

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 453

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2009

Mr. WAMP (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

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 Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown*
6 *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 upon which it 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. At the time, Tennessee and
14 Anderson County law required the segregation of
15 secondary schools. The case became known as
16 *McSwain v. Anderson County*.

17 (4) The case was dismissed by the Federal Dis-
18 trict Court under the “separate but equal” doctrine;
19 the case was appealed by the parents, but suspended
20 pending a Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board*
21 *of Education*.

22 (5) Following the Supreme Court’s decision in
23 *Brown v. Board of Education* which abolished the
24 “separate but equal” doctrine, the Federal District
25 Court in Tennessee issued an order on January 4,

1 1956, requiring desegregation of Anderson County
2 schools no later than the fall term, 1956.

3 (6) On August 25, 1956, 12 students from
4 Green McAdoo School met at the school before walk-
5 ing together to the all-white Clinton High School to
6 become the first African-American students to effect
7 the integration of a southern, state operated school.

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

13 (8) In 1957, Bobby Cain, a former Green
14 McAdoo student, became the first African-American
15 to earn a diploma from an integrated school fol-
16 lowing the Brown v. Board of Education ruling.

17 (9) In 1958, the newly integrated Clinton High
18 School was destroyed by dynamite that most as-
19 sumed was placed by segregationists. The commu-
20 nity had the students back in school in four days at
21 an abandoned elementary school in neighboring Oak
22 Ridge, Tennessee. Anderson County rebuilt Clinton
23 High School and it and Green McAdoo School are
24 the only remaining schools associated with the Clin-
25 ton desegregation crisis.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
3 conduct a study of the site of Green McAdoo School in
4 Clinton, Tennessee, to evaluate the national significance,
5 suitability, and feasibility of designating the site as a unit
6 of the National Park System.

7 (b) CRITERIA.—In conducting the study authorized
8 by this Act, the Secretary shall use the criteria for the
9 study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park
10 System contained in section 8 of Public Law 91–383 (16
11 U.S.C. 1a–5).

12 (c) CONTENTS.—The study authorized by this Act
13 shall—

14 (1) determine the suitability and feasibility of
15 designating the site as a unit of the National Park
16 System;

17 (2) include cost estimates for any necessary ac-
18 quisition, development, operation, and maintenance
19 of the site; and

20 (3) identify alternatives for the management,
21 administration, and protection of the area.

22 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
23 on which funds are made available for the study, the Sec-
24 retary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
25 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
26 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate

- 1 a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommenda-
- 2 tions of the study.

