

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)
Assistant to the Democratic Leader
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.
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Spratt Reintroduces Bill to Preserve SC's Revolutionary War Sites

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) Wednesday reintroduced a bill aimed at identifying and preserving historic Revolutionary War sites in South Carolina.

The bill directs the Interior Department to conduct a study, in consultation with state historic societies, to determine the feasibility of designating various sites across South Carolina as the "Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area." The bill passed the House in October, but was not considered by the Senate before Congress adjourned.

In a House floor statement, Spratt said his bill is focused on "the most important part of the campaign for the Revolution, the Revolution in the South, where the Revolution was largely won after the fall of Charleston. The whole matter has been popularized by Mel Gibson and others in a movie called *The Patriot*. We need this national corridor to tell the story right."

Spratt said South Carolina has an abundance of American Revolutionary War sites scattered across the state, including a mix of national parks, state parks, and public and private sites. Several of these sites require federal resources to reach their development potential, while some are in danger of being developed commercially and lost entirely. Although other sites exist, there is not a single heritage area in place to demarcate the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War or to promote and protect the resources as a whole.

The Interior Department study called for in Spratt's bill would:

- determine if the sites have various natural, historic, and cultural resources that represent aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition and conservation, and identify the most effective management of each site;
- consider if the sites provide opportunities to conserve historic, cultural, or scenic features, and if they provide significant recreational and educational opportunities;
- determine if any residents, businesses, or state and local governments already have plans for their respective areas, and if any have developed a

financial plan that outlines the roles of each of the participants; and

- authorize the study to include sites in North Carolina as necessary.

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