

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2207

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Green McAdoo School in Clinton, Tennessee as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 19, 2007

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Green McAdoo School in Clinton, Tennessee as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

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 “Green McAdoo School  
5       National Historic Site Study Act of 2007”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

1           (1) the formerly segregated all-black Green  
2           McAdoo School and all-white Clinton High School,  
3           both located in Clinton, Tennessee, played a vital  
4           role in the school desegregation crisis that preceded  
5           and followed the decision of the Supreme Court in  
6           Brown v. Board of Education in 1954;

7           (2) Green McAdoo School opened as the Clinton  
8           Colored School in 1935 and was renamed in 1947  
9           to honor Green McAdoo, a buffalo soldier who once  
10          owned the land on which the school was built;

11          (3) in 1950, the parents of 5 Clinton, Ten-  
12          nessee, children filed a lawsuit to gain entrance into  
13          Clinton High School;

14          (4) at the time of the lawsuit, Tennessee and  
15          Anderson County law required the segregation of  
16          secondary schools;

17          (5) the lawsuit became known as “McSwain v.  
18          Anderson County”;

19          (6) the lawsuit, which was dismissed by the  
20          Federal District Court under the “separate but  
21          equal” doctrine, was appealed by the parents, but  
22          was suspended pending a Supreme Court ruling in  
23          Brown v. Board of Education;

24          (7) following the decision of the Supreme Court  
25          in Brown v. Board of Education, which abolished

1 the “separate but equal” doctrine, the Federal Dis-  
2 trict Court in Tennessee issued an order on January  
3 4, 1956, requiring desegregation of Anderson Coun-  
4 ty schools by not later than the 1956 fall term;

5 (8) on August 27, 1956, 12 students from  
6 Green McAdoo School met at the school before walk-  
7 ing together to the all-white Clinton High School to  
8 become the first African-American students to inte-  
9 grate a Southern, State-operated school;

10 (9) on September 1, 1956, Clinton, Tennessee,  
11 became the first Southern town to be occupied by  
12 National Guard troops in an effort to quell violence  
13 sparked by protestors from all over the United  
14 States who were opposed to school integration;

15 (10) in 1957, Bobby Cain, a former Green  
16 McAdoo student, became the first African-American  
17 to earn a diploma from an integrated school fol-  
18 lowing the Brown v. Board of Education ruling;

19 (11) in 1958, the newly integrated Clinton  
20 High School was destroyed by dynamite that most  
21 assumed was placed by segregationists;

22 (12) 4 days after Clinton High School was de-  
23 stroyed, the community had the students back in  
24 school at an abandoned elementary school in neigh-  
25 boring Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and

1           (13) Clinton High School, which was rebuilt by  
2           Anderson County, and the Green McAdoo School are  
3           the only remaining schools associated with the Clin-  
4           ton desegregation crisis.

5 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (re-  
7           ferred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a  
8           study of the site of Green McAdoo School in Clinton, Ten-  
9           nessee, (referred to in this Act as the “site”) to evaluate—

10           (1) the national significance of the site; and

11           (2) the suitability and feasibility of designating  
12           the site as a unit of the National Park System.

13           (b) CRITERIA.—In conducting the study under sub-  
14           section (a), the Secretary shall use the criteria for the  
15           study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park  
16           System under section 8 of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C.  
17           1a–5).

18           (c) CONTENTS.—The study authorized by this Act  
19           shall—

20           (1) determine the suitability and feasibility of  
21           designating the site as a unit of the National Park  
22           System;

23           (2) include cost estimates for any necessary ac-  
24           quisition, development, operation, and maintenance  
25           of the site; and

1           (3) identify alternatives for the management,  
2           administration, and protection of the site.

3           (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date  
4           on which funds are made available to carry out the study  
5           under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the  
6           Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-  
7           resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural  
8           Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

9           (1) the findings and conclusions of the study;  
10          and  
11          (2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

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