

Briefing Paper

Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public

Legislative Hearing

April 8, 2003

2:00 p.m. 1334 LHOB

H.R. 437

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Coltsville in the State of Connecticut for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

Summary of Bill:

H.R. 437, introduced by Mr. Larson (D-CT), would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a suitability and feasibility study of Coltsville, a community in Connecticut, for potential inclusion in the National Park System. The bill provides three years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the study.

Background and Need for Legislation:

Coltsville was inspired by Samuel Colt, founder of Colt Manufacturing Company, and his wife Elizabeth. Coltsville flourished during the Industrial Revolution spurring innovation not only in the production of firearms, but also with the development of technology that lead to changes in the American way of life. Coltsville set the standard of excellence during the Industrial Revolution and continues to be significant as a place where Americans learn the importance of that period in history. In 1998 the NPS conducted a special resource reconnaissance study of the Connecticut River Valley to evaluate the significance of historic manufacturing sites and found that the Coltsville region contains an unequaled concentration of historic resources relating to precision manufacturing. Further study is needed to find if the area warrants designation as a unit of the NPS.

Witnesses:

The National Park Service

Outside Witness

Administration Position:

During the 107th Congress, the National Park Service testified before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources in support of the study; however, it did not request additional funding for the study in fiscal year 2003.

Contact Information: Robert Howarth or Casey Hammond 6-7736

####