

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1096

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. ANDREWS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

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 LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison.”

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

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

8 (1) The Edison National Historic Site, located  
9 in West Orange, New Jersey, is a vital part of

1 America’s national system of parks which preserves  
2 Thomas Alva Edison’s research and development  
3 laboratories, library, papers, and artifacts, as well as  
4 his home.

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

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

17 (4) In 1928, Thomas Edison was awarded the  
18 Congressional Gold Medal for the “development and  
19 application of inventions that have revolutionized  
20 civilization in the last century.”

21 (5) In 1998, Congress again honored Thomas  
22 Edison by directing the Secretary of the Treasury to  
23 mint a commemorative coin celebrating the 125th  
24 anniversary of Edison’s invention of the light bulb,  
25 celebrated in 2004.

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

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

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

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

21           (2) to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance  
22           the Edison National Historic Site to ensure public  
23           use and enjoyment of the Site as an educational, sci-  
24           entific, and cultural center.

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

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

5 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The Historical Park shall be com-  
6 prised of—

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

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

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

22 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer  
24 the Historical Park in accordance with this Act and with  
25 the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the  
26 National Park System, including the Acts entitled “An

1 Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other  
2 purposes,” approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16  
3 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and “An Act to provide for the preserva-  
4 tion of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and an-  
5 tiquities of national significance, and for other purposes,”  
6 approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

7 (b) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—

8 (1) REAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary may ac-  
9 quire land or interests in land within the boundaries  
10 of the Historical Park, from willing sellers only, by  
11 donation, purchase with donated or appropriated  
12 funds, or exchange.

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

16 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
17 may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with  
18 interested entities and individuals to provide for the pres-  
19 ervation, development, interpretation, and use of the His-  
20 torical Park.

21 (d) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.—Public Law 87–  
22 628 (76 Stat. 428), regarding the establishment and ad-  
23 ministration of the Edison National Historic Site, is re-  
24 pealed.

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

6 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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