

PHIL BREDESEN
THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE

4 February 2010

Ms. Carla McConnell, Project Manager
Manhattan Project Sites Special Resources Study
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service, Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0286

RE: Manhattan Project Sites Special Resources Study

Dear Ms. McConnell:

I have recently been made aware of the results of a study completed for Congress by the National Park Service evaluating the feasibility of creating a new National Historical Park to honor the Manhattan Project. Their draft recommendation, now out for comment, recommends that Congress should create such a park, but that it should be located in Los Alamos, New Mexico, only.

By placing a single site park at Los Alamos, Congress would be ignoring the history of the Manhattan project and trivializing the enormous contributions made in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Only a very small fraction of the work was done in New Mexico, and the historical buildings and artifacts available at Los Alamos are trivial compared to the first nuclear reactor, enormous chemical processing facilities, and other apparatus available for public viewing in Oak Ridge.

During the Manhattan project:

- A city of about 100,000 people was carved out in East Tennessee in a short period of time;
- Two massive chemical plants were built over several years requiring major technological inventions and construction innovations – in 1945, the K-25 building was the largest building under one roof in the world;
- The first full scale nuclear reactor was designed and built to produce isotopes and is on the National Historical Register today; and

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- The headquarters for managing the Manhattan Project across the nation was located in Oak Ridge. In today's dollars, over \$6 billion was spent in Tennessee compared to only \$15 million in New Mexico.

I urge the National Park Service to withdraw their current recommendation and present a plan that includes Oak Ridge if a new park unit is created.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Bredesen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Phil Bredesen