

Calendar No. 820

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**H. R. 2627****[Report No. 110-388]**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

JUNE 16, 2008

Reported by Mr. BINGAMAN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

AN ACT

To establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park
in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the
Edison National Historic Site.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Act Commemorating
5 the LIFE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Edison National Historic Site, located
2 in West Orange, New Jersey, is a vital part of
3 America's national system of parks which preserves
4 Thomas Alva Edison's research and development
5 laboratories, library, papers, and artifacts, as well as
6 his home.

7 (2) The Site is a national historic treasure and
8 contains the world's largest collection of materials
9 related to Thomas Edison, encompassing an esti-
10 mated 5,000,000 pages of documents, over 400,000
11 artifacts, approximately 35,000 sound recordings,
12 and 10,000 books from Edison's personal library.

13 (3) Thomas Edison is one of America's greatest
14 inventors, whose inexhaustible energy and genius
15 produced 1,093 patents in his lifetime, more than
16 any other American, including patents for the incan-
17 descent light bulb, the motion picture camera, and
18 the phonograph.

19 (4) In 1928, Thomas Edison was awarded the
20 Congressional Gold Medal for the "development and
21 application of inventions that have revolutionized
22 civilization in the last century."²

23 (5) In 1998, Congress again honored Thomas
24 Edison by directing the Secretary of the Treasury to
25 mint a commemorative coin celebrating the 125th

1 anniversary of Edison's invention of the light bulb,
2 celebrated in 2004.

3 (6) The Edison National Historic Site is one of
4 America's most endangered historic places. The Na-
5 tional Park Service, in its General Management Plan
6 and Development Concept Plan, identified the need
7 for numerous actions to preserve, protect, restore,
8 and enhance the Site and determined that sufficient
9 government funds are not likely to be appropriated
10 to complete these necessary actions in the foresee-
11 able future.

12 (7) On November 6, 1997, the National Park
13 Service signed an agreement with the Thomas Alva
14 Edison Preservation Foundation (now the Edison
15 Preservation Foundation), establishing a public-pri-
16 vate partnership to jointly raise money to fund iden-
17 tified improvements at the Edison National Historic
18 Site so as to leave the Site unimpaired for the enjoy-
19 ment of future generations.

20 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

21 (1) to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas
22 Alva Edison and his innovations; and

23 (2) to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance
24 the Edison National Historic Site to ensure public

1 use and enjoyment of the Site as an educational, sci-
2 entific, and cultural center.

3 **SEC. 3. THOMAS EDISON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the
5 Thomas Edison National Historical Park as a unit of the
6 National Park System (hereafter the “Historical Park”).

7 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The Historical Park shall be com-
8 prised of—

9 (1) all property owned by the United States in
10 the Edison National Historic Site as well as all
11 property authorized to be acquired by the Secretary
12 of the Interior for inclusion in the Edison National
13 Historic Site before the date of the enactment of
14 this Act, as generally depicted on the map entitled
15 the “Edison National Historic Site”, numbered
16 20003B, and dated April 1977; and

17 (2) all property authorized to be acquired for
18 inclusion in the Historical Park by this Act or other
19 law enacted after the date of the enactment of this
20 Act.

21 (c) MAP.—The map of the Historical Park shall be
22 on file and available for public inspection in the appro-
23 priate offices of the National Park Service.

1 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.**

2 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer
3 the Historical Park in accordance with this Act and with
4 the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the
5 National Park System, including the Acts entitled “An
6 Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other
7 purposes,” approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16
8 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and “An Act to provide for the preserva-
9 tion of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and an-
10 tiquities of national significance, and for other purposes,”
11 approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

12 (b) **ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.**—

13 (1) **REAL PROPERTY.**—The Secretary may ac-
14 quire land or interests in land within the boundaries
15 of the Historical Park, from willing sellers only, by
16 donation, purchase with donated or appropriated
17 funds, or exchange.

18 (2) **PERSONAL PROPERTY.**—The Secretary may
19 acquire personal property associated with, and ap-
20 propriate for, interpretation of the Historical Park.

21 (c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary
22 may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with
23 interested entities and individuals to provide for the pres-
24 ervation, development, interpretation, and use of the His-
25 torical Park.

1 (d) ~~REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.~~—Public Law 87–
2 628 (76 Stat. 428), regarding the establishment and ad-
3 ministration of the Edison National Historic Site, is re-
4 pealed.

5 (e) ~~REFERENCES.~~—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
6 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
7 States to the “Edison National Historic Site” shall be
8 deemed to be a reference to the “Thomas Edison National
9 Historical Park”.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
12 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

13 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

14 *This Act may be cited as the “Act Commemorating the*
15 *LIFE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison”.*

16 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

17 *The purposes of this Act are—*

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19 *Edison and his innovations; and*

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6 *prised of all property owned by the United States in the*
7 *Edison National Historic Site as well as all property au-*
8 *thorized to be acquired by the Secretary of the Interior for*
9 *inclusion in the Edison National Historic Site before the*
10 *date of the enactment of this Act, as generally depicted on*
11 *the map entitled the “Thomas Edison National Historical*
12 *Park”, numbered 403/80,000, and dated April 2008.*

13 (c) *MAP.*—*The map of the Historical Park shall be on*
14 *file and available for public inspection in the appropriate*
15 *offices of the National Park Service.*

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21 *to establish a National Park Service, and for other pur-*
22 *poses,” approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C.*
23 *1 et seq.) and “An Act to provide for the preservation of*
24 *historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities*
25 *of national significance, and for other purposes,” approved*
26 *August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).*

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17 *istration of the Edison National Historic Site, is repealed.*

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20 *States to the “Edison National Historic Site” shall be*
21 *deemed to be a reference to the “Thomas Edison National*
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