

Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Tom McClintock, Chairman
Hearing Memorandum

February 9, 2018

To: All Subcommittee on Federal Lands Members

From: Majority Committee Staff— Terry Camp
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Hearing: **Legislative hearing on H.R. 4851 (Rep. Andre Carson)**, To establish the Kennedy–King National Historic Site in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes.
February 15, 2018, 2:30 PM; 1334 Longworth House Office Building

H.R. 4851, “*Kennedy-King Establishment Act of 2018*”

Summary of the Bill

H.R. 4851, introduced by Representative Andre Carson (D-IN), establishes the Kennedy-King National Historic Site in Indianapolis, Indiana, and allows the Secretary of the Interior to acquire any land or interest in land within the boundary of the Kennedy-King Park by donation, purchase, exchange, lease, or cooperative agreement.

Cosponsors

[19 Cosponsors](#)

Witness

The Honorable Gregory Porter
Indiana State Representative
Kennedy King Memorial Initiative, Chair
Indianapolis, IN

Background

On April 4, 1968, Senator Robert F. Kennedy had scheduled a speech in Indianapolis, Indiana, during his campaign for the presidency of the United States. Just before giving his remarks, Mr. Kennedy was informed of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. whereupon Senator Kennedy changed his planned remarks to instead inform the large gathering of Dr. King’s death. In a historic speech, he extemporaneously called upon Americans to embrace non-violence in reaction to the news of Dr. King’s assassination. The site where Senator Kennedy delivered the speech is presently located in a city park established in 1961, and has since served as a community gathering place.

In 1994, the “*Landmark for Peace Memorial*” sculpture was erected on the site of Senator Kennedy’s speech following Indianapolis community leaders’ sponsored nation-wide design contest for a memorial. Greg Perry, of Franklin, Indiana, won the design competition. The sculpture features the figures of Kennedy and King emerging from solid walls and reaching out toward each other. The City of Indianapolis redesigned the southern half of the park in preparation for the placement of the sculpture. A ceremonial groundbreaking was held on May 14, 1994, and was attended by President Bill Clinton, Senator Ted Kennedy, Ethel Kennedy, Dexter Scott King, Martin Luther King III, and other Indiana and national dignitaries. The memorial sculpture was unveiled on September 30, 1995.

April 4, 2018, marks the 50th anniversary of Robert Kennedy’s speech and Dr. King’s assassination.



(Photograph: Landmark for Peace Memorial, Dan Edwards, 1994)

Designation as a National Historic Site and inclusion in the National Park System typically denote a site that carries national significance in the nation’s history. This specific site has primary significance to the City of Indianapolis and the people of Indiana. Inclusion of the site as a unit of the National Park System would incur continuing management, administrative, and maintenance costs to the National Park Service. There are also liability concerns with a site that would not likely be staffed by National Park personnel.

Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

Administration Position

The Administration's position is currently unknown.

Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)

N/A