

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3878

To establish the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Jefferson College as affiliated areas of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WICKER) 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 establish the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Jefferson College as affiliated areas 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. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GRAND VILLAGE OF**  
4                       **THE NATCHEZ INDIANS AND JEFFERSON**  
5                       **COLLEGE AS AFFILIATED AREAS OF THE NA-**  
6                       **TIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**

7       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8               (1) AFFILIATED AREA.—The term “affiliated  
9       area” means—

1 (A) the Grand Village of the Natchez Indi-  
2 ans in Natchez, Mississippi, established as an  
3 affiliated area of the National Park System by  
4 subsection (b)(1); and

5 (B) Historic Jefferson College in Natchez,  
6 Mississippi, established as an affiliated area of  
7 the National Park System under subsection  
8 (b)(2).

9 (2) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The term “man-  
10 agement entity” means the management entity for  
11 the affiliated areas designated by subsection (d).

12 (3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-  
13 titled “Affiliated Areas, Adams County, Mississippi  
14 Proposed Boundaries”, numbered 964/194,653, and  
15 dated August 2024.

16 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

18 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

19 (1) GRAND VILLAGE OF THE NATCHEZ INDI-  
20 ANS.—To promote public appreciation of the signifi-  
21 cant historic contributions of the Natchez Indians,  
22 the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians in Natch-  
23 ez, Mississippi, as generally depicted on the Map, is  
24 established as an affiliated area of the National  
25 Park System.

1           (2) HISTORIC JEFFERSON COLLEGE.—On the  
2           date on which the Secretary determines that His-  
3           toric Jefferson College in Natchez, Mississippi, as  
4           generally depicted on the Map, meets National Park  
5           Service criteria for designation as an affiliated area,  
6           Historic Jefferson College, shall be established as an  
7           affiliated area of the National Park System.

8           (3) MAP.—

9                   (A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable  
10           after the establishment of an affiliated area in  
11           accordance with this section, the Secretary shall  
12           prepare a map depicting the boundaries of the  
13           applicable affiliated area.

14                   (B) AVAILABILITY.—The map prepared  
15           under subparagraph (A) shall be on file and  
16           available for public inspection in the appro-  
17           priate offices of the National Park Service.

18           (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The affiliated areas shall be  
19           managed in a manner consistent with—

20                   (1) this section; and

21                   (2) the laws generally applicable to units of the  
22           National Park System.

23           (d) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The Mississippi Depart-  
24           ment of Archives and History shall be the management  
25           entity for the affiliated areas.

1 (e) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary—

2 (1) may provide technical assistance to, and  
3 enter into cooperative agreements with, the manage-  
4 ment entity for the purpose of providing financial  
5 assistance for the marketing, marking, interpreta-  
6 tion, and preservation of the affiliated areas; and

7 (2) shall enter into an agreement with the man-  
8 agement entity that delineates the roles and respon-  
9 sibilities for the management of the affiliated areas  
10 consistent with the policies and standards that apply  
11 to units of the National Park System.

12 (f) LIMITED ROLE OF THE SECRETARY.—Nothing in  
13 this section authorizes the Secretary—

14 (1) to acquire property at the affiliated areas;  
15 or

16 (2) to assume financial responsibility for the  
17 operation, maintenance, or management of the affili-  
18 ated areas.

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