

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6199

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park and other sites in Tulsa, Oklahoma, relating to the 1921 Tulsa race riot as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. COLE, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. BOREN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park and other sites in Tulsa, Oklahoma, relating to the 1921 Tulsa race riot 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Prior to May 31, 1921, the community of
2 Greenwood, located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was a thriv-
3 ing African-American business community and home
4 to nearly 11,000 citizens.

5 (2) The southern end of Greenwood Avenue
6 formed the backbone of the Greenwood commercial
7 district. This mile-long stretch of several blocks was
8 characterized by one-, two-, and three-story red
9 brick buildings housing dozens of African-American-
10 owned and operated businesses, organizations, insti-
11 tutions, newspapers, churches, and a hospital.

12 (3) Greenwood was the location of the 1921
13 Tulsa race riot, recognized as one of the most violent
14 race riots following World War I in terms of blood-
15 shed and property loss. On May 31, 1921, to June
16 1, 1921, mobs invaded Greenwood, the city's seg-
17 regated African-American community, during an 18-
18 hour period.

19 (4) During the riot, between 35 and 40 square
20 blocks of Greenwood's residential area and virtually
21 all of the commercial district were destroyed.

22 (5) Approximately 700 persons were injured
23 and many people lost their lives. The American Red
24 Cross reported that 1,256 houses were burned, leav-
25 ing 9,000 homeless. The Tulsa Real Estate Ex-

1 change estimated nearly \$1,500,000 worth of dam-
2 ages, one-third of that in the business district, and
3 claimed personal property losses at \$750,000.

4 (6) The 1921 Tulsa race riot illustrates the key
5 characteristics of race riots during the 1886 to early
6 1920's era and ranks as one of the most devastating
7 incidents of racial violence in United States history.

8 (7) As the last major race riot of the era, the
9 Tulsa race riot represented the closing chapter to
10 the racial violence that swept across the United
11 States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

12 (8) Since 1921, the people of Tulsa of all races
13 have worked closely to bridge the racial divides and
14 to learn from the many lessons of the 1921 Tulsa
15 race riot.

16 **SEC. 2. STUDY.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
18 conduct a special resource study of the sites in Tulsa,
19 Oklahoma, relating to the 1921 Tulsa race riot, including
20 the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park, to determine
21 the suitability and feasibility of including the sites as a
22 unit of the National Park System.

23 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study conducted under
24 subsection (a) shall include the analysis and recommenda-
25 tions of the Secretary on the alternatives for management,

1 administration, and protection of the sites relating to the
2 riot.

3 (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under
4 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

5 (1) appropriate Federal agencies and State and
6 local government entities; and

7 (2) interested groups and organizations.

8 (d) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under
9 subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Pub-
10 lic Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-1 et seq.).

11 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

12 Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which
13 funds are first made available for this Act, the Secretary
14 shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of
15 the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-
16 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the
17 findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study
18 required under section 2.

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