

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1278

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

MARCH 31, 2011

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COLE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BOREN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WATT, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MOORE, Ms. RICHARDSON, and Ms. CLARKE of New York) 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

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

24 (5) Approximately 700 persons were injured
25 and many people lost their lives. The American Red
26 Cross reported that 1,256 houses were burned, leav-

1 ing 9,000 homeless. The Tulsa Real Estate Ex-
2 change estimated nearly \$1,500,000 worth of dam-
3 ages, one-third of that in the business district, and
4 claimed personal property losses at \$750,000.

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

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

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

17 **SEC. 2. STUDY.**

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

24 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study conducted under
25 subsection (a) shall include the analysis and recommenda-

1 tions of the Secretary on the alternatives for management,
2 administration, and protection of the sites relating to the
3 riot.

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

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

8 (2) interested groups and organizations.

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

12 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

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

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