

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2627

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

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

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Act Commemorating
3 the LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

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

6 (1) The Edison National Historic Site, located
7 in West Orange, New Jersey, is a vital part of
8 America’s national system of parks which preserves
9 Thomas Alva Edison’s research and development
10 laboratories, library, papers, and artifacts, as well as
11 his home.

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

18 (3) Thomas Edison is one of America’s greatest
19 inventors, whose inexhaustible energy and genius
20 produced 1,093 patents in his lifetime, more than
21 any other American, including patents for the incan-
22 descent light bulb, the motion picture camera, and
23 the phonograph.

24 (4) In 1928, Thomas Edison was awarded the
25 Congressional Gold Medal for the “development and

1 application of inventions that have revolutionized
2 civilization in the last century.”

3 (5) In 1998, Congress again honored Thomas
4 Edison by directing the Secretary of the Treasury to
5 mint a commemorative coin celebrating the 125th
6 anniversary of Edison’s invention of the light bulb,
7 celebrated in 2004.

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

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

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

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

3 (2) to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance
4 the Edison National Historic Site to ensure public
5 use and enjoyment of the Site as an educational, sci-
6 entific, and cultural center.

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

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the
9 Thomas Edison National Historical Park as a unit of the
10 National Park System (hereafter the “Historical Park”).

11 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The Historical Park shall be com-
12 prised of—

13 (1) all property owned by the United States in
14 the Edison National Historic Site as well as all
15 property authorized to be acquired by the Secretary
16 of the Interior for inclusion in the Edison National
17 Historic Site before the date of the enactment of
18 this Act, as generally depicted on the map entitled
19 the “Edison National Historic Site”, numbered
20 20003B, and dated April 1977; and

21 (2) all property authorized to be acquired for
22 inclusion in the Historical Park by this Act or other
23 law enacted after the date of the enactment of this
24 Act.

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

4 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.**

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

15 (b) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—

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

21 (2) PERSONAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary may
22 acquire personal property associated with, and ap-
23 propriate for, interpretation of the Historical Park.

24 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
25 may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with

1 interested entities and individuals to provide for the pres-
2 ervation, development, interpretation, and use of the His-
3 torical Park.

4 (d) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.—Public Law 87–
5 628 (76 Stat. 428), regarding the establishment and ad-
6 ministration of the Edison National Historic Site, is re-
7 pealed.

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

13 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

Passed the House of Representatives November 13,
2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.