generations of Americans to
8 view and enjoy;

9 (3) provide an adequate mechanism for ensuring
10 that the boundary stones are protected and maintained;
11 and

12 (4) to make available to the public, information,
13 data, and items involving or pertaining to the history
14 of the original survey of the Nation's Capital, including
15 the surveyors, and the instruments and techniques used
16 in connection therewith.

17 SEC. 3. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, acting through
18 the National Park Service, shall have the responsibility for
19 the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the bound-
20 ary stones referred to in section 2 of this Act.

21 (b) Within the twelve-month period following the date of
22 the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Park
23 Service shall prepare and submit to the Secretary for his ap-
24 proval a program for preserving, protecting, and maintaining
25 such boundary stones. Such program shall include—

1 (1) a location and condition survey of each corner-
2 stone and boundary stone, conducted in consultation
3 with the District of Columbia Daughters of the Ameri-
4 can Revolution, which shall be referenced to the appro-
5 priate State plane grid coordinate system with appro-
6 priate ties to property lines and which shall provide for
7 the results to be shown on plats of survey in such form
8 as may be suitable for recording purposes;

9 (2) with respect to each boundary stone located at
10 each of the four cardinal points of the compass at the
11 corners of the ten-mile square delineating the original
12 site of the Nation's Capital a plan for preserving, pro-
13 tecting, and maintaining such cornerstones;

14 (3) with respect to each of the other boundary
15 stones, a plan to preserve, protect, and maintain each
16 such boundary stone;

17 (4) a relocation, replacement, and marker plan for
18 those boundary stones which have been moved or
19 which are missing or which cannot be placed in their
20 original location;

21 (5) alternative plans for the long-term care, pro-
22 tection, and maintenance of the boundary stones which
23 may include agreements among private individuals, the
24 Federal Government, local governments of areas
25 within the State of Maryland or the Commonwealth of

1 Virginia within which such boundary stones are locat-
2 ed, and the governments of the State of Maryland, the
3 Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of
4 Columbia;

5 (6) a schedule and financial plan for providing
6 such preservation, protection, and maintenance of such
7 boundary stones; and

8 (7) in coordination with the Smithsonian Institu-
9 tion, a plan setting forth a display on the history of the
10 survey of the District of Columbia conducted during
11 the years 1791 and 1792, the original surveyors, the
12 instruments and techniques used by such surveyors in
13 conducting the survey of the District of Columbia, and
14 surveying methods and techniques currently in use.

15 (c) Within the twenty-four-month period following the
16 date of the approval by the Secretary of the Interior of the
17 program pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Secre-
18 tary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Serv-
19 ice, shall, in consultation with the District of Columbia
20 Daughters of the American Revolution, implement such pro-
21 gram and provide for the preservation, protection, and main-
22 tenance of such boundary stones.

23 SEC. 4. In carrying out the program approved pursuant
24 to section 3 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is au-
25 thorized to acquire, by donation, purchase with appropriated

1 or donated funds, exchange, or condemnation, such lands and
2 interests therein (including easements), together with im-
3 provements thereon, as may be necessary to carry out such
4 program.

5 SEC. 5. Whoever willfully damages or removes any
6 boundary stone referred to in this Act shall be fined not more
7 than \$500, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

8 SEC. 6. There are authorized to be appropriated such
9 sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
10 Act.

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98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 569

To preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's
Capital.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 23, 1983

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

A BILL

To preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones
of the Nation's Capital.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That this Act may be cited as the "National Capital
4 Boundary Stones Act".

5 SEC. 2. (a) Congress finds that because of the deterio-
6 rating condition and neglect of the forty original boundary
7 stones delimiting the ten-mile square first set aside by the
8 State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia as the
9 "seat of government of the United States", there is a need to

1 provide for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of
2 such stones.

3 (b) The purposes of this Act are to—

4 (1) assign responsibility for the preservation, pro-
5 tection, and maintenance of the boundary stones;

6 (2) assure perpetuity of these important historic
7 boundary stones for future generations of Americans to
8 view and enjoy;

9 (3) provide an adequate mechanism for ensuring
10 that the boundary stones are protected and maintained;
11 and

12 (4) to make available to the public, information,
13 data, and items involving or pertaining to the history
14 of the original survey of the Nation's Capital, including
15 the surveyors, and the instruments and techniques used
16 in connection therewith.

17 SEC. 3. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, acting through
18 the National Park Service, shall have the responsibility for
19 the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the bound-
20 ary stones referred to in section 2 of this Act.

21 (b) Within the twelve-month period following the date of
22 the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Park
23 Service shall prepare and submit to the Secretary for his ap-
24 proval a program for preserving, protecting, and maintaining
25 such boundary stones. Such program shall include—

1 (1) a location and condition survey of each corner
2 stone and boundary stone, conducted in consultation
3 with the District of Columbia Daughters of the Ameri-
4 can Revolution, which shall be referenced to the appro-
5 priate State plane grid coordinate system with appro-
6 priate ties to property lines and which shall provide for
7 the results to be shown on plats of survey in such form
8 as may be suitable for recording purposes;

9 (2) with respect to each boundary stone located at
10 each of the four cardinal points of the compass at the
11 corners of the ten-mile square delineating the original
12 site of the Nation's Capital a plan for preserving, pro-
13 tecting, and maintaining such cornerstones;

14 (3) with respect to each of the other boundary
15 stones, a plan to preserve, protect, and maintain each
16 such boundary stone;

17 (4) a relocation, replacement, and marker plan for
18 those boundary stones which have been moved or
19 which are missing or which cannot be placed in their
20 original location;

21 (5) alternative plans for the long-term care, pro-
22 tection, and maintenance of the boundary stones which
23 may include agreements among private individuals, the
24 Federal Government, local governments of areas
25 within the State of Maryland or the Commonwealth of

1 Virginia within which such boundary stones are locat-
2 ed, and the governments of the State of Maryland, the
3 Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of
4 Columbia;

5 (6) a schedule and financial plan for providing
6 such preservation, protection, and maintenance of such
7 boundary stones; and

8 (7) in coordination with the Smithsonian Institu-
9 tion, a plan setting forth a display on the history of the
10 survey of the District of Columbia conducted during
11 the years 1791 and 1792, the original surveyors, the
12 instruments and techniques used by such surveyors in
13 conducting the survey of the District of Columbia, and
14 surveying methods and techniques currently in use.

15 (c) Within the twenty-four-month period following the
16 date of the approval by the Secretary of the Interior of the
17 program pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Secre-
18 tary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Serv-
19 ice, shall, in consultation with the District of Columbia
20 Daughters of the American Revolution, implement such pro-
21 gram and provide for the preservation, protection, and main-
22 tenance of such boundary stones.

23 SEC. 4. In carrying out the program approved pursuant
24 to section 3 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is au-
25 thorized to acquire, by donation, purchase with appropriated

1 or donated funds, exchange, or condemnation, such lands and
2 interests therein (including easements), together with im-
3 provements thereon, as may be necessary to carry out such
4 program.

5 SEC. 5. Whoever willfully damages or removes any
6 boundary stone referred to in this Act shall be fined not more
7 than \$500, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

8 SEC. 6. There are authorized to be appropriated such
9 sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
10 Act.

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