



HR0322

LRB098 11991 GRL 45580 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The historic community of Pullman on Chicago's far southeast side was a company-owned town planned and built in the late 19th century by Chicago businessman and industrialist George M. Pullman, founder of the Pullman Palace Car Company, and includes the area east of Cottage Grove Avenue, from East 103rd Street to East 115th Street; and

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WHEREAS, The Pullman community includes scores of restored historic homes and buildings, including the Clock Tower Administration Building and Factory, where the Pullman luxury railroad passenger cars were constructed, and the Hotel Florence, which was built as lodging for visiting businessmen and dignitaries; both of these sites are now owned by the State of Illinois and maintained by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; and

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WHEREAS, Pullman's important role in the nation's history was recognized by the National Park Service through its placement on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 and its designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1970; and

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WHEREAS, Pullman is renowned as one of America's first and most important model industrial towns and for the seminal role

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1 this town played in the nation's urban planning, labor,  
2 transportation, architectural, and African-American history;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The country's first African-American labor union,  
5 the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, was established and  
6 led by the legendary labor leader, A. Philip Randolph, and the  
7 men hired by the Pullman Company to work as porters on his  
8 sleeping cars; this union was instrumental in the formation and  
9 advancement of the African-American middle class in America;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, On March 13, 2013, the Chicago City Council passed  
12 a resolution urging Congress to make Pullman a National  
13 Historical Park or the President to declare it a National  
14 Monument; and

15 WHEREAS, The Lincoln Home National Historic Site in  
16 Springfield is currently the only unit of the National Park  
17 System in Illinois; as a National Historical Park, Pullman  
18 would be a unique gem to add to the City of Chicago's  
19 remarkable and noteworthy destination sites for our tourism  
20 industry; and

21 WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives  
22 introduced H.R. 3894 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior

1 to conduct a Special Resource Study of the Pullman Historic  
2 District to determine the suitability and feasibility of  
3 designating the site as part of the National Park System; and

4 WHEREAS, A reconnaissance survey is now being undertaken by  
5 the National Park Service to evaluate Pullman's significance,  
6 suitability, and feasibility as a potential unit of the  
7 National Park Service, which would ensure that the historic  
8 structures are protected and accessible for all people to  
9 experience; and

10 WHEREAS, More than \$26 million in State and federal funds  
11 have been invested in the Pullman State Historic Site for  
12 acquisition and stabilization, and a national park designation  
13 would capitalize on this investment; and

14 WHEREAS, The local community is highly supportive of and  
15 would benefit from a revitalized and better utilized site, with  
16 enhanced interpretive and educational programs at the Clock  
17 Tower Administration Building and Factory and other buildings  
18 to teach about the significance of Pullman and the numerous  
19 historic and cultural themes associated with it; and

20 WHEREAS, The Pullman State Historic Site is vital to the  
21 community's cultural and historical identity, but remains  
22 underutilized and at risk for deferred maintenance; and

1           WHEREAS, National parks generate \$31 billion for local  
2 economies each year and are shown to invigorate neighborhood  
3 historic renovation and spur business growth in urban areas;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The general consensus is that now is the time for  
6 immediate action to develop the site to realize its full  
7 potential; therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
10 we urge Congress to pass a bill establishing Pullman as a  
11 National Historical Park or, alternatively, call upon  
12 President Barack Obama to exercise his authority by executive  
13 order to designate Pullman as a National Monument; and be it  
14 further

15           RESOLVED, That we state our belief that not only should the  
16 State of Illinois continue to have a presence and role at  
17 Pullman, but various community and civic organizations and  
18 institutions, as well as the National Park Service, should play  
19 a role and establish strong and lasting partnerships in  
20 redeveloping and reenergizing this site; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 delivered to Governor Pat Quinn, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel,  
2 U.S. Senators Richard Durbin and Mark Kirk, the members of the  
3 Illinois congressional delegation, National Park Service  
4 Director Jonathan Jarvis, and President Barack Obama.