I voted No on H.R. 5987, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act.

H.R. 5987 would establish a new Manhattan Project National Historical Park at Los Alamos, New Mexico; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Hanford, Washington. The Manhattan Project was the top-secret program to produce the atomic bomb during the Second World War.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that creating this new park would cost $21 million. The National Park Service already has a maintenance backlog of around $10 billion to keep up the parks we currently operate. Unfortunately, this bill legislation does not contain a funding offset to counteract the cost of this proposed park. I believe we should focus on maintaining the parks we already have and operate them well, not add to the backlog of work to be done. While many proposed parks may be worthy of incorporation into the National Park Service, it is my strong preference that new parks be paid for as they are created whenever possible.

The bill failed by a vote of 237 – 180, as it did not gain the two-thirds majority needed for passage under suspension of the rules.