

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2329

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 8, 2007

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG) 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 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 that—

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

1 national system of parks of the United States that  
2 preserves research and development laboratories, li-  
3 brary, papers, and artifacts of Thomas Alva Edison,  
4 as well as his home;

5 (2) the Site is a national historic treasure and  
6 contains the largest collection of materials related to  
7 Thomas Edison in the world, 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 the personal library of Edi-  
11 son;

12 (3) Thomas Edison is one of the greatest inven-  
13 tors in the United States, whose inexhaustible en-  
14 ergy and genius produced 1,093 patents in his life-  
15 time, more than any other American, including pat-  
16 ents for the incandescent light bulb, the motion pic-  
17 ture camera, and the phonograph;

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

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

1 anniversary of the invention of the light bulb by Edi-  
2 son, celebrated in 2004;

3 (6)(A) the Edison National Historic Site is one  
4 of the most endangered historic places of the United  
5 States; and

6 (B) the National Park Service, in the General  
7 Management Plan and Development Concept Plan of  
8 the Service, identified the need for numerous actions  
9 to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the Site  
10 and determined that sufficient government funds are  
11 not likely to be appropriated to complete these nec-  
12 essary actions in the foreseeable future; and

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

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

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

24 (2) to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance  
25 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 (referred to in this Act as the “His-  
7 torical Park”).

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

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

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

22 (c) MAP.—The map of the Historical Park shall be  
23 on file and available for public inspection in the appro-  
24 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 National Park Serv-  
6 ice Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and the Act of Au-  
7 gust 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

8 (b) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—

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

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

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

22 (d) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.—Public Law 87–  
23 628 (76 Stat. 428) is repealed.

24 (e) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-  
25 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United  
26 States to the “Edison National Historic Site” shall be

1 deemed to be a reference to the “Thomas Edison National  
2 Historical Park”.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4       There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as  
5 are necessary to carry out this Act.

