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EDITORIAL ON TUBMAN PARKS BILL

# Our view: Bill to establish Harriet Tubman national park in Auburn must rise above politics



Sarah Jean Condon, The Citizen

FILE - Members of the Cayuga Community College Historical Club take a tour of the Harriet Tubman Home May 3, 2013 in Auburn.

July 16, 2014 6:30 am • [The Citizen Editorial Board](#)

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[One step closer: U.S. Senate passes bill to establish Harriet Tubman national parks in Auburn, Maryland](#)



A national park in Auburn

Now that the U.S. Senate has passed legislation to establish two national parks in honor of Harriet Tubman, a bill must now be brought to a vote in the House so that the president can sign it into law.

Our fear is that this legislation will be stalled until after the



honoring Harriet Tubman is one step closer to becoming a reality. [Read more](#)

November elections as a means of preventing U.S. Rep. Dan Maffei from putting it on his resume as a win for his district.

Maffei's re-election bid against Republican John Katko is shaping up to be another mid-term nail-biter much like Maffei's re-election try four years ago. Could this prevent the

Tubman bill from being brought to a vote before the end of the year? We hope not.

Sure Maffei would love to be able to say in the weeks leading up to the election that he helped make Harriet Tubman National Historical Park a reality. But while he has been a strong supporter of the bill, and we genuinely appreciate his efforts, Maffei stands on the shoulders of a lot of politicians, both Democrat and Republican, who have pushed this legislation throughout the course of many years.

The congressional district he happens to represent at the moment is a whole lot more important than Maffei or any other individual. The people who live and work here stand to gain a tremendous boost from the influx of money and tourism this park would bring. And, for the record, Katko, supports the legislation, too.

If House leadership sees anything not quite right with its version of the Tubman parks legislation, we'd like to hear someone come out and say so. Otherwise, the House should vote on this bill before lawmakers take their extended summer vacation. The legislation is wholly without controversy and has widespread bipartisan support. There is no need for further delay. And a delay for the sake of politics would be simply unjust.

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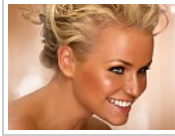
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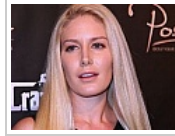
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