

PENDING NATIONAL PARKS LEGISLATION

HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

S. 145	S. 146
S. 319	S. 329
S. 403	S. 521
S. 610	S. 782
S. 873	S. 1483

JUNE 10, 2015



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PENDING NATIONAL PARKS LEGISLATION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015

U.S. SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:30 p.m. in Room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Bill Cassidy, Chairman of the Subcommittee, presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BILL CASSIDY, CHAIRMAN AND A U.S. SENATOR FROM LOUISIANA

Senator CASSIDY. This is our first legislative hearing in the National Parks Subcommittee this Congress and my first as Chair. I look forward to presiding over the important work of the Subcommittee and working with you, Senator Heinrich.

The purpose of today's hearing is to receive testimony on ten bills pending before this Subcommittee. A few have been heard before.

Two bills sponsored by Senator Jeff Flake were prompted by the 2013 government shut down, and both advanced on a bipartisan basis through the Full Committee. The first, S. 145, the National Parks Access Act, would refund money advanced by six states to open certain national parks during the shutdown. The other, S. 146, the Public Access to Public Lands Guarantee Act, would enable the public land management agencies to accept public or private funds to keep public lands open in the event of a future shutdown. We will hear more about these from Senator Flake.

The other two bills from last Congress are S. 319 from our Committee Chair, Senator Murkowski, to change the name of Mount McKinley to Mount Denali in Denali National Park, and S. 329, Senator Murphy's bill to designate portions of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in Connecticut as wild and scenic rivers.

We will update the record on these four bills. The remaining six bills are new to the Subcommittee.

S. 873 is another bill from Senator Murkowski, to name the existing wilderness inside Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area. Senator Murkowski cannot be here today, so we will include her written statement on both of her bills in the hearing record.

[The information referred to follows:]

**Statement for the Record
Parks Subcommittee – Miscellaneous Bills
Chairman Lisa Murkowski
June 10, 2015**

Thank you, Senator Cassidy for holding this hearing on ten bills relating to national parks and scenic river areas. I appreciate the time to make this brief statement about two of the Alaska park bills on the agenda that I am sponsoring.

The first bill is S. 319 that is co-sponsored by Senators Sullivan and Udall. It seeks to officially rename the tallest mountain in North America back to its traditional name given by Alaska's first inhabitants, back to its Native Athabascan name of Denali, meaning "the high one."

The 20,230-foot peak was named by the Ohio prospector, William Dickey, who took it upon himself to name the peak in 1896 after a man who had never set foot in Alaska, the former governor from his home state who was running for President that year. It may have been understandable for Mr. Dickey to want to honor his fellow Ohioan, William McKinley, but Alaska's Natives never accepted the name.

The Alaska State Place Names Board in 1975 voted to rename the peak "Denali," restoring its traditional name. Given that there are a number of towns, counties, and institutions named after the former President as well as his monument in his birthplace of Niles, Ohio; the street that leads to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio; a county in New Mexico; more than 20 schools in Ohio; plus literally hundreds of streets, libraries, and other institutions and businesses—there is no danger that Americans will not remember or honor President McKinley.

I hope this bill, which nearly became law last Congress, can actually cross the finish line this year—the 40th anniversary of when Alaska renamed the peak to its original Alaska Native name of Denali. It seems a fitting gesture and an appropriate way to honor the culture and history of Alaska Natives. There is no need for this name confusion and controversy to continue.

My second bill, S. 873, is also a renaming measure, as I am proposing to rename the 2.6-million acres of existing wilderness in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve after the state's fourth governor, Jay S. Hammond. I'm joined by my colleague Dan Sullivan in sponsoring this bill.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the death of Governor Hammond, a man whose accomplishments would take far too much time to mention. A petroleum engineer, a Marine fighter pilot, and one of the first and leading wildlife biologists in Alaska, Hammond fully embraced Alaska and homesteaded on the shores of Lake Clark. A noted conservationist, Hammond opposed construction of the Ramparts dam on the Yukon River, supported congressional creation of a 200-mile fisheries conservation zone, oversaw creation of the largest state park in America, the 1.6 million-acre Wood Tikchik State Park, and perhaps most importantly, presided as state governor in 1980 when Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act that created 104 million acres of new parks, preserves, refuges, scenic rivers and wilderness area, including the nearly 4-million-acre Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

While Jay did not like naming things after “fill-in-the-blank politicians,” his family, his wife Bella, and his daughters Heidi, Dana, and Wendy have finally agreed to allow just the wilderness area in Lake Clark to be named after him as a

permanent legacy of all he did for the state. There are few named wilderness areas in America, one in Idaho after Senator Frank Church and a second in Montana after the co-founder of The Wilderness Society, Bob Marshall. It is truly fitting that a third be named after Alaska's self-proclaimed "Bushrat Governor" Jay Hammond.

I again thank you for including the bills in this hearing and I hope that we can get them approved this year. Thank you.

Senator CASSIDY. We have Senators McCain and Flake's bill, S. 782, that will require the Department of the Interior to produce a bison management plan at Grand Canyon National Park within six months. This plan would require using skilled, authorized volunteer hunters to help cull the herd. This herd is growing unconstrained and is causing extensive resource damage inside the park.

We have three authorizations for special resource studies. S. 521 was introduced by Senator Cardin to study President Street Station in Baltimore, the oldest surviving, big city railroad terminal with ties to the Civil War and the Underground Railroad. S. 610, another bill introduced by Senator Cardin, is a proposal to study P. S. 103, the Public Elementary School that Thurgood Marshall attended. And S. 1483, Senator Alexander's bill, is a proposal to study the James K. Polk home, the only existing home of our 11th President.

Finally we have S. 403, introduced by Senator Klobuchar along with Senators Stabenow, Sanders, and Franken as co-sponsors. This bill would reroute a portion of the North County National Scenic Trail and extend it to connect with the Appalachian Trail.

We have one witness today, Mr. Victor Knox, Associate Director of the National Park Service for Park Planning, Facilities and Lands. I would like to thank Mr. Knox for being with us, but first let me turn to the Ranking Member, Senator Heinrich, for his remarks.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARTIN HEINRICH, RANKING MEMBER
AND A U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO**

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Since this is the first hearing of the National Parks Subcommittee this Congress I would first start by congratulating you on becoming Chairman of the Subcommittee. I understand that this Subcommittee has historically had a very busy legislative work load, and since next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, I believe the upcoming centennial will likely ensure even more attention to National Park-related legislation.

This is also an important year for New Mexico's National Parks with the Valles Caldera National Preserve and the Manhattan Project National Historic Park established in December of last year.

Overseeing the process of getting those and the other new units around the country organized and open to the public will be an essential task for this Subcommittee. I look forward to working with you on policies and programs that can help the Park Service not only address its current challenges but also enable it to better serve its mission of protecting our natural, cultural, and historic national treasures and providing for the enjoyment for future generations.

Moving legislation through the Senate is never easy these days, and the key to dealing with bills and issues we are likely to consider will be to develop solutions that can get broad, bipartisan support that will be necessary for those to move through the Senate and ultimately get enacted into law.

Turning to the bills on today's agenda my sense is that many of the bills are relatively non-controversial and several were previously considered by the Committee last Congress.

I know the Administration has raised concerns with a couple of the bills so those may require some additional discussion, but I certainly look forward to working with you, Mr. Chairman, to try and get the bills on today's agenda ready for Full Committee consideration as soon as possible. And I see we have our colleague from Connecticut.

Senator CASSIDY. Are there any Senators who would like to make a short statement on their legislation today?

Senator Alexander?

**STATEMENT OF HON. LAMAR ALEXANDER, U.S. SENATOR
FROM TENNESSEE**

Senator ALEXANDER. Well thanks, Senator Cassidy. I have two pieces, but let me mention one.

My legislation would authorize the Park Service to take the next step to determine whether it ought to make the James K. Polk home in Columbia, Tennessee, a part of the National Park Service. Seventeen U.S. Presidents have homes that are operated by the National Park Service. This is the only home of President Polk, and while they are a dedicated group of individuals in Columbia which is a small town who support it, it is difficult for them to give it the kind of support it deserves.

We talk a lot about science and math and the importance of it, but the worse score our high school seniors have in America is on United States History. I cannot think of a better way to encourage the study of United States History and what it means to be an American than to make sure that our Presidential homes are properly cared for.

President Polk was listed on Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.'s poll of Historians 1996 as the ninth greatest President, ahead of Eisenhower, John Adams, Kennedy, Cleveland, Lyndon Johnson, and a number of others, so he served one term. He said he would do four things. He did all four and went home and died, and that was at a relatively young age. He presided over the annexation of Texas, fought in the Mexican War, expanded the United States to Oregon, and acquired California. That is a lot to do in four years, so I will be making the argument when the times comes that President Polk's home needs to be recognized because of his greatness and because of its usefulness as to helping us remind ourselves of what it means to be an American.

Thank you for the time.

Senator CASSIDY. Senator Warren, do you care to make a short statement?

Senator WARREN. No, I am good. I am ready to get to our witness.

Senator CASSIDY. Okay. All member statements will be added to the hearing record.

We will now turn to Senator Murphy, who has joined us for his remarks.

Senator Murphy, welcome.

**STATEMENT OF HON. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, U.S. SENATOR,
STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Senator Heinrich, other members of the Committee. Thank you for having me here today.

Senator Alexander, I will just note that in college I wrote a 20-page research paper on why James K. Polk was the most underrated President. I will be happy, if I can figure out a way to get my Apple 2E computer to work again, to print that off for you for your efforts. [Laughter.]

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am here to testify, as you mentioned, on a bill that this Committee has considered before. I thank the Committee and all the staff for its work on the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Act.

The journey to obtain the designation began over a decade ago when local residents in the towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Winsor, Connecticut came together to form a unique partnership to protect this river. It is my hope that with your help the amazing, community-driven work that has been done can be finally endorsed this year through a Federal designation for the Lower Farmington River and the Salmon Brook.

There really is an amazing ecological, recreational and historic story to tell about this stretch of river. I just want to briefly mention a few of the highlights.

Ecologically this is a really important stretch of river. For those of you who care about shellfish, and we care a lot about them in the Northeast, this is the only known river to support all 12 native New England, freshwater mussel species, including the only Federally-endangered freshwater mussel that occurs in New England.

It also has some of the highest water quality in all of Connecticut, so it provides excellent fishing for Brown Trout, Brook Trout and Salmon. Many fishermen will tell you that cold water trout fisheries of the Salmon Brook provide some of the most outstanding opportunities for angling anywhere in the Northeast.

Recreationally the Tariffville Gorge in Simsbury, which is part of this stretch of river as well as in East Granby, provides premier whitewater paddling and has been the location for world-class paddling competitions.

It is also one of the very few rivers in the East where there are year round paddling opportunities. The Tariffville Whitewater Triple Crown Challenge just wrapped up a few weeks ago, and this event has attracted its competitors from all around the world including U.S. Olympic team members.

Historically, this river is also pretty astounding as well. Over 100 prehistoric archeological sites have been discovered to date in the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook corridors. It has been continuously occupied, and this is really remarkable. It has been continuously occupied by human settlement for over 11,000 years, and most recently of those 11,000 years, in the 1800's, it was one of the most active sites of the Underground Railroad. Farmington was referred to as the Grand Central Station of the Railroad because of its robust abolitionist activities.

This bill began back in the mid-2000's when my predecessor in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, helped enact legislation that initiated the study on which this present bill is based. The study was completed in 2011, and it confirmed the suitability of designating the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as wild and scenic.

This is also the product of these ten towns coming together. There are Republican and Democratic local administrations in all of these towns. They all support it. It does not represent the Federal Government stepping in to manage the river, rather the bill serves to complement the independent work of a group of Connecticut communities that are simply looking for a committed partner at the Federal level.

To my mind this bill really embodies what Congress should be doing. We are listening to the needs of local residents, and we are supporting their work. It is a model that has worked elsewhere in the state. In fact, the upper 14-mile portion of the Farmington River was designated as wild and scenic in 1994, so we already have Federal designation on the upper portion of this river. This is seeking designation for the lower portion as well.

Finally, since last year's hearing on the bill, I have worked very closely with the Park Service and one specific dam operator along the river to craft an amendment that ensures the interest of all stakeholders, the towns and the companies who own property along the river so that they are all taken into account. So we are here today with full support from all of the stakeholders for this underlying bill and the amendments.

During last year's hearing on the legislation the National Park Service spoke positively about the bill but stopped short of endorsing it because the Park Service study report had not been completed. The study is now complete, and I hope that you will hear today endorsement for this bill.

Again, I thank the Committee for all of its work on this bill. This is the second time before you. I hope that this is a fairly non-controversial measure.

As I said, we have really wonderful, broad, bipartisan support for this bill. All of the stakeholders are behind it given the fact that the upper portion of the river has already gotten this designation. Hopefully it makes this bill even easier.

Thank you for your time.

Senator CASSIDY. Thank you, Senator Murphy, and thanks for all of your hard work showing how it should be done.

We have been joined by Senator Flake, who is a member of the Full Committee. Senator Flake, would you like to make a comment on your bills?

**STATEMENT OF HON. JEFF FLAKE, U.S. SENATOR FROM
ARIZONA**

Senator FLAKE. Yes, just a couple of moments, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to do this.

There are three pieces of legislation on today's agenda that I will very briefly address.

S. 145, the National Park Access Act. I want to thank the Ranking Member, Senator Heinrich, for co-sponsoring that. It is some-

times called the reimbursement bill. It just requires that the Park Service reimburse the state who fronted the money when there was a shut down. The Federal Government got a windfall that was never returned to the states. This passed by voice vote last Congress. It should be non-controversial. I hope that we can get that done.

The second one is the National Park Access and Public Land Guarantee Act. This would simply require the Secretary of Interior or the Federal agencies to enter into agreements with State agencies or governments if there is another shut down. We all hope there is not another shut down, but if there is one, we do not want the states to pay the price. The last time there was one it took the Federal agencies an undue amount of time to actually agree to enter into an agreement and allow these parks to remain open. This would simply require them to move more swiftly to do that.

The third one is the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act. This, as pointed out before, is a big problem in Grand Canyon Park. You have these cattalo or beefalo. These hybrid or cross-bred buffalo that migrated into the park are really wreaking havoc, and we have asked the Park Service to come up with a plan to deal with them. They said more than a year ago they would come up with a plan, but they have not finished it yet. If they do it will be by next year, and then it will likely be very slowly implemented. This bill would simply allow them to enter into agreements with licensed, skilled volunteers who would assist in lethal culling. This is similar to legislation that was introduced by former Senator Mark Udall with regard to elk herds in other National Parks. It can be done more quickly and certainly help with the situation. The environmental degradation is really bad, and we need to move ahead with that. This is a bill that has been introduced by Senator McCain and myself. Let me just ask unanimous consent to enter some letters from outside groups to these bills in support for S. 145, S. 146, letters from the American Hotel and Lodging Association supporting it, Attorney General Mark Brnovich, also the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Safari Club International, and the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation is supporting S. 782.

[The information referred to follows:]



January 29, 2015

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murkowski,

The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA), the sole national association representing all segments of the 1.8 million-employee U.S. lodging industry, strongly supports Senator Flake's legislation, S.146, the Public Access to Public Land Guarantee Act, and S.145, the National Park Access Act, and we thank the National Parks Subcommittee for its interest in this issue in the past.

During the 2013 government shutdown, many small businesses and communities across the country with economies that rely on our national parks lost hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity due to the National Park Service's decision to wait more than a week before authorizing states to reopen and operate parks using non-federal funds. These communities' principal industry, and in some instances only significant industry, is tourism and this delay had very serious consequences. Hoteliers in particular were severely impacted by the 16-day shutdown, during which our industry lost \$115.2 million in economic activity.

S.146 provides valuable safeguards against shutdown delays in the future and would prevent interruptions in normal operation before they start by allowing the Administration to enter into agreements with states to allow for the continued operation of public lands due to a lapse in appropriations. In addition, S.145 would help repair some of the economic impact on communities by requiring the federal government to refund to the states all state funds used to operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown.

S.146 and S.145 ensure that no matter what happens in Washington, the communities across the country that rely on national parks as their economic drivers will not face undue hardship. The successful operation of our national parks is crucial to the economic viability and job creation capabilities of the hotels, resorts, restaurants, retail outlets, and many other small businesses relying on park visitors. Consequently, we urge the full Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to prevent future economic uncertainty by scheduling a mark-up of Senator Jeff Flake's legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

The American Hotel & Lodging Association

Alabama Restaurant & Hospitality Alliance
Alaska Hotel & Lodging Association
Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association

Arkansas Hospitality Association
California Hotel & Lodging Association
Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association
Connecticut Lodging Association
Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association
Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association
Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association
Indiana Restaurant & Lodging Association
Louisiana Hotel & Lodging Association
Maine Innkeepers Association
Massachusetts Lodging Association
Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association
Minnesota Lodging Association
Montana Lodging & Hospitality Association
Nebraska Hotel & Motel Association
Nevada Hotel & Lodging Association
New Hampshire Lodging & Restaurant Association
New York Hospitality & Tourism Association
North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association
Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association
Oklahoma Hotel & Lodging Association
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association
Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association
Rhode Island Hospitality Association
South Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association
Tennessee Hospitality Association
Texas Hotel & Lodging Association
Utah Hotel & Lodging Association
Vermont Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association
Washington Lodging Association
West Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association
Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association
Wyoming Lodging & Restaurant Association

Cc: Senator Jeff Flake



MARK BRNOVICH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ARIZONA

April 2, 2015

The Honorable John McCain
5353 North 16th Street, Suite 105
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

The Honorable Jeff Flake
2200 East Camelback Road, Suite 120
Suite 120 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-3455

The Honorable Paul Gosar
220 North 4th Street
Kingman, Arizona 86401

Re: Grand Canyon Bison Management Act

Dear Senator McCain, Senator Flake and Representative Gosar:

I want to offer my support for the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act (S. 782). This legislation is a sensible solution to address the impact of bison on the Grand Canyon's natural and cultural resources. I agree with the objective of the legislation to allow hunters to remove bison from the national park in exchange for their assistance in reducing the herd.

Hunters were the first conservationists and hunting plays a valuable role in sustaining healthy wildlife populations. The Grand Canyon Bison Management Act will provide an opportunity to hunt this free-ranging bison herd. Moreover, hunters harvesting bison on the national park will eventually achieve the desired objective of moving this herd back to the Kaibab National Forest, where it belongs.

Current federal restrictions that prohibit a hunter from removing a bison serve no purpose. Too often federal regulations unnecessarily encroach on the State's trust

responsibilities to manage and conserve wildlife for the benefit of the public and future generations. Your effort in sponsoring the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act is an important step in restoring the State's authority over wildlife.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Brnovich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Brnovich
Arizona Attorney General



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
 5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY
 PHOENIX, AZ 85086-5000
 (602) 942-3000 • WWW.AZGFD.GOV

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 TY E. GRAY



May 12, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
 Chair
 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On April 10th, 2015 the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission) voted unanimously to support S. 782: Grand Canyon Bison Management Act (S.782 or "Act"). We are writing to request that you hear S. 782 at the next appropriate Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission is comprised of five members appointed by the Governor pursuant to A.R.S. §38-211 and is the oversight body responsible for setting regulations and policies designed to manage wildlife. This five member board sets policy by rule and overall direction for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) in a public process where issues are voted on after presentations from the Department and input from the public.

The Commission and Department manage wildlife in accordance with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which asserts that wildlife is held in public trust and not owned by any one person or entity, regardless of whether the animal is on public or private land or water. All wildlife is managed based on the overall public good. The North American Model allows non-frivolous use of wildlife, and relies on scientific research-based management. It recognizes that wildlife cannot be managed along political boundaries, so cooperation across boundaries is a necessity. The North American Model also relies on laws and enforcement, and provides the public a voice in wildlife management decisions.

Over the past few decades, the bison abundance, distribution, and movement in and near the Grand Canyon's North Rim, have impacted both natural and cultural resources within the Park. Strategies used to date have not been effective at addressing the issues of over-abundant bison. When managed for appropriate abundance and distribution, bison can exist in harmony with ecological processes on the park and contribute to the quality of the recreational experience on and off the park for generations to come. The herd has few natural predators other than humans. Hunters can pursue bison in areas outside the national park by purchasing permits and tags from the state. However, because the herd spends the vast majority of their time on the park, hunting on adjacent National Forest lands has not been effective in reducing the herd to ecologically appropriate levels. With approximately 52,000 acres of park territory in which to roam, and

prime grazing land to support them, the bison have little incentive to leave their safe haven and wander outside park boundaries.

The Act would require both the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on producing a plan to manage bison using non-lethal means such as hazing, fencing and others and one that also allows sportsmen-volunteers holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in managing the bison population within the park through culling. The volunteers would then be legally authorized to remove the full bison carcass from the park. It is important to remember that this simple solution to a growing problem would be at no cost to the federal government and will be handled by trained volunteers.

The Commission implores you to hold a hearing on S.782 at the next appropriate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing and become part of this common-sense solution to protect the Grand Canyon's natural and cultural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Mansell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert E. Mansell
Game and Fish Commission Chairman

CC:
Senator John McCain
Senator Jeff Flake
Governor Doug Ducey
Attorney General Mark Brnovich



May 6, 2015

Senator John McCain
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 782 -- Grand Canyon Bison Management Act

Dear Senator McCain:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, I write today to express support for S. 782, the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act. This legislation represents a well thought-out and reasonable approach to addressing the ongoing damage to cultural and natural resources caused by the overpopulation of bison in Grand Canyon National Park.

Since 1989 the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become the most respected and trusted sportsmen's organization in the political arena. CSF's mission is to work with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting, and trapping. The unique and collective force of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC) and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), working closely with CSF, and with the support of major hunting, recreational fishing & shooting, and trapping organizations, serves as an unprecedented network of pro-sportsmen elected officials that advance the interests of America's hunters and anglers.

As a member of the CSC and supporter of our country's outdoor heritage, CSF applauds your efforts to recognize the role that sportsmen and women play in managing and sustaining wildlife populations through regulated taking of wildlife. In the case of the Grand Canyon bison herd, existing National Park Service laws and regulations that limit the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's ability to actively manage wildlife through hunting serve as a prime example of how limiting the availability of science-based wildlife management techniques can have detrimental impacts to some of our nation's most treasured natural resources.

The Sportsmen's Link to Congress

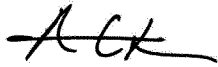
110 North Carolina Ave., SE · Washington, DC 20003 · 202.543.6850 · 202.543-6853 Fax · www.sportsmenslink.org

S. 782 addresses this concern by directing the Secretary of Interior to develop a bison management plan that relies on using skilled public volunteers that have been issued a valid hunting license by the State of Arizona to reduce bison populations in Grand Canyon National Park to appropriate levels. In addition to furthering resource management goals, this approach would be more cost effective than hiring professional sharpshooters to cull the herd or utilizing birth-control agents; would generate revenue to support wildlife management and conservation in Arizona and would likely trigger bison movement out of the National Park, therefore creating additional hunting opportunity on adjacent lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.

Furthermore, S. 782 allows licensed skilled volunteers to remove bison harvested from within Grand Canyon National Park to put these animals to beneficial use. This provision is consistent with the North American Model Wildlife Conservation Model which calls for non-frivolous use of wildlife.

With these factors in mind, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation is pleased to offer its support of S. 782.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Treharne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Treharne
Western States Director
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation



June 9, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman, Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for H.R. 1443 and S. 782, the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act.

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Cantwell, Congressman Bishop, and Congressman Grijalva:

Safari Club International supports H.R. 1443 and S.782, the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act. This legislation will provide sportsmen and women with a unique opportunity to participate in sustainable-use conservation in Grand Canyon National Park and will help the National Park Service better manage the Park's wildlife.

The National Park Service (Service) already has the authority to allow "skilled public volunteers" to assist in the reduction and management of wildlife populations on National Parks. In *WildEarth Guardians v. National Park Service*, the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado and the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals each affirmed the Service's authority to authorize members of the hunting community to act as volunteers during wildlife management operations. H.R. 1443 and S.782, however, contain three important elements that go beyond the

Letter to Support H.R. 1443 and S. 782
June 9, 2015
Page 2 of 2

scope of authority provided to the Secretary of the Interior in existing law. First, the bills obligate the Secretary to utilize skilled public volunteers to reduce the bison population within the Park. Second, they require the Secretary to publish a management plan to reduce the bison via lethal culling by skilled public volunteers within six months of enactment of the Act, rather than give the Service the discretion to wait several years before producing a management plan that includes the utilization of skilled volunteers. Third, the legislation provides the skilled public volunteers with the opportunity to remove the meat from any harvested bison from the Park for themselves and/or to share with others.

Without congressional authorization, the Service has (1) the authority rather than the direct mandate to utilize members of the hunting community as volunteers; (2) the ability to postpone the planning necessary for this wildlife management effort; and (3) the opportunity to deprive volunteers from retaining the meat resulting from the cull. To address this last concern, H.R. 1443 and S.782 make it possible for volunteers to enjoy the harvested bison and engage in the sustainable use of these animals. In other programs in which the Service has utilized volunteers to reduce wildlife overpopulations, the Service has prohibited volunteers from retaining the meat from the animals they took, even though the Service allowed others to participate in lotteries for portions of the meat. In effect, the Service penalized the volunteers for participating. This legislation would remedy an inexplicable inequity in the volunteer process. Safari Club International strongly supports sustainable-use conservation and management involving the participation of members of the hunting community.

Using skilled public volunteers to cull the bison is a sound and workable solution to a wildlife management problem. The Service will be afforded an opportunity to better manage the overpopulated herd, while spending less money by using volunteer agents rather than hiring professional sharpshooters. The volunteers will be able to participate in a unique conservation opportunity and be able to take home the meat as an added benefit.

Safari Club International strongly supports H.R. 1443 and S. 782. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Anna Seidman, Safari Club International's Director of Litigation at aseidman@safariclub.org or 202-543-8733.

Sincerely,



Craig Kaufman
President
Safari Club International



May 8, 2015

Senator John McCain
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Grand Canyon Bison Management Act, S.782

Dear Senator McCain:

On behalf of Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) and 14 of our member organizations, we applaud your efforts on behalf of sportsmen in the form of Senate Bill 782, the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act!

On June 6, 2014, we provided input and comment to the National Park Service (NPS) for their Bison Management Plan and EIS during this Public Scoping period as follows:

- NPS should construct bison proof enclosures to protect riparian areas, other water sources and sensitive archaeological and historical sites. This action would be consistent throughout the rest of the state where landowners must fence out wildlife, livestock and other species they do not want on their property. It would also allow park visitors to continue viewing this native, iconic animal, which just happens to be on the NPS logo.
- NPS should develop a bison education plan for park visitors, including a history of the bison in and around the park, the ongoing management plan underway, as well as safety matters when encountering these animals.
- While the NPS develops plans to enhance the bison herd's migration away from sensitive areas, they should also work at improving forage, range and water sources for the herd to ensure those efforts are successful at desired locations.
- **Most importantly, if baiting, soft handling, herding and hazing don't work to move the bison, any lethal removal of the animals should be coordinated with the AZGFD, using "skilled public volunteers" aka sportsmen with tags!**
- **We understand "hunting" is not allowed on the GCNP, but it only makes economic sense to utilize "skilled public volunteers" who are willing to pay**

AZSFWC letter to Senator McCain supporting Grand Canyon Bison Management Act – 5-8-2015

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 12590 Glendale, AZ 85318

to harvest/lethally remove a bison, versus having the NPS pay a contractor to do it.

- **These population reduction measures on the GCNP could use “skilled public volunteers” selected through the AZGFD draw application process and licensed accordingly. The successful applicants could attend an information session prior to the pursuit to harvest. The controlled harvests could be scheduled at such times when access to the GCNP is limited by road conditions or the season, and could be undertaken with both the guidance of AZGFD and GCNP personnel as well. In addition to the potential harvest of designated animals, compliance with all rules and regulations both by the GCNP and AZGFD would be understood, including designated weapon type, proper firearms handling, and elimination of any wanton waste of a harvested animal.**

Noting particularly the bullet points in bold, we're pleased S.782 tracks with our input to the NPS.

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation is a 501c-3 organization dedicated to wildlife, habitat conservation work and educating sportsmen on related issues. Our member organizations reach across the spectrum of hunting, angling and outdoor recreation groups from all over Arizona.

Thank you for your efforts to get this bill passed!



Jim Unmacht
President



**AZSFWC Member Groups Supporting Input to the National Park
Service on the Bison Management Plan**

AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation
AZ Big Game Super Raffle
AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Deer Association
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
AZ Elk Society
AZ Houndsmen
Coconino Sportsmen
Outdoor Experience 4 All
SRT Outdoors
The BASS Federation
1.2.3.Go...

AZSFWC letter to Senator McCain supporting Grand Canyon Bison Management Act – 5-8-2015

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 12590 Glendale, AZ 85318

Senator FLAKE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CASSIDY. It is time to hear from our witness. Mr. Knox is the Associate Director of the National Park Service. At the end of his testimony we will begin questioning. Your full written testimony will be made part of the hearing record. Please keep your statement to five minutes so that we will have time for questions.

Mr. Knox, please proceed.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Chairman and Senator Heinrich, thank you for the opportunity to appear before this Subcommittee.

Senator HEINRICH. Mr. Knox, I just want to point out to our colleague that if he does need to go then now would be an appropriate time. You do not need to sit through the entire hearing. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Knox.

Senator ALEXANDER. If I may, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Senator Murphy for his bipartisan gesture which I assume amounts to a co-sponsor of my bill about President Polk. [Laughter.]

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before this Subcommittee to present the Department of Interior's views on the ten bills on today's agenda. I would like to submit our full statement on each of these bills for the record and summarize in my oral statement the Department's views.

S. 145 requires the National Park Service to reimburse each state that provided funds to open and temporarily operate units of the National Park system in October 2013 when there was a lapse in appropriations for most Federal Government activities. The National Park Service does not have the authority to reimburse the states for the approximately \$2 million in donated funds that were expended. S. 145 would provide that authority.

S. 146 would require the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to enter into agreements with states or their political subdivisions to accept funds to open National Park units, National Wildlife Refuges, Bureau of Land Management public lands and National Forests during a government shut down and provide for reimbursement to the states. The Department strongly opposes Senate 146. We disagree with the idea of enacting laws to lessen the impact of a future government shut down for a few select governmental activities rather than protecting all such activities by avoiding a future lapse in appropriations.

S. 319 would designate Mount McKinley in the State of Alaska as Mount Denali. The National Park Service appreciates the long history and public interest for both the name Mount McKinley and the traditional Athabaskan name, Denali. The Department respects the choice made by this legislation and does not object to S. 319.

S. 329 would designate 35 miles of the Farmington River and the entire 26 miles of its major tributary, Salmon Brook, as part of the wild and scenic rivers system. The Department supports enactment of S. 329 with an amendment.

S. 403 would revise the route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in Northeastern Minnesota and extend the trail beyond

its current terminus in New York eastward into Vermont increasing the total length of the trail for approximately 4,000 miles to approximately 4,600 miles. The Department supports enactment of S. 403.

S. 521 and S. 610 would authorize special resource studies of two sites in Baltimore—President Street Station, which is a historic train station associated with the 1861 Baltimore riots, and Public School 103 and other resources that relate to the early life of Thurgood Marshall. The Department supports enactment of these two bills and recommends technical amendments to S. 521.

S. 782 would direct the Secretary of Interior to publish a Bison Management Plan for Grand Canyon National Park within 180 days of enactment which must include culling of bison by skilled, public volunteers and allow public volunteers to remove a full bison harvested from the park. The Department opposes S. 782 because it would disrupt an ongoing planning effort for managing bison at Grand Canyon National Park. And further, it may cause confusion about the National Park Service's authorities to manage wildlife populations through a variety of means including the use of skilled volunteers.

S. 873 would designate the approximately 2.6 million acres of national wilderness preservation system located within Lake Clark National Park and Preserve as the J. S. Hammond Wilderness Area. The Department supports enactment of S. 873.

S. 1483 would authorize a special resource study of the James Knox Polk home in Columbia, Tennessee. The Department supports enactment of this legislation with amendments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Knox follows:]

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 145, TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO REFUND TO STATES ALL STATE FUNDS THAT WERE USED TO REOPEN AND TEMPORARILY OPERATE A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM DURING THE OCTOBER 2013 SHUTDOWN

June 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 145, a bill to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown.

S. 145 requires the Director of the National Park Service to reimburse each State that provided funds to open and temporarily operate a unit (or units) of the National Park System in October 2013, when there was a lapse in appropriations for most Federal government activities. The bill specifies that the reimbursement shall be carried out using funds appropriated for the National Park Service after enactment of this legislation. We estimate that the cost of reimbursing the States would be approximately \$2 million.

From October 1 through October 16, 2013, the National Park Service, along with other bureaus and offices of the Department of the Interior, implemented a shutdown of our activities due to a lapse in appropriations. Under the closure determination and notice issued by the Director of the National Park Service, and consistent with applicable law, the National Park Service closed and secured all 401 national parks across the country, suspended all activities, and furloughed more than 20,000 National Park Service employees.

In response to the economic impacts that the park closures were having on many communities and local businesses, as the shutdown entered a second week, Secretary Jewell announced that the Department would consider agreements with Governors who indicated an interest and ability to fully fund National Park Service personnel to reopen specified national parks in their States. Six States – Arizona, Colorado, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Utah – signed donation agreements with the Department to open a total of 13 park units that are all significant contributors to tourism in the States where they are located. State donations under these agreements totaled approximately \$3.6 million. Once these agreements were signed and the funds were transferred, the National Park Service reopened the national parks in accordance with the specific agreements.

Under the terms of the agreements, the States donated to the National Park Service lump sum payments in advance to cover the cost of operating the parks for a specific number of days. Further, these agreements stipulated that funds donated and used to re-open the parks could not be returned to the States. The employees who returned to work in these parks during the

shutdown were paid for these days out of the funds donated by the States. When Congress passed a continuing resolution providing appropriations for the first three and a half months of FY 2014 on October 16, 2013, the National Park Service was able to resume operations on October 17, 2013, and stop charging employee time against the funds that had been donated by the States.

Once the shutdown ended, the National Park Service immediately began the process of reimbursing the six States for the portion of donated funding that was not expended to operate the parks, which totaled approximately \$1.6 million. However, the National Park Service does not have the authority to reimburse States for the portion of funding that was expended (approximately \$2 million); an act of Congress is needed for that. S. 145 would provide that authority. We would like to point out that, as written, the source of funds for repayment will be derived from appropriations made after the enactment of this bill, not from funds received by the parks in FY14 or FY15.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony, and I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 146, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR OR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF STATES PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, OF PUBLIC LAND, UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, UNITS OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM, AND UNITS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM IN THE STATE DURING ANY PERIOD IN WHICH THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR OR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE IS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN NORMAL LEVEL OF OPERATIONS AT THE UNITS DUE TO A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Department on S. 146, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

The Department strongly opposes S. 146. We have a great deal of sympathy for the businesses and communities that experienced a disruption of activity and loss of revenue during the October 2013 partial government shutdown and that stand to lose more if there is another funding lapse in the future. However, we disagree generally with the idea of enacting laws to try to lessen the impact of a future government shutdown for a few select governmental activities rather than protecting all such activities by avoiding a lapse in appropriations. We also believe that this legislation specifically, with its mandate to enter into agreements to reopen public lands at the request of a state, would be very difficult to execute. Furthermore, we are concerned that agreements to have states provide funding for activities that are inherently Federal in nature, even for a short period of time, would undermine the longstanding framework established by Congress for the management of Federal lands under the stewardship of the Department.

S. 146 would require the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States or their political subdivisions, upon their request, to accept funds to open National Park units, National Wildlife Refuges, Bureau of Land Management lands, and National Forests. The authority would be in effect only during a period when the Secretary is unable to operate and manage the units at normal levels. The bill would also provide for reimbursement for the amounts provided to the Secretaries to reopen the sites when appropriations are enacted providing retroactive funding, or when the State or political subdivision establishes that entrance fees were collected for the period covered by the agreement.

If those requirements are not met, the Secretary would have discretionary authority to provide reimbursement to the states, subject to the availability of appropriations.

The desire to avoid the kind of disappointment to the public and disruption of economic activity that results from a lapse in Federal appropriations is understandable. When the partial government shutdown occurred from October 1 through October 16, 2013, a lot of attention was focused on effects of closures of national parks, national wildlife refuges, public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and national forests – all places that are highly valued by the public for their recreational offerings and that serve as economic engines for the communities in which they are located.

It was because of the critical importance of these sites that the Secretary of the Interior agreed to reopen several of them using donated funds during the partial shutdown. As the shutdown entered its second week, the National Park Service entered into donation agreements with six states to accept the donation of funds necessary to allow the National Park Service to temporarily reopen 13 national park units. In these cases, the states were concerned enough about the loss of economic activity associated with certain national parks to use their own funds to alleviate the impact of park closures.

These agreements did help a select number of businesses and communities. However, they should not be held up as a model of how the Federal government should do business. The national parks that were opened during the shutdown were fortunate to be located in states that had the resources and political will to fund them. The National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which all seek to treat the land units under their stewardship equitably, have grave concerns about enshrining in law a process that favors units located in states willing to donate funds to operate them over those located in other states.

Furthermore, the agreements were designed to be temporary, emergency measures for some individual situations, and would not necessarily work for operating all Federal lands. Even for those sites where agreements might work, the potential difficulty of executing agreements on the scale envisioned by S. 146—every agreement that every state or political subdivision requests—at a time when most of the agencies' staff would be furloughed, cannot be overstated. During the October 2013 partial government shutdown, it was an enormous burden on the National Park Service and the Department, with their skeletal staffs, to execute just six agreements to reopen 13 park units. If a large number of states requested such agreements for a large number of sites in a future shutdown, the agencies would not have the capacity to respond to all of the requests.

The 2013 Federal government shutdown had terrible impacts for American citizens, businesses, communities, states, and the economy as a whole. These impacts are summarized in the report released by the Office of Management and Budget entitled "Impacts and Costs of the October 2013 Federal Government Shutdown" (November 2013). The report makes clear that the economic effects and disruption to lives and activities from the shutdown were felt far and wide. Enacting a law to try to avoid the impact of a future shutdown on specified activities is not a responsible alternative to simply making the political commitment to avoid a shutdown in the future by providing appropriations for all the vital functions the Federal government performs.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or any other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING,
FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 319, TO
DESIGNATE A MOUNTAIN IN THE STATE OF ALASKA AS MOUNT DENALI.**

June 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 319, a bill to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Mount Denali.

The National Park Service appreciates the long history and public interest for both the name Mount McKinley and the traditional Athabascan name, Denali. The Department respects the choice made by this legislation, and does not object to S. 319.

Located in what is now Denali National Park and Preserve, the highest peak in North America has been known by many names. The National Park Service's administrative history of the park notes that, "The Koyukon called it *Deenaalee*, the Lower Tanana named it *Deenaadheet* or *Deemadhee*, the Dena'ina called it *Dghelay Ka'a*, and at least six other Native groups had their own names for it.

In the late 18th century various Europeans came calling, and virtually everyone who passed by was moved to comment on it. The Russians called it *Bulshaiia* or *Tenada*, and though explorers from other nations were less specific, even the most hard-bitten adventurers were in awe of its height and majesty.

No American gave it a name until Densmore's Mountain appeared in the late 1880s, and the name that eventually stuck—Mount McKinley—was not applied until the waning days of the nineteenth century," a gesture of support to then-President William McKinley.

In 1975, the State of Alaska officially recognized Denali as the name of the peak, and requested action by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to do the same.

In 1980, Congress changed the name of Mount McKinley National Park to Denali National Park and Preserve (P.L. 96-487, Section 202), but did not act on the name change for the mountain.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony, and I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members may have.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 329, TO AMEND THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF THE FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AS COMPONENTS OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee today to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 329, a bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of S. 329 with an amendment that is described later in this statement. The National Park Service's study of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook, transmitted to Congress on October 17, 2013, determined that the segments proposed for designation under this bill are eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

S. 329 would designate 35.3 miles of the Farmington River and the entire 26.4 miles of its major tributary, Salmon Brook, as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior. The segments would be managed in accordance with the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan (June 2011) with the Secretary coordinating administration and management with a locally based management committee, as specified in the plan. The bill would authorize the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Connecticut, the adjoining communities, and appropriate local planning and environmental organizations. S. 329 would also make an adjustment to the upper Farmington Wild and Scenic River, which was designated in 1994, by adding 1.1 miles to the lower end of that 14-mile designation.

S. 329 would complete the wild and scenic river designation of the Farmington River in Connecticut by designating all of the mainstem Farmington River segments found to meet the criteria of eligibility and suitability. At the same time, S. 329 would provide for the continued operation of one existing hydroelectric facility – Rainbow Dam in Windsor – and allow for potential hydroelectric development of existing dams in the Collinsville stretch of the river, which is currently the subject of an active Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing proceeding sponsored by the Town of Canton.

P.L. 109-370, the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Study Act of 2005, authorized the study of the segments proposed for designation in S. 329. The National Park Service conducted the study in close cooperation with the adjoining communities, the State of Connecticut, the

Farmington River Watershed Association, the Stanley Black & Decker Corporation (owner of Rainbow Dam) and other interested local parties.

Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the development of a comprehensive river management plan within three years of the date of designation, it has become the practice of the National Park Service to prepare this plan as part of a study of potential wild and scenic rivers when much of the river runs through private lands. This allows the National Park Service to consult widely with local landowners, federal and state land management agencies, local governments, river authorities, and other groups that have interests related to the river prior to any recommendation for designation. Early preparation of the plan also assures input from these entities as well as users of the river on the management strategies that would be needed to protect the river's resources.

Technical assistance provided as a part of the study made possible the development of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan (June 2011). This plan is based primarily around local partner actions designed to guide the management of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook with or without a National Wild and Scenic River designation.

The study concluded that the proposed segments of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System because of their free-flowing nature and outstandingly remarkable geology, water quality, biological diversity, cultural landscape, recreation values and local authority to protect and enhance these values. These findings substantiate the widely held view of the Farmington River as Connecticut's premier, free-flowing river resource for a diversity of natural and cultural values, including one of New England's most significant whitewater boating runs, regionally unique freshwater mussel populations, and outstanding examples of archaeological and historical sites and districts spanning Native American, colonial and early manufacturing periods. Salmon Brook is, in its own right, highly significant for outstanding water quality and significant cold water fishery.

If S. 329 is enacted, the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook would be administered as a partnership wild and scenic river, similar to several other designations in the Northeast, including the upper Farmington River and the Eightmile River in Connecticut. This approach emphasizes local and state management solutions, and has proven effective as a means of protecting outstandingly remarkable natural, cultural and recreational resource values without the need for direct federal management or land acquisition.

We recommend amending S. 329 to ensure that if operations of the Rainbow Dam were to be changed, wild and scenic river values upstream and downstream of the hydro project would be protected. We would be pleased to work with the sponsor and the committee on the appropriate language for that purpose.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other committee members may have regarding this bill.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 403, TO REVISE THE AUTHORIZED ROUTE OF THE NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL IN NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA AND TO EXTEND THE TRAIL INTO VERMONT TO CONNECT WITH THE APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 403, to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of S. 403. This legislation would make two critically important improvements to the North Country National Scenic Trail: it would reroute a portion of the trail in Minnesota around dense swampland, and it would link this trail to the Appalachian Trail.

S. 403 would amend section 5(a)(8) of the National Trails System Act to revise the route of the trail in northeastern Minnesota and extend the trail beyond its current terminus in New York eastward into Vermont, increasing the total length of the trail from approximately 4,000 miles to approximately 4,600 miles. We note that although the legislated length of the trail is 3,200 miles, this figure was based upon estimates at the time of the passage of the bill that authorized the trail, and more accurate mapping has since shown the actual mileage to be closer to 4,000 miles.

The North Country National Scenic Trail was authorized by Congress in 1980 to provide superlative outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural and cultural qualities along the trail corridor, to provide a premier trail experience, and to encourage and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance and management of the trail. The trail, which is one of six designated National Scenic Trails administered by the National Park Service, spans much of the northern United States, stretching from North Dakota to New York.

The current authorized route of the trail in northeastern Minnesota traverses approximately 93 miles of black spruce and tamarack swamp, extending westward from Jay Cooke State Park south of Duluth, to the Chippewa National Forest southwest of Grand Rapids. Because of the location and difficult environmental conditions within the swamp, no portion of this section of the trail has been constructed. Approximately seventy percent of the proposed revision — referred to as the Arrowhead Reroute — consists of three existing hiking trails: the Superior Hiking Trail, the Border Route Trail, and the Kekekabic Trail. These trails, which total approximately 400 miles, follow the north shore of Lake Superior and traverse the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in the Superior National Forest. The remaining portion of the Arrowhead Reroute — approximately 173 miles — would be new trail located over a combination of public and private lands. The net total

increase in the Minnesota portion of the North Country National Scenic Trail would be approximately 480 miles.

Since 1987, Minnesota hiking groups have repeatedly asked the NPS to study the revised route. In response to these requests, the NPS conducted the *Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment* between 1999 and 2004. In 2003 and 2004, the National Park Service held public meetings in Duluth, Ely, Grand Rapids, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Public comments reflected broad overall support for the Arrowhead Reroute, and strong support among the affected public agencies and jurisdictions. The plan and environmental assessment were approved by the NPS on September 30, 2004.

The extension of the trail route into Vermont would add approximately 66 miles to the North Country National Scenic Trail, 40 of which are already existing trails. The addition would extend from the trail's current terminus near Crown Point, New York, east to a point to be determined along the Long Trail – a National Recreation Trail in Vermont. The Long Trail then connects to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail at Maine Junction just east of Rutland, Vermont.

In the fall of 2009, the National Park Service began a study of the potential extension of the North Country National Scenic Trail in Vermont. In February 2010, three public meetings were held to announce the study and present conceptual corridors. Additional meetings were held with key stakeholders in October 2011. A public meeting to review the draft report was held on May 21, 2012. Public comments, and written and electronic responses, reflected broad overall support. *The Feasibility Study Corridor Plan and Environmental Assessment for Addison County, Vermont*, was approved by the NPS on December 16, 2013.

The NPS anticipates the cost of constructing and maintaining the Arrowhead reroute and the Vermont extension of the North Country National Scenic Trail would be manageable because the work would be done primarily by volunteers using hand tools, and current NPS staff would provide route planning and support for the volunteers who would help develop and maintain the path.

As an example, the North Country Trail Association and partners have committed to developing the connecting trail segments that will be needed between the end of the Kekekabic Trail and the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota. Funding would be needed to supply trail markers, signage, tools, equipment, and materials. Recent average expenditures for volunteer supplies have cost the North Country National Scenic Trail approximately \$60,000 per year. The net increase of approximately 546 miles to the current trail would increase operational costs by approximately \$7,000, split between NPS support and that independently generated by the trail chapters and affiliates. The NPS portions could be accommodated within the trail's current budget.

The portions of the North Country National Scenic Trail that have yet to be built have not been laid out in detail. Rather, the studies identified respective corridors several miles wide within which the trail would eventually be laid out. The flexibility provided by these corridors would allow the NPS and its partners to design routes that will minimize the amount of private land involved.

Public Law 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, provides authority for Federal agencies to acquire lands or interests in lands from willing sellers for the North Country National Scenic Trail. As a National Scenic Trail based upon strong public-private partnerships and engaged volunteers, there is an opportunity to implement the proposed re-route and extension through a variety of actions and expenditures. Options for allowing access range from outright donation, to easements and access agreements facilitated by partner organizations, to fee simple acquisition from willing sellers. However, it is the intention of the NPS to pursue donations, easements, and agreements to ensure access whenever possible. Consequently, the NPS is unable to estimate land acquisition costs. However, efforts would be made to keep Federal expenditures to a minimum.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be glad to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 521, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF PRESIDENT STATION IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 521, to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of S. 521 with technical amendments. However, we believe that priority should be given to the 33 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress.

S. 521 authorizes a special resource study of the President Street Station in Baltimore, Maryland. This study would determine whether this site meets the National Park Service's criteria for inclusion in the National Park System of national significance, suitability, and feasibility, and need for National Park Service management. The study would also consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the resources by the Federal government, State or local government entities, or private and non-profit entities. Alternatives might include, for example, the designation of the site as an affiliated area of the National Park Service, where the National Park Service would provide technical assistance to the site but not own or manage it. We estimate the cost of the study to range from \$200,000 to \$300,000, based on similar types of studies conducted in recent years.

The President Street Station was built by the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad. Opened in 1850, it served as the company's passenger terminus with connections south to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad terminal via horse-drawn track through the City of Baltimore. Originally consisting of a headhouse, a 208-foot long barrel vaulted train shed, and a freight house, only the headhouse remains today. The property is associated with the Baltimore Riot of 1861, where members of the Massachusetts militia on their way to Washington were attacked by a mob as they transited the city, resulting in the deaths of four soldiers and twelve civilians. That event is considered the first act in the Civil War in which blood was shed. The station is also recognized by the National Park Service's Network to Freedom program for its use by the General Vigilance Committee Anti-Slavery Society in Philadelphia, as well as other groups and individuals, to escape or aid others in escaping slavery.

President Street Station is owned by the City of Baltimore. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is included in the Baltimore National Heritage Area. It houses the Baltimore Civil War Museum which is operated by a state-chartered organization, the Friends of President Street Station, and is open to the public.

We recommend two technical amendments, which are attached below: one to update the reference to the law that set requirements for special resource studies; the other to correct the name of the train station in the title of the bill.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes our prepared statement. I would be happy to respond to any questions about this matter.

Proposed amendments to S. 521, President Street Station Special Resource Study

On page 3, lines 5-6, strike “section 8 of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5)” and insert “section 100507 of title 54, United States Code”.

Amend the title to read: “To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Street Station in Baltimore, Maryland, and for other purposes.”.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 610, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF P.S. 103 IN WEST BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 610, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of S. 610. However, we believe that priority should be given to the 33 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress.

S. 610 authorizes a special resource study of Public School 103 and other resources in the neighborhood that relate to the early life of Thurgood Marshall in Baltimore, Maryland. This study would determine whether this site meets the National Park Service's criteria for inclusion in the National Park System of national significance, suitability, and feasibility, and need for National Park Service management. The study would also consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the resources by the Federal government, State or local government entities, or private and non-profit entities. Alternatives might include, for example, the designation of the site as an affiliated area of the National Park Service, where the National Park Service would provide technical assistance to the site but not own or manage it. We estimate the cost of the study to range from \$200,000 to \$300,000, based on similar types of studies conducted in recent years.

P.S. 103 was originally built in 1877 for West Baltimore's white immigrant population but, in 1911, it became a segregated African-American school serving the Upton community of West Baltimore. The school is significant for its role in the education of Thurgood Marshall, who is best known as the lead counsel for the landmark school desegregation case, *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) and as the first African-American Supreme Court Justice. Marshall's life and his life's work began in Baltimore: it is the city where he was born in 1908, where he began his public education, and where he won his first civil rights cases as a young attorney. Thurgood Marshall attended P.S. 103 from 1st through 8th grade (1914 to 1921).

Marshall's accomplishments in systematically dismantling the legal framework for Jim Crow segregation are the foundation upon which the success of the Civil Rights Movement was built. P.S. 103 is owned by the City of Baltimore and is included in the Baltimore National Heritage Area.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes our prepared statement. I would be happy to respond to any questions about this matter.

**STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING,
FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 782, TO
DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ESTABLISH A BISON
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK.**

June 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 782, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park.

The Department opposes S. 782 because it would disrupt an ongoing planning effort for managing bison at Grand Canyon National Park, and may cause confusion about the National Park Service's existing authorities to manage wildlife populations through a variety of means, including the use of skilled volunteers.

S. 782 would direct the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to publish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park (park) no later than 180 days after the enactment of this legislation. The bill would require the plan to include reduction, through humane lethal culling by skilled public volunteers and by other nonlethal means, of the population of bison in the park that the Secretary determines are detrimental to the use of the park. The bill provides that notwithstanding the Act of March 2, 1929 (16 U.S.C. 198c), which is applicable only to Rocky Mountain National Park, or any other provision of law, a skilled public volunteer may remove a full bison harvested from the park. The bill also requires the Secretary to coordinate with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission regarding the development and implementation of the management plan, and that the Secretary comply with all applicable Federal environmental laws (including regulations), including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). And, the bill clarifies that nothing in the Act applies to the taking of wildlife in the park for any purpose other than the implementation of the management plan.

The National Park Service (NPS) has several tools available for directly managing ungulates to meet resource management objectives. These tools include both lethal and non-lethal methods for removing ungulates when the NPS determines that population numbers are too high. Under existing authorities, lethal removal of ungulates can be accomplished by using National Park Service employees, contractors, or skilled volunteers, or a combination of the above. Public hunting can also be used in parks where Congress has expressly authorized it, although hunting is not authorized at Grand Canyon National Park and S. 782 does not propose to do so. The appropriate means of culling is selected based the type of park unit, location, resource issue, conditions at the park, funding, public input, logistics and other concerns. For these reasons, the NPS has not established one method as preferred over any of the others, and analyzes the full suite of tools available for each situation. The preferred action is selected through a planning process that is accompanied by a NEPA review of reasonable and available alternatives.

The NPS has typically used professional sharp shooters to cull whitetail deer in parks in the eastern United States, including at Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., and Catoctin Mountain Park in Maryland. Professional sharp shooters were also used at Channel Island National Park in California to cull elk on Santa Rosa Island. In other cases, including Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado and Theodore Roosevelt National Park in South Dakota, skilled volunteers have been used to cull elk.

With regard to Grand Canyon National Park, the NPS is currently in the process of developing the alternatives for the Grand Canyon Bison Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We expect to have the DEIS out for public review and comment in the winter of 2016. As part of the alternatives development process with our cooperating agencies, including Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), we are considering lethal removal, or "culling", of bison as an option for reducing bison density in the park. The use of skilled volunteers in the culling operation would be part of the analysis. If the final plan includes the use of skilled volunteers in a culling operation, we would collaborate with AGFD on implementation including the requirements and protocols for selecting volunteers, and would follow applicable federal law and regulation with regard to disposition of carcasses. S. 782 would disrupt this planning effort.

Further, although S. 782 requires the Secretary to comply with NEPA in developing the bison management plan, the legislation is contrary to NEPA to several ways. For example, by directing the Secretary to put into place a plan to reduce bison using skilled volunteers, the bill appears to circumvent the NEPA process by predetermining a specific outcome or alternative. This approach is counter to NEPA, which requires Federal land managers to consider a range of reasonable alternatives, including no action, and to provide opportunities for public engagement during the NEPA process. Additionally, attempting to complete a plan in 180 days as proposed in the legislation also runs counter to NEPA, and our efforts to work collaboratively with our partners and neighbors, as it complicates our ability to adequately involve the public, tribes, other stakeholders, and cooperating agencies, including the AGFD. Finally, the Department is also concerned that by attempting to provide this duplicative authority to use skilled volunteers in culling operations, S. 782 may cause confusion about the NPS's existing authority to carry out culling operations using skilled volunteers. While the NPS's authority to manage ungulate populations through lethal reduction has been upheld in court, S. 782 seems to call that authority into question, which could cause unnecessary confusion and be counterproductive to wildlife management efforts across the National Park System.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or the other members of the subcommittee may have.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 873, TO DESIGNATE THE WILDERNESS WITHIN THE LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE IN THE STATE OF ALASKA AS THE JAY S. HAMMOND WILDERNESS AREA.

June 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 873, a bill to designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area.

The Department supports S. 873, which would designate the approximately 2.6 million acres of National Wilderness Preservation System land located within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve as the "Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area." This designation is a fitting and appropriate way to recognize Hammond's significant contributions to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the National Park System, and Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, which was an important part of an extraordinary legacy of public service.

In 1946, following his military service as a fighter pilot during World War II, Jay Hammond came to Alaska and became a bush pilot, guide and trapper. In 1949, Hammond graduated from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and went to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee, Hammond conducted wildlife surveys of the Lake Clark area and located a homestead along Lake Clark. He lived with his wife Bella in their lakeside homestead from about 1982 until his death on August 2, 2005. Bella still resides in the homestead and enjoys the splendid views of the wilderness area.

In 1959, Hammond was elected to the state legislature and served several terms before being elected as a state senator in 1967. From 1972 to 1974, Hammond was the mayor of the Bristol Bay Borough. In 1974, he was elected Governor of Alaska, and served the state in that role until 1982. During his tenure, he oversaw the building and the opening of the Alaska Pipeline and preserved a large portion of the oil lease revenues in the form of a Permanent Fund which has been in existence for three decades. As a governor who sought to balance the development of Alaska's energy resources with the conservation of the state's vast untouched natural resources, he worked with the Federal government to achieve enactment of the legislation that became ANILCA.

ANILCA protected 104 million acres of land. It added more than 40 million acres in 10 new units of the National Park System, including the 3.86 million-acre Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The law also designated the 2.6 million acres of wilderness within Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Governor Hammond later said that what President Carter had done with the signing of ANILCA was "locking Alaska open" for future generations of Americans to enjoy and preserve for all time.

The National Park Service Management Policies 2006 states that “to be permanently commemorated in a national park is a high honor, affording a degree of recognition that implies national importance.” The policies support the commemorative naming of national park resources only in cases where there is a compelling justification for the recognition. In general, a compelling justification involves an association between the park and the person that is of exceptional importance, as well as a lapse of at least five years since the person’s death. The designation of wilderness within Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in honor of Jay S. Hammond meets these criteria.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony, and I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members may have.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONCERNING S. 1483, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO STUDY THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING THE JAMES K. POLK HOME IN COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE, AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 10, 2015

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's testimony regarding S. 1483, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the James K. Polk home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of this legislation with amendments described later in this testimony. However, we believe that priority should be given to the 33 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress.

S. 1483 authorizes a special resource study of the James K. Polk home in Columbia, Tennessee. This study would determine whether this site meets the National Park Service's criteria for inclusion in the National Park System of national significance, suitability, and feasibility, and need for National Park Service management. The National Park Service recently conducted a reconnaissance survey that preliminarily evaluated the James K. Polk home and found that, because the site has the potential to meet the National Park Service's criteria for inclusion in the National Park System, further study was warranted.

The study would also consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the resources by the Federal government, State or local government entities, or private and non-profit entities. Alternatives might include, for example, the designation of the site as an affiliated area of the National Park Service, where the National Park Service would provide technical assistance to the site but not own or manage it. We estimate the cost of the study to range from \$200,000 to \$300,000, based on similar types of studies conducted in recent years.

James Knox Polk was born in Mecklenberg County, North Carolina, on November 2, 1795. In 1806, at the age of eleven, he moved with his family to Tennessee, settling in what is now Maury County. Samuel Polk, his father, purchased three lots in the town of Columbia in 1816 and constructed a two-story brick house (the present Polk Home) on the corner of West Seventh Street and South High Street. Samuel and his wife Jane remained in the house until their deaths in 1827 and 1852, respectively.

James K. Polk lived at the home after graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and for the next few years as he traveled to Nashville to read law with Felix Grundy. While living with his family and passing the bar in 1820, Polk began a successful law practice in Columbia and campaigned for the state legislature. Though Samuel and Jane Polk's house in Columbia was only a short-term home for James K. Polk, it is the only extant residence associated with the eleventh President, besides the White House, and marks the beginning of his political career. He moved to a new home a few blocks away when he married Sarah Childress of Murfreesboro on January 1, 1824.

The Polk Home in Columbia remained in the family until 1862 and then changed owners several times before it was purchased by the State of Tennessee in 1929. At the same time, a descendant of the Polk family established the James K. Polk Memorial Association of Nashville and the James K. Polk Memorial Auxiliary of Columbia committed to "operate, maintain, preserve, and restore" the Polk Ancestral Home and properties, and also to "perpetuate the memory of the eleventh President of the United States." The Memorial Association opened the home to the public in 1929.

In 1937, the State acquired the adjacent lot to the south and reconstructed the kitchen outbuilding. In 1941, the State bought the next-door Sisters' House; an 1818 residence constructed by James K. Polk's brother-in-law and inhabited by two of his sisters and their families. Additional land was added to the site in 1953 and 1961, expanding the garden. In 1961, the Polk home was designated a National Historic Landmark. In 2009, with private funding, the Memorial Association purchased an 1882 church on the same block and renovated the space into a state-of-the-art exhibit facility. The renovated church, Polk Presidential Hall, has hosted traveling and original exhibits related to the U.S. Presidency and American society and culture during the Polk period. Two privately owned commercial buildings remain on the same block as the Polk Home, between the Polk Presidential Hall and the reconstructed kitchen.

Although the site is owned by the State (with the exception of Polk Presidential Hall), the Memorial Association still administers and operates the James K. Polk Home and Museum while owning and preserving over 1,300 artifacts and original documents directly relating to President Polk. The Memorial Association also offers educational programs on President Polk to regional and national audiences. The Association has an eight-member Board of Directors that employs one full-time professional Executive Director and one full-time Curator of Collections. Two paid docents staff the Sisters' House and provide house tours and educational programs for the 10,000 to 20,000 annual visitors.

S. 1483 includes certain requirements for the study which we recommend deleting. Specifically, we urge deleting section 3(c)(5), which would require an analysis of the effect of designation as a unit of the National Park System on existing commercial and recreational activities, and on activities concerning energy production and transmission infrastructure, and on the authority of state and local governments to manage those activities. We also urge deleting section 3(c)(6), which would require an identification of any authorities that would compel or permit the Secretary of the Interior to influence or participate in local land use decisions or place restrictions on non-federal lands.

The purpose of conducting a special resource study is to determine whether a resource meets the criteria for inclusion in the National Park System and, if it does not, to provide information on alternative means to protect the resource. We believe that the special resource study requirements under existing law result in a sufficient amount of information and analysis of the effects of including a resource in the National Park System. These additional requirements could potentially increase the cost of the study and the time required to complete it.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

Senator CASSIDY. Thank you, Mr. Knox.

Now we will begin questioning. Senator Heinrich and I will defer our questions until after others go. Senator Alexander will go first and then Senator Warren.

Senator ALEXANDER. Well thanks, Senator Cassidy. That is very generous of you and Senator Heinrich.

I am glad to see you and Senator Warren in different seats than I usually see you in our Committee.

Mr. Knox, I am delighted that the Department supports legislation to take the next step in making President Polk's home part of the National Park Service.

I mentioned earlier how important President Polk was in our history and how interesting he is. He kept a diary every night at the White House, and this was in the 1840's or so. I have read it all the way through. He must have written for an hour, an hour and a half at night. It is a fascinating thing, I mean, as I mentioned to you earlier, it would say 9 p.m., Senator Houston (that would be Sam Houston) showed up for an interview and stayed two and a half hours with some other Senator talking to the President. Then I guess he wrote this all down later after that by candlelight.

He had two secretaries. That was his whole staff. He would spend the morning interviewing people who wanted jobs. If there was a treaty he had to read it, and if there was a message to the Senate, he had to write it.

He spent four years, and as I said, he had four major objectives and he accomplished them all basically expanding the United States all the way to Texas, Oregon, and California.

But one other thing he did was this. He signed the bill that created the Department of Interior, the agency that includes the National Park system. Now my question is don't you think it would be appropriate for the Presidential home of the President who created the Department of Interior, the home of the National Park Service, to be managed by the National Park Service?

Mr. KNOX. Senator, President Polk was a fascinating man, and it's really interesting to think about that time in our nation's history and what the job of the President was. I mean, as compared to now. So it's fascinating to hear you talk about that.

We definitely support moving forward with this study which is really the next step in potential park designation, and we think that's the right thing to do to complete the study and make a clear recommendation to this Committee and to the Congress on whether it should be designated a unit of the National Park system.

Thank you.

Senator ALEXANDER. Thank you. How long will it take to complete a special resource study of this sort?

Mr. KNOX. These studies, I think, our average length to complete them is about three years.

Senator ALEXANDER. About three years?

Mr. KNOX. Yes.

Senator ALEXANDER. Anything we can do to help make it easier for you to get that done more rapidly?

Mr. KNOX. Well as is in our full testimony, I don't know if this makes it easier, but as is in our full testimony we have about 33, a backlog of about 33 study bills that the Congress has passed that

we're working on or beginning to work on. And we definitely want to get those done first and then begin working on any new bills.

Senator ALEXANDER. Well, I would hope that you would give as much priority as you can to this home because, as I mentioned, according to Arthur Schlesinger survey of historians, Polk was ranked ninth among the presidents, among the near greats.

The other thing to consider is that if the Park Service were to enter into this kind of recommendation or recommend that the Government do it, there is a dedicated group of citizens in Columbia who support the home. They are not able to support it in the way Monticello or the Hermitage are, but they support it. With a partnership between the Park Service and this group of volunteers, I think, that the home, this home south of Nashville, would be a fascinating place and an educational source to help children and adults remember that important part of American history.

So I thank you for coming, and I appreciate the Department's work to take the first step. This would be the second step, and I hope you will decide to recommend that President Polk be remembered in this way.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CASSIDY. Senator Alexander, thank you.

How many presidents hail from Tennessee?

Senator ALEXANDER. Well we claim three, Jackson, Polk and Andrew Johnson.

Senator CASSIDY. Okay.

Senator ALEXANDER. Others have tried. [Laughter.]

Senator CASSIDY. Senator Warren?

Senator WARREN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to add my congratulations for your ascending to the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee, and I am looking forward to working with you.

Mr. Knox, I am really glad that you are here today, because I am a big believer in the work that your agency does.

I know that the big national parks out West get most of the attention but my husband, Bruce, and I are avid hikers and we know how lucky we are to be able to explore the many areas within Massachusetts that your agency supports. Bruce and I just walked Cape Cod National Seashore on Saturday, and we live within walking distance of Longfellow House and General Washington's headquarters which are also managed by the Park Service.

Massachusetts has some great national parks, and today I came here because I wanted to talk to you about the Taunton River. After years of hard work by local Massachusetts' communities and by Congressman Barney Frank and Senator Ted Kennedy, in 2009 the Taunton River was named a wild and scenic river. Now that is a term of art, not just descriptive, and this wild and scenic designation helps preserve our rich colonial history. It protects a uniquely diverse ecosystem throughout its entire 40 miles.

The National Park Service describes the river as, "Perhaps the most diverse and intact coastal ravine ecosystem in Southern New England and the largest freshwater contributor to the Narragansett Bay estuary in Rhode Island." In other words, it is very important to us in Massachusetts. It is very important in the region, and we think that makes it important to the country.

Unfortunately, as Congressman Joe Kennedy recently brought to the National Park Service's attention, the average wild and scenic river managed by the Park Service received four times as much funding as the Taunton River. As you know, Federal support for wild and scenic rivers is critical to leverage other supports of funding that we work on. So I am concerned about the impact of these unfair funding levels on the Taunton River.

Mr. Knox, I know of no reason that the Taunton River would receive such an inequitable level of Federal funding. I just want to ask you if you would commit to working with me to ensure that the Taunton River receives adequate support in the future.

Mr. KNOX. Senator Warren, I'm aware that in the President's budget request for FY'16 that's before the Congress there is some differences in the funding levels for the wild and scenic rivers. That is now with the Congress, and certainly Congress gets to decide what to do with the President's proposal.

I am not aware of the reasons for those differences, and so I certainly could respond back to you with information on that. We certainly would look forward to working with you on the President's FY17 proposal to see if that could be rectified.

Senator WARREN. Good. As I say, look, I am a supporter of what you do. I want to see us do adequate funding for the wild and scenic rivers for the other parts of the work of the Park Service, but I also want to make sure that the money that is allocated to wild and scenic rivers is distributed equitably.

I know that in a case like this we are talking about very modest amounts of money, but it would make a big difference in communities like Fall River and Somerset and Taunton and others throughout the region.

So I truly appreciate the great work that you and your agency have done in Massachusetts and across the country. I look forward to working with you to make sure that the natural beauty of the Taunton River remains protected for generations to come. I hope that we can work on that.

Mr. KNOX. Great.

Senator WARREN. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CASSIDY. Thank you, Senator Warren.

Senator Daines?

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Knox, in my home state of Montana there is a drainage in the Beartooth Mountains as part of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness. In fact I spent a lot of days growing up backpacking all over that great part of my state. That drainage, called the East Rosebud, is especially worthy of a wild and scenic designation. In fact, protection of the East Rosebud Creek is unanimously supported by landowners living adjacent to the designation and up through the drainage. It is really hard to find a more unanimously supported protection bill in Montana.

In the House I introduced a bill to protect this drainage that reflects similar concepts as reflected in Senator Murphy's wild and scenic designation of the Farmington River, like protecting private property and other activities. I plan to reintroduce this bill in the

Senate along with Senator Tester and then Representative Zinke in the House will be doing the same.

Mr. Knox, I am interested to hear your thoughts on the importance of partnering with states and local governments like the cooperative agreements authorized in the Murphy bill. How do these cooperative agreements help to effectively manage the river segments protected under the act?

Mr. KNOX. So Senator, the cooperative agreements similar to, for the Farmington and Salmon Brook that have been put in place really reflect the views of the communities along the river. And as you can imagine along Farmington and the Salmon Brook there are a number of communities.

Senator Murphy talked about ten different communities that are part of that partnership, and it reflects their views on the management of the river while protecting its values for recreation, you know, the scenic values of the river and preserving those natural resources.

So it's really the Federal Government helping those local communities protect what's important to them.

Senator DAINES. I was intrigued in looking a little more into that proposed designation, the protections of the operation of that Rainbow Dam that is referenced. Where is the Rainbow Dam? I am not familiar with that area. I could tell you about the East Rosebud in Montana, I backpacked all over that part of the country, but I do not know about Senator Murphy's area. Where is the Rainbow Dam located in relation to the river segments that are protected under the act?

Mr. KNOX. So, Senator, it's along the lower Farmington River, and it's below where the Salmon Brook comes into the Lower Farmington River so that—and it's I don't know how many miles, probably ten miles or so, upstream of the Connecticut River.

Senator DAINES. And would it be part of the wild and scenic designation? Is it in that?

Mr. KNOX. It is not. It's excluded from the designation.

Senator DAINES. Okay, but how far away is that from where the wild and scenic designation is?

Mr. KNOX. Well, there's an exclusion area that's maybe five miles, four or five miles long.

Senator DAINES. Okay, what protects that area where the dam is located?

Mr. KNOX. And it's protected—correct. And then the wild and scenic river extends on either side of the exclusion area.

Senator DAINES. Okay, great, good. I yield back my time.

Senator CASSIDY. Thank you, Senator Daines.

Senator Heinrich.

Senator HEINRICH. Senator Daines, is the East Rosebud, is that Forest Service or is that Park Service?

Senator DAINES. The Forest Service.

Senator HEINRICH. I look forward to working with you on that.

Mr. Knox, I wanted to ask you a related question that Senator Daines brought up regarding S. 329. In the Farmington wild and scenic river designation you have suggested that the bill should include language making clear that any future changes to the oper-

ation of that Rainbow Dam include protection for the wild and scenic river's values.

I wanted to ask do you agree that as it is presently configured that the operation of the dam and the reservoir is compatible with this designation? And just to make sure I understand your perspective, I wanted to ask is the concern that, if the dam were to be expanded at some point or operation changed in a way that reduced in stream flows that that would somehow, that that would impact adversely the wild and scenic river?

Mr. KNOX. Senator, I might have to get back to you on some of the specifics of your question. But in general the answer is your understanding is correct that the current operations are compatible with the wild and scenic values and that future changes could somehow affect the flow regimes or whatever in the river that would change those values and degrade those values.

Senator HEINRICH. Okay, thank you.

On S. 1483, the James Polk home study, my understanding is that the Polk home is currently owned by the State of Tennessee and is presently administered as a historic site. So that its use, if included in the park system, would essentially be unchanged. Doesn't your standard study criteria under the General Authorities Act allow you to address issues that would be relevant to the potential park designation without requiring you to spend time analyzing additional issues not directly related to suitability? Because there is a whole list of things.

Mr. KNOX. I'm not sure I completely understand the question, but we have four criteria. One is national significance. The second is—

Senator HEINRICH. I think as the actual bill is constructed there are a number of things required of you to analyze that are not directly related to suitability or feasibility or to the four standard criteria that the Park Service looks at.

Mr. KNOX. That's correct. The bill as written requires us to look at its impact on energy production and transmission. It requires us to look at would it impact the authority of the state or local governments to manage local properties.

Senator HEINRICH. I am just saying in a case like this where clearly the use is not really changing from, so much as the landlord, are you still required to do that kind of duplicative analysis?

Mr. KNOX. Well, our position is that additional analysis is unnecessary to study the significance and appropriateness of this home being added as a unit of the National Park system and that it could be quite complex and require, you know, Senator Alexander was concerned about the length of time it would take. It could take much more time and more money to complete that additional analysis.

Senator HEINRICH. Great.

I am going to leave you with one more question then I will wait until the second round to get into a little bit more detail. Regarding S. 782, the Grand Canyon Bison Management bill, I just wanted to make sure we are all on the same page. Does the Park Service agree that the bison herd is damaging park resources in Grand Canyon National Park?

Mr. KNOX. Yes.

Senator HEINRICH. Great. And that it is too large and needs to be reduced?

Mr. KNOX. Yes.

Senator HEINRICH. Okay.

I will get to my second round and go into a little bit more detail on that.

Mr. KNOX. Thank you.

Senator HEINRICH. Thanks.

Senator CASSIDY. Senator Flake?

Senator FLAKE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Mr. Heinrich, thank you for letting me barge in on this Subcommittee.

Let me just followup with regard to the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act. You mentioned in your testimony that the objection to the bill is that the 180-day timeframe would complicate public engagement efforts that the National Park Service is going through. Is that correct?

Mr. KNOX. Yes, Senator.

We're underway with the plan. We hope to—we plan to release the Bison Management Plan for public review early in 2016. Passage of this bill would, you know, change how we're working on the plan significantly, and we think we're moving along and can bring that forward and get public comment early next year.

Senator FLAKE. There were public meetings held in May 2014, I believe. Has there been any public engagement since that time?

Mr. KNOX. I'm not sure of the details of public engagement since then. We did public scoping back in 2014 which is getting, you know, kind of general ideas on the issue from the public and took that to begin developing the alternatives for the plan.

Senator FLAKE. Alright.

It was a little unclear. I guess you are saying early in 2016 the plan will be ready because it said winter of 2016. We do not know if that means late 2015 or winter, a year later, December 2016 or January of 2016.

You are saying early 2016 which would mean January?

Mr. KNOX. Well I'm not sure January, but sometime in the winter months of early 2016.

Senator FLAKE. One thing brought up as well is perhaps the cost to this. I know we do use sharp shooters to cull white-tailed deer in parks in the U.S., in the Eastern U.S., and we cull elk on Channel Island. Do you know how much the Park Service pays for that kind of arrangement?

Mr. KNOX. No, Senator, I don't but I could get you that information.

Senator FLAKE. Okay. Alright. Well that would be nice in terms of comparative cost to see if that is really a concern.

Senator FLAKE. You explain in your testimony that in both the Rocky Mountain National Park and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park the Park Service uses skilled volunteers to cull the elk population there. What type of NEPA instrument was used in each of these cases? How long did it take for the Park Service to develop these plans?

Mr. KNOX. My understanding is they're both EIS documents. I don't know the length of time.

Senator FLAKE. Alright.

Mr. KNOX. I'll have to get back to you on that.

Senator FLAKE. Alright.

Our concern is, this is a problem now. It is going to be a growing problem, and the longer we go here when it takes two and a half years or so total to develop a plan and all we have is well, maybe, it will be done or we think it will be done early 2016.

In Yellowstone Park, I think, there are issues with bison there. This is one of the posters and pamphlets you are giving out to people saying "Keep your Distance" because the issues there do not approach wildlife including bison here.

Now I do not know if the beefalo or the hybrid version is any more docile, but we might be approaching issues here if we do not hurry up. I would just encourage us to move ahead in this area more quickly.

I recognize the opposition of the bill and the timeframe. We would not feel a need to put a timeframe if we were moving ahead more expeditiously, and it just seems to be taking far too much time here.

With regard to one of the other bills very quickly, the National Park Access Act. You said that you do not want to shield some parts of the Federal Government from the effects of a shut down. We do not want to shut down. Many of us were not in favor of any kind of shut down. But in case it does happen, if a state or local government is willing to fund these activities that the Park Service is undertaking, I would hope that we would work with them quickly. That is all we are trying to do here. While the Interior Department waited a week or two that cost Arizona a significant amount of money. Had the decision been made more quickly to work with the state and to move ahead it would have been better for the parks and certainly better for the population in Arizona. So that is why we feel the need to offer this legislation.

Thank you very much.

Senator CASSIDY. Thank you.

Senator Cantwell?

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Knox, I know we do not have any bills on the agenda regarding this, but I know you are heading up the National Park Service team on the implementation of the Manhattan Project. So I just wanted to ask about that. If you could tell me if you have made any decisions about siting the park headquarters and whether Hanford is still under consideration and also about, you know, just decisions—well, answer the first question and I will get to the second question.

Mr. KNOX. Well Senator, first of all, I want to thank you for championing the bill that created the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. I have had the great pleasure of visiting with the National Park Service team, the communities of Oak Ridge, Los Alamos and Hanford and saw the huge public support, local support, for that park in each of those communities.

And each of those resources, each of those areas has a different part of the story to tell, and each is equally important. We have made no decision at this point on location of a headquarters. And we're probably, you know, a ways away from making those organizational decisions.

Senator CANTWELL. Okay.

Mr. KNOX. But I would like to commit to you, Senator, that we would look at the relatively equal staffing levels, equal importance in each of the communities because each have a clearly important part of the story.

Senator CANTWELL. There are many sites within the Manhattan Project that help us tell the story, like the high school building and the construction camp and the White Bluffs, so hopefully you are taking all that into consideration in making decisions about what should be included?

Mr. KNOX. Yes, Senator.

The legislation that was passed requires Hanford B reactor to be part of this new national historical park and then there's a number of properties at all the other, all three sites, that are eligible to be within the boundary, both within the boundary of the park.

And we're taking—working with the Department of Energy for all the DOE-administered areas to take a hard look at which of those sites could, should be part of the park. And they would be included in the agreement that we are working with, with the Department of Energy and that we hope to have out for public comment in the next month or so.

Senator CANTWELL. Well, you can see from visiting the site that transportation through the DOE's site and these facilities is an issue. We just have to figure this out and get it right so that people can have access because obviously it is a beautiful area, and there is a story to be told.

Mr. KNOX. Absolutely.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CASSIDY. Senator King?

Senator KING. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Several points. Last year we had an unfortunate experience at Acadia National Park in Maine where the concessionaire who had had the concession there for something like 80 years, a local company, lost out in the bidding process. It is okay to lose in a bidding process, but we found, to our astonishment afterwards, and I discussed this with several of your people, that there was no consideration given whatsoever to prior performance or quality of performance.

It would be like going into a car dealer and the only question is price, not quality or how well it drove or what its record of performance was. I am astonished that the process got that far without somebody saying well, how people did in the past should be relevant in considering their bid because what you end up with is a large national company that is very good at bidding and a small, local company that is very good at performing. Performance should be a factor.

I would urge you, if this is something that needs a legislative fix, based upon the statute in 1998, let us know. Otherwise I hope you will modify your procedures in such a way as to be able to do the common sense thing which is look at both value, performance and price of when you are analyzing these because this was a big disruption in Maine. Lots of local jobs went away, and it was a real problem and frankly it was a black eye for the Park Service.

Do you know anything about this process?

Mr. KNOX. Senator, I don't. I do know something about the concession process, but I don't know specifics on Acadia.

Senator KING. I do not expect you to speak specifically, but I am talking about the concession process and how the applicants are judged.

Mr. KNOX. Yes, it should be based on their financial capability, their quality of their—experience providing quality operations and the proposal that they put back to the National Park Service in terms of franchise fee returned to the National Park Service. And other considerations depending on each prospectus has different issues. Sometimes it's environmental concerns that they provide additional protection of the environment. So there's a number of criteria that each operation is judged based on.

Senator KING. I just hope you will consider this issue because we had a specific discussion. As I recall it was in this room with your people, and they said well, no, past performance of the current incumbent is not a factor in the scoring. I hope you would correct that. I will be following up. Actually you will be getting a letter from me, or your office will, very shortly.

The second question is about revenues and fees. I proudly carry my senior pass which gets me into any National Park in the country for the rest of my life. It can be purchased at the age of 62, and the total cost for a lifetime pass to every National Park is \$10. Now I am all for discounts for seniors and I like getting this for \$10, but it strikes me that that is not fair to the taxpayers of the country who have to make up the difference. I do not know whether it should be \$40 or \$50 or some other number, but \$10 struck me as a very low fee for a lifetime pass for somebody that hopes to live another 30 years and really loves going to the National Parks. I just commend that to you for your consideration.

Another issue along those lines that we have observed in Maine is where and how the fees are collected. I think that is worth a review because my sense is we are leaving a lot of money on the table, particularly in parks that have multiple entrances. We ought to be in a place where you can pay online, where you have an app that you can wave it as you go in that would expedite the lines. It would be more sure of getting the accurate payment and those kinds of things.

I talked to Secretary Jewell about this. When you go to the app store for National Parks, you get either a commercial app or Australia National Parks. I think we ought to have a good app that you could use around the country, put a credit card number on it. It would pay your fee wherever you went, and we would again be collecting more revenues that would offset the shortfall for maintenance and other purposes.

So those are two suggestions. It may not be apparent, but I am a huge supporter of the National Parks. I think it is one of the great, you know, Ken Burns said America's best idea, wonderful idea. My wife and I were at Yosemite a few months ago, so I want to do all I can to help you. But I think that there has to be a realization that the budget situation here is not likely to improve anytime soon, and therefore, you have to be thinking of creative ways to generate your own revenues without making it prohibitive and

without making it so people cannot enjoy the parks but to be sure that people who want to and are willing to pay have a way to do so.

So, thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CASSIDY. Thank you, Senator King.

I will ask my questions now.

Mr. KNOX, Senate bills S. 521, S. 610, and S. 1483 authorize the National Park Service to conduct special resource studies, one purpose to determine the suitability, feasibility of designating study areas as a unit of the National Park Service. Part of that analysis is whether the park can be managed at a reasonable cost.

Can you tell us what goes into making the determination to recommend a new park? For example, do you consider cost of managing the units you already have in the system, existing maintenance backlog and if you divert more resources to a new park can you maintain current responsibilities?

Mr. KNOX. Yes, Senator, you're speaking about the feasibility criteria, one of four criteria for studying a new unit.

Senator CASSIDY. Correct.

Mr. KNOX. What we generally look at there is—are the resources within, that are within that proposed area? Are they co-located where they could be reasonably managed operationally? What would be the cost if there's land acquisition involved, what would be the cost of acquiring land for that new unit? We look at—

Senator CASSIDY. Is there a metric involved? What is considered a reasonable cost?

Mr. KNOX. We basically compare the proposed unit to similar units that are within the National Park System and—

Senator CASSIDY. Now this presupposes that you will be getting more money every year because presumably your budget is for the parks you currently manage. So it presupposes some increase unless you can co-locate, it is so co-located, that you are at marginal cost or minimal. Is that a fair statement?

Mr. KNOX. That is correct.

Senator CASSIDY. Has your budget been increasing? I say this because I am all for expanding our Park Service, but we have to live within our means, as Senator King pointed out. So in your calculations do you say, okay, it is a reasonable cost plus we expect our budget to grow, but if our budget does not grow despite being a reasonable cost, it does not happen?

Mr. KNOX. Well we see our job as recommending whether it's an appropriate unit for the National Park System based on the historical and natural resource significance of those resources that are within the unit. It wouldn't be extraordinarily expensive as compared to existing units or difficult to manage compared to existing units of the National Park System. Is there someone else that could do or is already doing or—

Senator CASSIDY. Yes, I get that.

Mr. KNOX. Or could do a good job?

Senator CASSIDY. But you have to project your budget for the coming year. When you project your budget for the coming year what if you know your budget is going to be tight, again as Senator King pointed out. The budgets will be tight. Would something

which would otherwise be recommended to be considered a national park not be recommended because of the overall budget process? I am just curious.

Mr. KNOX. Well, we make the recommendation based on is it an appropriate unit of the National Park System and Congress gets to make the decision on designation.

Senator CASSIDY. I see.

So, I guess what I am trying to get, as an authorizer and appropriator, if there is a portfolio you have. You can expand that portfolio ad infinitum if there is infinite resources. But, are you prohibited from viewing what our resources or you say, this would be appropriate. Would we have resources? I do not quite understand this process.

Mr. KNOX. We look at the decision on appropriate levels of funding for the National Park Service. That's Congress' decision.

Senator CASSIDY. I guess—

Mr. KNOX. And so I guess and also the decision whether to add units to the National Park System.

Senator CASSIDY. But are you agnostic as to what Congress will do and you just make the decision and if Congress wants to appropriate the money they do? But you may recommend to make it a park, but Congress does not appropriate the extra money. What happens then? Do you still make it a park or do you follow what I am saying or do you say no, Congress did not give us the money so we cannot designate it a park this time around?

Mr. KNOX. Well the Congress makes the designation. And if there's no funding, if there's no appropriation for that unit, we manage it on a shoestring until there are appropriations, generally.

Senator CASSIDY. Gotcha. How often does a study come back that does not recommend a study area become a unit of the Park system?

Mr. KNOX. We have a number of studies where we've recommended that the unit not be included or the property not be included.

Senator CASSIDY. Do you have a sense of that percent of studies?

Mr. KNOX. No. I can get you that number.

Senator CASSIDY. That would be great.

Senator CASSIDY. Let's go to the Grand Canyon Bison bill. I am not from the Grand Canyon states, but I understand why they are frustrated. Here you have a herd of bison trampling the current environment. They have become an invasive, damaging species, but the environmental impact study takes so long. Yet I think you mentioned that you can see it probably needs some work. It just seems like it is taking so long. Why does it take so long to determine that an environmental invasive species is harmful to the environment? Do you follow what I am saying? That is kind of what gives government a bad name. The obvious solution or an obvious conclusion takes a long time to be arrived at.

Mr. KNOX. Well the environmental impact statement will look at alternative solutions, you know, to the problem. And we want to get the right science to bear on that decision with the right solution.

Senator CASSIDY. So there may be a solution aside from culling. It would just be to herd them out or would there be some other solution besides culling?

Again, I do not know the issue so I am asking. Is there another solution envisioned besides decreasing the size of the herd by culling?

Mr. KNOX. I'm not aware of what the other alternatives are so I can't tell you that specifically. And those, obviously, are still being developed.

Senator CASSIDY. Okay.

Senator Heinrich, second round?

Senator HEINRICH. You bet.

First off, let me say, Senator Klobuchar has submitted a statement in support of S. 403, her North Country National Scenic Trail bill, which I ask unanimous consent to be included in the record.

Senator Cardin has also submitted several letters in support of S. 521, the study of the President Street Station, and S. 610, the study of Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. I would ask that these be included in the record by unanimous consent.

Senator CASSIDY. Without objection.

[The information referred to follows:]

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar
Written Testimony
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks Legislative Hearing
Testimony in Support of S. 403, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route
Adjustment Act
June 10, 2015

Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Heinrich, and members of the National Parks Subcommittee, thank you for holding this important hearing to examine legislation related to components of our National Parks system. This year marks the 50th anniversary of President Johnson's speech prioritizing the creation of a national system of trails.

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss a bill that I have introduced, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act (S. 403). The bill is cosponsored by my colleagues Senators Stabenow, Sanders, Franken, and Hoeven, who are members of the Committee, as well as Senators Leahy, Brown, Gillibrand, Franken, Baldwin, and Peters. The House version of the bill was introduced by Representative Rick Nolan (MN) and has 15 bipartisan cosponsors.

The bill makes two important modifications to the North Country National Scenic Trail. First, the authorized route in the northeastern corner of my home state of Minnesota would be revised to avoid unnavigable wetlands and incorporate existing scenic hiking trails along Lake Superior's north shore and through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Secondly, the bill would connect the North Country National Scenic Trail with the popular Appalachian National Scenic Trail by extending the trail from its current eastern terminus at Crown Point, New York, to the state of Vermont. These updates will enhance the trail while boosting tourism that benefits local businesses and helping people to more fully share in our nation's natural beauty.

The longest trail in the national scenic trail system, the North Country National Scenic Trail passes through seven states and features numerous outdoor recreational opportunities of scenic, historic, and national importance along its route. The trail boasts a diversity of landscapes including the Adirondack Mountains of New York, the rolling countryside of Pennsylvania and Ohio, the shores of the Great Lakes in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and the plains of North Dakota.

The bill uses existing trail infrastructure whenever possible for the extension and expansion of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Nearly 400 miles of the Superior Hiking Trail, the Border Route Trail, the Kekekabic Trail, and the Long Trail would be incorporated, covering approximately 70 percent of the proposed re-route in the legislation. This allows the trail to avoid wetland areas that are difficult to build and maintain hiking trails on while saving money and minimizing impacts to sensitive environmental lands.

The National Park Service supports enacting my bill. Associate Director of Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands at the National Park Service, Victor Knox, will testify today that the National Park Service has approved both the plans and the environmental assessments for

changes to the trail included in the bill. He will also note that the cost of constructing and maintaining the re-route and the extension would be manageable due to longstanding public-private partnerships with the North Country Trail Association and other volunteers that have put considerable "sweat equity" into developing and maintaining the trail.

Finally, by extending the route of the trail and connecting it to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, ambitious hikers will be able to journey from the plains of North Dakota across the Great Lakes region to Vermont and then head south all the way to Georgia. It's easy to see the important link that my legislation provides to reach the goal of the connected system of national trails envisioned by Congress and President Johnson 50 years ago.

I believe that the re-route and extension of the North Country National Scenic Trail is good for tourism, good for the environment, and good for the National Park system. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act. It is my hope that you can support this bipartisan effort. Thank you.

President Street Station Study Act and Justice Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act

Statement for the Hearing Record: Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)

National Parks Subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

114th Congress

Thank you Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich, and members of the National Parks Subcommittee for holding today's hearing. I greatly appreciate the inclusion of two bills that I have introduced with Senator Mikulski that will authorize the study of two historically and culturally significant structural resource in Baltimore City. S.521, the President Street Station Study Act, and S. 610, Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act both aim to evaluate whether these important places in Baltimore City should be incorporated into the National Park System.

Our nation recently honored the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. There are many landmarks in my hometown of Baltimore that are significant to Civil War history, which I believe are in the Nation's interests to protect for future generations. As our nation pays tribute to this trying time in our nation's history, the President Street Station Study Act would initiate the process for preserving one such landmark in the heart of Baltimore. President Street Station played a crucial role in the Civil War, the Underground Railroad, the growth of Baltimore's railroad industry, and is a historically significant landmark to the presidency of Abraham Lincoln.

The station was constructed for the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore (PW&B) Railroad in 1849 and remains the oldest surviving big city railroad terminal in the United States. This historical structure is a unique architectural gem, arguably the first example and last survivor of the early barrel-vault train shed arches, also known as the Howe Truss. The arch-rib design became the blueprint for railroad bridges and roofs well into the 20th century and was replicated for every similarly designed train shed and roof for the next 20 years.

The growth of President Street Station and the PW&B railroad mirror the expansion of the railroad industry throughout the country in the latter half of the 19th century. This station played an essential role in making Baltimore the first railroad and sea-rail link in the nation and helped the city become the international port hub it is today.

In its heyday, President Street Station was the key link connecting Washington D.C. with the northeast states. Hundreds of passengers traveling north passed through this station and, by the start of the Civil War, Baltimore had become our nation's major southern railroad hub. Not surprisingly, the station played a critical role in both the Civil War and the Underground Railroad.

Perhaps the most famous passenger to travel through the station was President Abraham Lincoln. He came through the station at least four times, including secretly on his way to his first inauguration in 1861. President-elect Lincoln was warned by a PW&B private detective of a

possible assassination plot in Baltimore as he transferred trains. While it is unclear if this plot existed and posed a serious threat, Lincoln nevertheless was secretly smuggled aboard a train in the dead of night to complete his trip to Washington.

Just a few months later, President Street Station served as a backdrop for what many historians consider to be the first bloodshed of the Civil War. The Baltimore Riot of 1861 occurred when Lincoln called for Union volunteers to quell the rebellion at Fort Sumter in Charleston. On this day in history, April 19, 1861, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania volunteers were met and attacked by a mob of secessionist and Confederate sympathizers. The bloody confrontation left four dead and thirty-six wounded. As the war continued, the Station remained a critical link for the Union. Troops and supplies from the north were regularly shuttled through the station to support Union soldiers.

It is well known that Maryland was a common starting point along the Underground Railroad and that many escaped slaves from Maryland's Eastern Shore plantations were destined for Baltimore and the Presidents Street Station to travel north to freedom. Last year, Congress acted to honor Maryland's own Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad's most famous "conductor" by enacting the Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act, establishing the first set of National Historical Parks to commemorate the life of an African American Woman. While Harriet Tubman personally led dozens of people to freedom, her courage and fortitude also inspired others to find their own strength to seek freedom. President Street Station was indeed a station on this secret network. Prior to emancipation in 1863, several renowned escapees, including Frederick Douglass, William and Ellen Craft, and Henry "Box" Brown, traveled through the Station, risking their lives for a better and freer life.

Others' journeys for a better life also passed through President Street Station. From its beginning and into the 20th century, Baltimore was both a destination and departure point for immigrants. New arrivals from Ireland, Russia, and Europe arriving on the eastern seaboard traveled by way of the PW&B railroads to the west.

For decades, President Street Station has long been recognized as having an important place in history: In 1992, it was listed on the National Register of Historic places and the city of Baltimore has dedicated it a local historical landmark. For many years it served as the Baltimore Civil War Museum, educating generations of people about the role Maryland and Baltimore played in the Civil War and the early history of the city. In recent years, the museum, run by dedicated volunteers from the Maryland Historical Society and Friends of President Street Station, have struggled to keep the station's doors open and keeping the station's character true to its historical roots. The area around Presidents Street Station has changed dramatically over the decades, but the Station has worked to preserve its place in place in history. It has been many years since trains passed through the Presidents Street Station and it is clear that today the best use for this building is to preserve the building and use it tell Station's American story.

President Street Station is an American historical treasure. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Street Station to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Station as a unit of the National Park Service. President Street Station, a contributor to the growth of the railroad, and a vital player in the

Underground Railroad, Lincoln Presidency and Civil War, is part of this history. I urge my colleagues to join me in giving this station the recognition it deserves and support this bill.

I would also like to discuss the Justice Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act. The elementary school that Justice Marshall attended, known as PS 103, located in my hometown of Baltimore, is a place of national significance because it marks the site where one of our nation's greatest legal minds began his education.

Thurgood Marshall is well known as one of the most significant historical figures of the American civil rights movement. By the time he was thirty-two, he was appointed the chief legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He served at the NAACP a total of twenty-five years and was a key strategist to end racial segregation throughout the United States.

Perhaps the greatest illustration of this effort was his victory before the Supreme Court overturning the Plessy doctrine effectively ending school segregation with the landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS* in 1954. Not only did this case open up educational opportunity and sparked the civil rights movement in this nation, it also marked the beginning of Thurgood Marshall's career, still a young attorney from Baltimore, as one of the greatest legal minds in all the land. This case was just one of the 29 cases he won before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Fittingly, Marshall was the first African American confirmed to the Supreme Court. He was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 and served 24 years, until 1991. On the high court, Marshall continued his fight for the Constitutional protection of individual human rights.

But Thurgood Marshall was not always a legal giant. He was once a young boy growing up in West Baltimore. He received the first six years of his public education at PS 103. An apocryphal story goes that a young Thurgood Marshall studied the U.S. Constitution in the basement of the building while serving detention. Regardless of whether or not this is true, the building powerfully tells the story of racial segregation in America, PS 103 was a "blacks only" school when Justice Marshall was a student, and marks the academic beginning of one of the country's most brilliant legal thinkers and a pioneer of the civil rights movement.

The building is located at 1315 Division Street in the Upton Neighborhood of Old West Baltimore. The building is part of the Old West Baltimore National Register Historic District, and is listed as a contributing historic resource for the neighborhood. The Old West Baltimore historic district is one of the largest predominately African American historic districts in the country, and its significance is centered on the African American experience in the area.

In Baltimore, we are fortunate to have the National Park Service operate two historical sites, Fort McHenry and the Hampton Mansion. Adding PS 103 is a unique opportunity for the National Park Service to work in Baltimore's inner-city and to reach out and engage people about African American history.

Needless to say, Thurgood Marshall's legacy is one that should be preserved. He was one of our country's greatest legal minds and a prominent historical figure of one chapter of our country's great history – the civil rights movement. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of PS 103 to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the building as a unit of the National Park Service. Preserving the building that was Justice Marshall's elementary school will give Americans insight into Justice Marshall's childhood.

I thank the subcommittee for the opportunity and look forward to working with the committee to advance these bills through the committee's process.

-###-



ABRAHAM LINCOLN
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"...a new birth of freedom..."

April 23, 2008

Honorable Sheila Dixon
Mayor of Baltimore
City Hall, Room 250
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mayor Dixon:

Everyone knows Abraham Lincoln. He rose from poverty to the pinnacle of political power. He led the country through its worst crisis, and yet he was not satisfied just to preserve the Union. He wanted to forge "a more perfect Union."

In February 2009, the United States will celebrate the 200th birthday of President Abraham Lincoln. He will be honored with speeches and wreath layings, concerts and dramatic presentations, educational programs and international conferences. I write today to urge you to honor President Lincoln's Bicentennial by preserving the President Street Station.

In early 1861, the United States teetered on the brink of Civil War. As president-elect Lincoln made his way by rail from Springfield to Washington, word came that assassins in Baltimore would make an attempt on his life. At the insistence of several advisors, Lincoln bypassed Baltimore, and the President Street Station, in what has become a famous incident in early presidential security. He returned to the station on at least three other occasions during his presidency.

In addition, the station has been documented as a major stop on the Underground Railroad. Frederick Douglass himself passed through the station on his way to freedom.

Conversion of this historic site into a commercial venue, as has been reported is under consideration, would demean its historic value. Instead, I urge you to move in the opposite direction and seek National Historic Landmark status for the site. Doing so would ensure its rich historical heritage and preserve a place important to the Lincoln story.

Congress established the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to plan educational, civic, and cultural programs to mark the 16th president's 200th birthday in 2009. The Commission actively promotes a greater appreciation of Lincoln's legacy, including heritage tourism to places associated with his life. I appreciate the opportunity to present our concerns. I look forward to hearing from you as you move forward to a decision on the status of the President Street Station.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eileen R. Mackevich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and "M".

Eileen R. Mackevich
Executive Director

BALTIMORE HERITAGE
WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE AND PLAN BALTIMORE'S FUTURE
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Johns W. Hopkins
Executive Director

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for Baltimore's President Street Station Study Act

Dear Senator Cardin:

I am pleased to write in support of the legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Department of Interior to conduct a special resource study of Baltimore's President Street Station.

President Street station is of national importance as the site of the first bloodshed of the Civil War, as a vital part of the rail network that allowed the Union to win the Civil War, and as one of the oldest surviving train stations in any American city. It is currently a museum with many visitors but also with many challenges to sustain itself. Designation as a national historic landmark would give the station prominence that it deserves and a boost so that it can continue to tell the important stories in American History that it was at the heart of.

Sincerely,



Johns W. Hopkins
Executive Director



BALTIMORE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
Baltimore Heritage Area Association, Inc.
100 Light Street, 12th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202
Tel 410-878-6411

June 3, 2015

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of the Baltimore National Heritage Area, I want to express our strong support of the President Street Station Study Act. This historic structure is associated with significant events and themes of U.S. history, most notably the incredible journeys to freedom along the Underground Railroad and the first bloodshed of the Civil War. The structure deserves the recognition and protection afforded by hopeful designation as a National Historic Landmark.

The remaining portion of the station is the oldest surviving downtown passenger station in the United States. Built in 1851, the station was also the first to be constructed with the Howe truss arch system. Patented in 1841 by William Howe, it became the premier method for constructing train sheds and bridges for many years. The station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a documented site on the National Park Service's Underground Network to Freedom. Several enslaved people escaped on the station's train line — most famously, Frederick Douglass.

On April 19, 1861 the first casualties of the Civil War took place as the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment walked along what is Pratt Street today, from President Street Station to Camden Station. A mob began throwing rocks at the soldiers and the resulting fight caused the first deaths of the Civil War. Today President Street Station is home to the Baltimore Civil War Museum.

We stand in strong support of initiating the process to recognize President Street Station as a National Historic Landmark. Please feel free to contact the heritage area if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey P. Buchheit".

Jeffrey P. Buchheit
Executive Director





FREDERICK DOUGLASS
FAMILY FOUNDATION

March 3, 2009

Mayor Sheila Dixon
City Hall
100 N. Holiday Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Mayor Dixon:

I am writing in support of the preservation of the President Street Station site.

As direct descendants of both Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, my family lives our nation's history every day. The challenge of our foundation is both to preserve the past and to help others understand the dynamic role that history plays in each of our lives.

We are, all of us, the sum of those who came before. Whether they were defined as farmers or bookkeepers, soldiers or mothers, they formed the steps upon which we stand. They and the circumstances of their lives cannot be simply swept away unless we propose to extinguish ourselves in the process. To ignore the past is certainly a folly, to destroy it is a tragedy.

Your Honor please let us know how we may be of service in further defending the preservation of this monument for the sake of future generations.

With the warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nettie Washington Douglass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nettie Washington Douglass
Chairwoman
Frederick Douglass Family Foundation

Great great granddaughter, Frederick Douglass
Great granddaughter, Booker T. Washington



Friends of the President Street Station

601 President Street

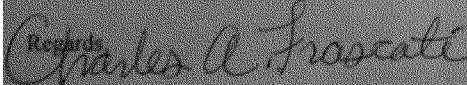
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

443-220-0290

PresidentStreetStation@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern

The President Street Station Site circa 1849 has been a Historic Landmark since its inception. Edward Sachse & Company Published a Bird's Eye View of Baltimore in 1869. Surrounding the Large Aerial View were smaller Portraits of Landmark Buildings around Baltimore. One the buildings featured was the President Street Station proving that President Street Station has always been a Landmark. The Library of Congress houses the 1976 (HABS) Historic American Building Survey & (HAER) Historic American Engineering Record to document first of its kind Prototype Railroad Depot Roof supported by the Howe Arch Truss System. In 1992 the Station was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was part of the 1993 Congressional Study on the Underground Railroad. The Station was entered on the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom in 1999. The Station also became part of the First Walking Trail Segment (1861 Baltimore Riot Trail) for the Maryland Civil War Trails Network. It was an important Site during the recent 150th Anniversary of the Civil War and the Lincoln Bicentennial of his Birth in 2009. The Building is an important asset of the Baltimore National Heritage Area and serves the Public daily in the Inner Harbor. In 2010 the City of Baltimore (CHAP) designated the Building as a City Landmark. We the Friends of President Street Station strongly urge Congress to Act for a NPS Study to determine the Suitability and Desirability as a National Historic Site. We cannot recall any Building Site in the world that can tell so many American Stories (Railroad Industry History, American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln Assassination Plot, Underground Railroad, & Emigrant Railroad Migration to the Frontier). This is truly a rare & unique American Story and destination site.

Regards,


Charles A. Frascati, President
 Friends of the President Street Station Inc
 601 President Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202



Maryland Department of Planning
Maryland Historical Trust

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

David R. Craig, Secretary
Wendy W. Peters Deputy Secretary

June 10, 2015

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for passage of the President Street Station Study Act – S.521

Dear Senator Cardin:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Historical Trust to express support for passage of the President Street Station Study Act. The Act, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a Special Resource Study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the President Street Station as a unit of the National Park Service, recognizes the national importance of this Maryland resource.

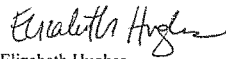
Originally built for the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad in 1849-1850, the President Street Station was the first in the nation to be built in the traditional station form. The station played an important role in the escape of enslaved people to freedom in the north, including Frederick Douglass who is believed to have boarded a train here that transported him to Philadelphia and freedom. During the Civil War, the station is associated with at least two notable events. The first of these is the foiled plot to assassinate President-elect Abraham Lincoln as he traveled by train through President Street Station on his way to Washington for his swearing-in. The second is the infamous "Pratt Street Riot" when Union troops were attacked by mobs of Confederate sympathizers as they tried to transfer across the city from the President Street Station to Camden Station on their way to Washington. The riot resulted in the first casualty list of the war with three soldiers killed and twenty-four wounded, and eight rioters killed and an unknown number wounded.

The Civil War and Underground Railroad history of the President Street Station is directly tied to the stories being presented at the two existing National Park Service-operated sites in Baltimore - Fort McHenry and Hampton Mansion. The Pratt Street Riot led directly to the Union garrisoning of Baltimore in the Civil War and the use of Fort McHenry as a prison for Confederate sympathizers. The Maryland State Archives Legacy of Slavery project has documented numerous runaway slaves from Hampton Mansion, some of which likely escaped north through President Street Station as Frederick Douglass had done. The President Street

Station, located within walking distance of the popular Inner Harbor, would allow the National Park Service to further engage people in these and other interwoven stories.

Thank you for your leadership in the effort to recognize President Street Station for its association with the Civil War and the Underground Railroad and as one of the oldest surviving urban railroad terminals in the United States is greatly appreciated. We strongly support your efforts to pass this legislation that will allow the President Street Station to be considered for inclusion in the National Park System.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Hughes
State Historic Preservation Officer



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

David R. Craig, Secretary
Wendi W. Peters Deputy Secretary

June 10, 2015

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for passage of Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act – S.610

Dear Senator Cardin:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Historical Trust to express support for Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act. The Act, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a Special Resource Study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing Thurgood Marshall's elementary school (P.S. 103) as a unit of the National Park Service, recognizes the importance of this Maryland resource.

As you know, P.S. 103 is the historic site where the young Thurgood Marshall attended elementary school from the first through sixth grade. The school retains a high degree of historic integrity and is a designated contributing historic resource of national and local significance within the Old West Baltimore National Register Historic District. In this place Thurgood Marshall first experienced many of the influences that helped shape his later life.

Baltimore has played and, as recent events illustrate, continues to play a nationally significant role in the nation's unfinished work to ensure civil rights, opportunity, and justice for all Americans. Authorization of a Special Resource Study of P.S. 103 would provide an opportunity for the National Park Service to work in inner-city Baltimore, engage with the community there and beyond, and to preserve and use this tangible link to a central figure in our country's civil rights struggle. Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth Hughes'.

Elizabeth Hughes
State Historic Preservation Officer



maryland
historical society

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Support for the study of President Street Station in Baltimore,
Maryland, to establish its suitability as a unit of the National Park Service**

Dear Senator Cardin;

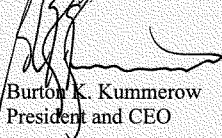
I am writing to support the ongoing effort to designate President Street Station here in Baltimore as a unit of the National Park Service.

The President Street Station served as an integral rail transportation link during the Civil War, and is recognized today as the oldest surviving big-city railroad terminal in the United States. The station's preservation would solidify both its important place in history and its historical landmark status. For many years, President Street Station also housed the Baltimore Civil War Museum—yet the museum has struggled to remain open in recent years. Although the area around President Street Station has changed dramatically throughout the past decades, the Station has consistently fought to maintain its place in history.

The bill (President Street Study Act) would initiate the process for recognizing President Street Station's landmark historical status, officially establishing it as a contributor to the growth of the railroad, in addition to a vital part of the Underground Railroad, Lincoln Presidency, and Civil War.

The Maryland Historical Society greatly appreciates all of your efforts to preserve Maryland and the nation's history.

Sincerely,



Burton K. Kummerow
President and CEO



maryland
historical society

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the study of P.S. 103 School in Baltimore, Maryland, to establish its suitability as a unit of the National Park Service

Dear Senator Cardin;

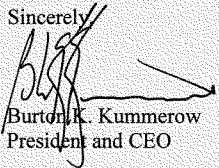
I am writing to support the ongoing effort to designate P.S. 103 School here in Baltimore as a unit of the National Park Service.

Perhaps best known for the victory in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark Supreme Court decision that desegregated public schools, Thurgood Marshall was the Court's first African-American justice—primarily recognized for his jurisprudence in the fields of civil rights. Born in Baltimore, Marshall attended Frederick Douglass High School before pursuing law at Howard University. After graduating first in his class, he began his 25 year affiliation with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and went on to argue many civil rights cases before the Supreme Court. When President Lyndon Johnson appointed Marshall to be the United States Solicitor General, he became the First African American to hold the office. Thurgood Marshall's legacy has had an impact on not only U.S. government, but also American society: his fight for equality and determination to end institutional racism has established him as both a pillar of civil rights and an American hero.

The Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act would authorize a Special Resource Study on the PS 103, the Elementary school that Thurgood Marshall attended in the Upton neighborhood of West Baltimore.

The Maryland Historical Society thanks you for all you are doing to preserve Maryland and the nation's history.

Sincerely,



Burton K. Kummerow
President and CEO

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National Parks Conservation Association*
*Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations**

National Headquarters

Robert E. Reyes
 P.O. Box 533
 Riviera Beach, MD 21123

April 15, 2009

Dear Robert,

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and our 340,000 members, I'm writing to express our support for the preservation of President Street Station. As you well know, the city of Baltimore has a rich history. The Underground Railroad, the informal means by which individuals liberated themselves from human bondage, was highly active throughout the city, with President Street Station serving as a focal point for freedom seekers, their allies, and their opponents.

In the decade preceding the start of the Civil War, a virtual who's who Underground Railroad legends made or attempted to make their way from slavery to freedom via President Street Station. Frederick Douglass, William and Ellen Craft, and Henry "Box" Brown, passed through on their way north. The role of President Street Station in these escapes has been well-documented by historians and duly validated. To that end, President Street Station was granted membership in the Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program (NTF), the only program with a mandate from Congress to increase public understanding and appreciation of the history of people who escaped from slavery and those who helped them along the way.

NPCA recognizes the significance of the President Street Station site and strongly support your efforts to prevent the area from being altered, degraded, or destroyed, by incompatible development. The preservation unimpaired of President Street Station is a victory for Baltimore, for American History, and the nation as a whole. And we stand ready to assist you in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Alan Spears
 Legislative Representative
 202/454-3384
aspears@npca.org



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

June 8, 2015

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of the City of Baltimore, I want to express our strong support of the President Street Station Study Act. This historic structure is associated with significant events and themes of U.S. history, most notably the incredible journeys to freedom along the Underground Railroad and the first bloodshed of the Civil War. The structure deserves the recognition and protection afforded by hopeful designation as a National Historic Landmark.

In partnership with the Friends of President Street Station and the Baltimore National Heritage Area, the city has been very successful in keeping the site's doors open to the public as a small museum – the Baltimore Civil War Museum. Thousands of visitors enjoy this historic site each year. As a National Historic Landmark, the station will receive the recognition that it deserves, encouraging even more visitation and solidifying its protection as an historic asset for the city.

The site's history is nationally significant. The station is the oldest surviving downtown passenger station in the United States. Built in 1851, the station was also the first to be constructed with the Howe truss arch system. Patented in 1841 by William Howe, it became the premier method for constructing train sheds and bridges for many years. The station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a documented site on the National Park Service's Underground Network to Freedom. Several enslaved people escaped on the station's train line — most famously, Frederick Douglass.

On April 19, 1861 the first casualties of the Civil War took place as the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment walked along what is Pratt Street today, from President Street Station to Camden Station. A mob began throwing rocks at the soldiers and the resulting fight caused the first deaths of the Civil War.

We stand in strong support of initiating the process to recognize President Street Station as a National Historic Landmark. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor
City of Baltimore

Senator HEINRICH. Let's followup a little bit on the Grand Canyon bill.

The Park Service, as you know, has allowed the use of skilled volunteers to reduce ungulate populations, mostly elk and deer, and by deer I mean white-tailed deer, at a number of National Park System areas including at least a few National Parks. Are there changes to the bill's requirement that the Park Service use skilled volunteers at Grand Canyon that you would suggest to make that use more consistent with what you have done in other places or are you just simply asking for more time?

Mr. KNOX. Our concern is that the bill is picking the alternative solution, you know, the right solution to this problem, and we're in the middle of studying and trying to get the right science and public input to come up with what is the right solution to the problem. The bill goes to the solution before that study is completed.

Senator HEINRICH. So you do not expect any additional rounds of public input into the NEPA process. You think that, at this point, it is just a matter of coming up with a proposed action and finishing out that process and then having something in early 2016, January, February, March?

Mr. KNOX. No, it's my understanding the draft plan would be issued for public review in early 2016. So there would be an opportunity for the public to weigh in at that point. The public review today—

Senator HEINRICH. So you have done scoping but you have not—

Mr. KNOX. Correct.

Senator HEINRICH. Okay.

Well you can imagine that we kind of have a chicken and an egg problem here to some degree. I mean, I think one of the issues is frankly we do not fund the Park Service to do all the things that we ask the Park Service to do. I would suggest that the solution to that is probably not to say National Parks are a bad thing and we should quit making them but to begin to take our own responsibilities more seriously than we have before and find a solution to the kind of budget caps that were imposed by the Budget Control Act.

I want to ask you one last question with regard to—that was a commentary, that was not actually a question. So you are off the hook on that one.

With respect to the headquarters for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, would potential co-location of resources with other National Park Service units, for example, Bandelier National Monument, be taken into consideration if those could produce any sort of administrative savings or other benefits to the overall cost of administering the new park headquarters?

Mr. KNOX. Yes. That's one of the factors we're considering in terms of what's the right organizational structure for the park.

Senator HEINRICH. Did the original Manhattan Project study call out any specific locations as ideal or suitable for the park headquarters?

Mr. KNOX. The "fonzie" on the Special Resource Study that was issued in 2010 recommended Los Alamos.

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you.

That will do it for me, thank you.

Senator CASSIDY. Senator King, would you like to make any additional comments?

Senator KING. Yes, the first thing I want to do is fess up. I found a great app. [Laughter.]

Senator KING. Passports to your National Parks, and it is done by Eastern National, a non-for-profit partner of the National Park Service. So I was bully ragging you improperly. You cannot buy your passes on the app which I think you should be able to, but it is very informative and a good app. So congratulations. [Laughter.]

Are you familiar with the Roosevelt Campobello International Park?

Mr. KNOX. Not very, you know, I know about it, but I have not actually been there myself.

Senator KING. Well, here is the issue. It is unique in that it is really not part of the National Park Service per se. It is an international park. I think it is the only one in the world established by treaty with Canada some 50 years ago. The problem is that the National Park Service keeps treating it as if it is one of their parks. They intercept the budget, and then it comes to Congress. I am going to see what I can do to make this budget come directly from the park to Congress and not go through the Department of the Interior. I know Senator Harkin worked on this for many years, and he is on the Board of this park. It is a little embarrassing because the Canadians fund their side of this. It is a 50/50 split, and they fund it automatically, and we quibble and change and sequester it and everything else.

I feel it is a treaty obligation and should not be treated as just another National Park that happens to be very far to our East. So I just want to alert you to the fact that this is a concern and that I believe that this park should have the status that it in fact has an established by international treaty, not by act of Congress. So we will be discussing that, and I will be discussing that at a later date with the Secretary.

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Senator CASSIDY. If there are no more questions for today, members may also submit written questions for the record. The record will be open for two weeks. Thank you, Mr. Knox, for your time and testimony.

The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:37 p.m. the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX MATERIAL SUBMITTED

**U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks
June 10, 2015 Hearing: Pending Legislation
Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. Victor Knox**

Questions from Senator Lisa Murkowski

Question 1: In order to reroute and extend the North Country Trail to connect with the Appalachian Trail, there will be a need to acquire private land or obtain conservation easements over that private land for the construction of the trail. How many acres of private land would need to be acquired to complete the current trail route?

Answer: The current authorized route of the trail in northeastern Minnesota traverses approximately 93 miles of both public and private lands; we do not have an estimate of the amount of private land that would be involved if the trail was constructed as authorized. This section of the authorized route traverses black spruce and tamarack swamp. Because of the location and difficult environmental conditions within the swamp, efforts have been focused for many years on rerouting the trail rather than constructing this section.

Question 2: How many acres of private land would need to be acquired to complete the proposed reroute and extension of the trail?

Answer: Approximately seventy percent of the proposed Minnesota re-route and Vermont extension consist of existing hiking trails. No additional easements, acquisition, or trail construction would be required for these portions of the revised route. The remaining thirty percent of the revised route (approximately 199 miles) would be new trail located on a combination of public and private lands.

The NPS has identified respective corridors several miles wide within which the trail would eventually be laid out, but those portions of the trail that have yet to be built have not been laid out in detail. Therefore, at this time we cannot determine the acreage of private lands that may be needed. The flexibility provided by these corridors would allow the NPS and its partners to design routes that will minimize the amount of private land involved. It is the intention of the NPS to pursue donations, easements, and agreements to ensure access whenever possible.

Question 3: Does the National Park Service have the authority to acquire this private land by condemnation?

Answer: No. The National Park Service does not have the authority to acquire private lands for the North Country National Scenic Trail by condemnation. The language originally authorizing the North Country National Scenic Trail in 1980 specifically prohibited Federal agencies from acquiring land for the trail. The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 amended that language, providing Federal agencies the

authority to acquire lands for the trail, but only from willing sellers. It is the intention of the NPS, however, to pursue donations, easements, and agreements to ensure access whenever possible.

Question from Senator Bill Cassidy

Question: How often does a special resource study recommend that the study area not become a unit of the National Park System? Please provide data for the last 10 years.

Answer: For the 10 years from 2005 to 2014, the NPS completed 29 special resource studies. Of those 29, only 10 of the study areas met all of the criteria for inclusion in the National Park System and thus were recommended for inclusion. The results were similar for other types of studies – for national heritage areas, national trails, and wild and scenic rivers – in that many of the resources studied did not meet the criteria necessary to recommend designation.

Question from Senator Debbie Stabenow

Question: Will no additional funds be required to add mileage to the North Country National Scenic Trail, as proposed under the North Country National Scenic Trail Adjustment Act (S. 403)?

Answer: The NPS anticipates that constructing and maintaining the Arrowhead reroute and the Vermont extension of the North Country National Scenic Trail would not require additional federal funding because the work would be done primarily by volunteers using hand tools, and current NPS staff would provide route planning and support for the volunteers who would help develop and maintain the path.

Recent average expenditures for volunteer supplies have cost the North Country National Scenic Trail approximately \$60,000 per year. The net increase of approximately 546 miles to the current trail would increase operational costs by approximately \$7,000, split between NPS support and that independently generated by the trail chapters and affiliates. The NPS portions could be accommodated within the trail's current budget.

Questions from Senator Jeff Flake

Question 1: During the hearing, you acknowledged that the NPS believes the bison population in Grand Canyon National Park is damaging park resources and that the herd is too large. Despite this growing problem and the increased damage that is occurring, the Park Service has already taken more than a year to evaluate bison-management options, and believes it will take at least another six months before the Park Service issues a draft plan. It remains unclear how long the Park Service will then take to issue a final plan and begin implementation. We have a very real problem at the Grand Canyon, and taking two-plus years to simply develop a draft plan is far too long to wait while the bison continue to damage park resources and archeological sites. What can the Park Service do right now to accelerate the decision-making process?

Answer: The NPS considers this a high priority planning project and is working diligently with our partners - the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management – to complete the plan quickly while also providing opportunities for public participation. The NPS will continue to look for additional opportunities to expedite the planning process with our partners.

Question 2: How much did the Park Service pay for each of the professional culling operations referenced in your written testimony (i.e., Rock Creek Park, Catoctin Mountain Park, and Channel Island National Park)?

Answer: It should be noted that the following three examples vary greatly in the type of activities that were conducted, in the environments where they took place, and in the means through which they were contracted. Therefore, they should not be seen as representative of how the NPS funds or conducts culling operations across the National Park System.

Catoctin Mountain Park: NPS used USDA/Wildlife Services (WS) as the contractor. The total cost (includes the contract and costs to administer the program) for the past 6 years (2010-2015) has been approximately \$571,000. Because Catoctin Mountain Park is the location of the Presidential retreat Camp David, part of the cost relates to conducting these operations near a high security area.

Rock Creek Park: NPS used USDA/WS as the contractor. The total cost for the past 3 years (2013-2015) has been approximately \$52,500. Rock Creek Park is located wholly within Washington, D.C., and is surrounded by densely populated urban areas.

Channel Islands National Park: The situation at Channel Islands differs from the above examples because it was not a culling operation to reduce populations, but a total elimination of non-native ungulates. These types of operations tend to be more expensive because the costs go up as the populations go down. In addition, the logistics of conducting this program on an island also raised costs significantly. NPS used a non-profit organization as the contractor at a cost of approximately \$519,000.

Question 3: How much has the Park Service spent on professional sharpshooters to assist with culling operations in national parks over the last ten fiscal years?

Answer: Contracts for professional sharpshooters are handled by each park individually, so the NPS does not have a total cost associated with this tool. There are approximately 12-15 NPS units that have used or are still using professional sharpshooters as contractors over the past 10 years to assist with culling operations. This is in addition to those mentioned above and below.

Question 4: How much has the Park Service spent to use National Park Service employees to conduct lethal culling operations in national parks over the last ten fiscal years?

Answer: Gettysburg is the only NPS unit that has used NPS employees to cull ungulates as part of a formal program over the past 10 years. The total cost for the years 2010-2013 was approximately \$86,000. At other parks, NPS employees have culled ungulates as part of their duties so the cost is not tracked.

Question 5: How long did it take the National Park Service to develop and finalize elk management plans using skilled volunteers to cull elk in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado and Theodore Roosevelt National Park in South Dakota?

Answer: The elk management plan for Rocky Mountain National Park took just under 5 years to finalize (Notice of Intent published May 2003 and Record of Decision signed February 2008), while the elk management plan for Theodore Roosevelt National Park took just under 6 years to finalize (Notice of Intent published August 2004 and Record of Decision signed June 2010).

Question 6: As part of establishing a bison management plan, you indicate that the Park Service “would follow applicable federal law and regulation with regard to disposition of carcasses.” Please explain how applicable federal laws and regulations would affect the ability of skilled volunteers to keep bison meat as part of a culling operation at Grand Canyon National Park. For example, under current federal law and regulations could skilled volunteers keep an entire bison carcass harvested as part of a culling operation?

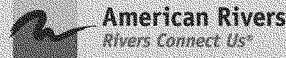
Answer: In general, the NPS has flexibility in “providing for the destruction” of “detrimental” wildlife taken under 54 USC 100752. Assuming there are no park-specific rules that prevent possession, this could allow volunteers to possess carcasses or parts of carcasses (meat) that are taken as a result of an approved program. Disposal of carcasses and meat in NPS culling operations has varied, depending on operational and resource needs, state agency preferences, local community demand, and other logistical factors. A skilled volunteer in a culling program may not have the same right to a particular carcass that a hunter would, but still may well be able to obtain and keep meat or a carcass, depending on the design and needs of the program. At Theodore Roosevelt and Rocky Mountain National Parks, the NPS transferred carcasses to the respective state wildlife

agencies and they distributed the meat to a variety of sources, including the skilled volunteers.

Question 7: If the Park Service settles on a management program that uses skilled volunteers, what is the process for volunteer selection? That is, would the Arizona Game and Fish Department run the program through a draw process or otherwise put forward candidates who are eligible to participate?

Answer: There are a variety of options available to NPS that could include state involvement in helping to select and train skilled volunteers, who can be signed up through the NPS Volunteers in Parks program. In Rocky Mountain National Park, the Colorado Division of Wildlife was very involved in the training program, while at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, it was the NPS who conducted the training. State licenses were not required at either Rocky Mountain or Theodore Roosevelt National Parks, so there was no need for the volunteers to go through the state license drawing system.

June 10, 2015



The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of American Rivers' more than 100,000 members and supporters nationwide, I am writing to express our strong support for legislation that would designate 61.7 miles of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in Connecticut as a Wild & Scenic River. Passage of S. 329 will help promote the great recreational opportunities, biological diversity, and cultural resources on this beautiful and scenic river and one of its most important tributaries.

The boundaries and property protections laid out in S. 329 will not only enhance recreational and environmental quality, they will ensure that the local zoning rules of the 10 townships abutting the waterways in question protect the communities from federal overreach in land management. Furthermore, the Rainbow Dam and Reservoir are entirely outside the river segments designated by S. 329, leaving their energy production and transmission capabilities unaffected by the Act. Persistent collaboration between local conservation partners and municipalities has enabled not only the areas immediately affected to benefit, but those downstream as well.

Support for the designation over the past nine years has been consistently bi-partisan and widespread. The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee voted in favor of Wild & Scenic River designation for the river segments and developed a comprehensive management plan. The State of Connecticut's General Assembly has endorsed the designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (Public Act 08-37). Several Members of Congress, State, and local officials representing the affected waterways also support the designation.

American Rivers was pleased to provide technical assistance to the Spoonville Dam removal project in the Tariffville Gorge on the Lower Farmington. Removal of this breached concrete dam further improved recreational opportunities on this section of the river, extending a whitewater run and removing a significant safety hazard for both novice boaters and swimmers. The dam removal, supported by the communities and Connecticut Light and Power (its former owner) kept with the goals of the Wild & Scenic designation to protect the recreational and scenic values of the river, while making the river more accessible to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Bradley".

Jim Bradley,
Vice President for Policy and Government Relations



www.americanwhitewater.org

Robert A. Nasdor
Northeast Stewardship Director
65 Blueberry Hill Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776
617-584-4566
bob@americanwhitewater.org

**UNITED STATES SENATE
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS LEGISLATIVE HEARING
JUNE 10, 2015**

**COMMENTS OF AMERICAN WHITewater ON S. 329
LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ACT**

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell and members of the Subcommittee on National Parks:

American Whitewater is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization devoted to protecting and restoring America's whitewater resources and to enhancing the public's ability to enjoy them safely. American Whitewater is a membership organization with over 5,000 members and 100 affiliate clubs nationwide. Our organization represents thousands of river enthusiasts who enjoy human-powered river recreation on our nation's public waters. Our staff and members spend much of their free time enjoying Wild and Scenic Rivers throughout the country, including the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook in Connecticut.

In 1968, Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, saying "selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

American Whitewater strongly supports the designation of approximately 60 miles of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The designation would protect these rivers from degradation so that future generations can enjoy the scenic and recreational values that these rivers possess. Our members have a significant interest in the preservation of these rivers so that they can continue to enjoy the recreational opportunities that these rivers provide.

The river segments proposed for designation under the Wild and Scenic River Act would protect sections of the Farmington River that provide northeast residents with important boating opportunities on river segments that include the Tarrifville Gorge section of the Farmington River in Connecticut. This river section is the site of the annual Whitewater

Triple Crown that regularly draws national competitors. The Farmington River provides our community with one of the best boating opportunities in the region, and a Wild and Scenic River designation will help protect this resource from harm by new dams, diversions, and other degradations.

American Whitewater has an interest in the protection of Wild and Scenic Rivers for several reasons:

- Wild and Scenic Rivers provide high quality recreational opportunities: High quality opportunities for human-powered recreation on our nation's waterways have been severely limited by the construction of dams, reservoirs, and diversions. The National Wild and Scenic River System was established to protect the free flowing condition of selected rivers, and provides reliable recreation opportunities for all to enjoy.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers are important for quality of life: The quality of Wild and Scenic Rivers and the superb scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural and other similar values they protect significantly add to high quality of life for communities in proximity to them. These waterways provide solitude and unparalleled opportunities to engage in activities that refresh the soul and body, and reinvigorate the mind.
- Wild and Scenic River designation promotes a healthy economy: National Wild and Scenic River designation encourages tourism and provides important economic benefits to surrounding communities. Businesses that cater to tourists, including fishing guides, boat livery, and restaurants all benefit from the influx of outdoor recreation enthusiasts to the area.

Congress created the National Wild and Scenic River System as a system to protect living free-flowing rivers for posterity. We urge you to support S.329.

Thank you for your consideration.

Senator Richard Blumenthal

Statement for the Record

**Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks Legislative
Hearing**

Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.; Dirksen 366

STATEMENT – As Prepared

Thank you, Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich.

I want to state for the record my strong support for bestowing a Wild and Scenic Designation on the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. It is abundantly clear that these water bodies and their watersheds are immensely deserving of such a designation. The Farmington and Salmon Brook are places of recreation and community gathering, economic drivers, and admired natural environments for the communities they traverse. A Wild and Scenic Designation would appropriately honor and recognize the significance of these watersheds to Connecticut.

The work to achieve a designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook is an effort that began over ten years ago. After the great successes in preservation, community caretaking, and recreational popularity that stemmed from the 1994 Wild and Scenic Designation for the Upper Farmington River, the towns surrounding the Lower Farmington banded together to secure a similar designation. Spearheaded by Representatives Nancy Johnson and John Larson and aided by Senators Chris Dodd and Joe Lieberman, this designation effort has been carried by a long lineage of congressional leadership—even as the arguments for establishing the designation have only grown stronger.

As established in 1968 by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a Wild and Scenic Designation is given to rivers with deep ties to the communities and regions through which they run. Rivers so designated have historic and culturally important connections to these communities, in addition to demonstrating outstanding characteristics of being scenic, untouched and unpolluted, and places of great recreation. The purpose of the designation is to preserve these characteristics for the people who live along these rivers as well as for those who

travel from far and wide to enjoy the rivers' benefits. The designation helps provide resources, support, partnerships, and expertise to maintain the significance of these rivers for generations to come.

The tremendously significant characteristics of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook more than justify a designation for these watersheds. According to data from the Farmington River Watershed Association, the Farmington River Watershed provides drinking water to over 600,000 people in Greater Hartford and the Farmington Valley. The river is also a diverse ecosystem that provides habitat to salmon for population restoration as well as to twelve different species of fresh water mussels. In the summer months, recreationalists enjoy fishing as well as canoeing and tubing down the rivers waters. The Farmington River is also known for its world-class rapids and has hosted numerous competitions, including national and Olympic trials. The banks of the Farmington River are heavily wooded, with biking, walking, and hiking trails running through the forested lands of the watershed. Furthermore, much of Connecticut's early history has strong connections to the Farmington River and its surrounding valley.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook enjoy an excellent and expert network of caretakers that have preserved and strengthened these bodies of water and have engaged the communities of the watershed, bolstering interest and encouraging stewardship. The Farmington River Watershed Association hosts picnics, events, competitions, and historic tours on and along the river and the Farmington River Coordinating Committee leads efforts to enhance water quality, reduce the threat of invasive species, and restore fish populations and critical habitat. The Lower Farmington community also has the example of the leadership that has come from the success of the Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic Designation. With the coordinated dedication and infrastructure for stewardship already built into this watershed's community, the establishment of a Wild and Scenic Designation for the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook would be met by a seamless transition led by a highly capable coalition of devoted community members, volunteers, and people who care deeply about and are deeply impacted by these bodies of water.

I hope that you find it in the interest of the Farmington Valley Region, Connecticut, and the nation to make this designation. The historic, cultural, and recreational significance of these river segments as well as the passion with which their surrounding communities care for them speak volumes for how much this designation would mean. Thank you for your consideration.

June 17, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair	The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member	The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	House Committee on Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building	1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell and Representatives Bishop and Grijalva,

I am writing in support of the Wild & Scenic River designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon

Brook. I whole heartedly support S.329 and H.R. 646 and urge you to do all you can to move the designations bills forward.

My home is located in Tariffville on the Farmington River just below the spot where the Salmon Brook enters, and just above the Tariffville Gorge. From my beautiful river front property I enjoy all the outstanding resource values of both watercourses. I fully understand that the Wild & Scenic designation fully protects private property rights and extinguishes the federal right of eminent domain. It would also continue the Connecticut practice of local control which means a lot to me as a resident and tax payer. River related issues would be solved more fairly, and local recreational and natural resources would be protected.

Sincerely,

Wanda H. Colman

14 Man St. Ext., Tariffville, CT 06002



79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106-5127

www.ct.gov/deep

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

June 15, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
 The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
 Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chair
 The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
 House Committee on Natural Resources
 1324 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Proposed federal Wild & Scenic designation of Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell and Representatives Bishop and Grijalva:

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) continues to support the proposed Wild & Scenic designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. DEEP previously supported similar efforts to successfully obtain designation for both the Upper Farmington River and Eight Mile River, the two existing Wild & Scenic partnership rivers in Connecticut. DEEP continues to be actively involved in the committees established to oversee these two Wild & Scenic designated areas.

The proposed designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook is complementary to DEEP's mission to conserve, improve and protect the natural resources and environment of the State of Connecticut. The "outstanding resource values" that have been identified as making the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook areas unique and significant — geology, water quality, biological diversity, cultural landscape and recreation — mirror DEEP's objectives. Likewise, DEEP recognizes that successful accomplishment of its goals relies on cooperative partnerships with others. The "Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Management Plan" (June 2011) created by the Study Committee in support of the proposed designation focuses on proactive strategies that can be implemented at the local level, where most important land use decisions are made. The federal technical and financial assistance that will become available if designation is granted will be an important element in complementing State resources to achieve desired natural resource and environmental goals, and maintain the quality of life that the citizens of Connecticut have come to expect.

DEEP appreciates this opportunity to again express its support for the proposed Wild & Scenic designation. Once designated, DEEP intends to remain an active partner associated with the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic area.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Klee".

Robert Klee
 Commissioner

East Granby 
LAND TRUST, Inc.

June 14, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman,
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell and Representatives Bishop and Grijalva:

I am writing on behalf of the East Granby Land Trust to indicate our ongoing support of the Wild & Scenic River designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. We support S.329 and H.R. 646 and urge you to do all you can to move the designation bills forward.

East Granby is fortunate in having the Farmington River and Salmon Brook coursing through our town. The Tariffville Gorge draws whitewater paddlers from near and far to compete and play in its famous rapids and the river and brook provide excellent fishing. The high quality of the water and numerous other natural, cultural and historical values delight visitors and enrich the lives of our residents.

The East Granby Land Trust is convinced Wild & Scenic designation will enable our town to continue to protect these outstanding resources by enhancing their prestige as well as providing access to additional sources of technical guidance and potential funding for local organizations involved in protecting the river and brook. Wild & Scenic designation will also result in more visitors seeking food, accommodations and other services from local small businesses.

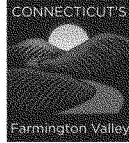
It is also important to note that the Partnership Wild & Scenic designation in the bills fully protects private property rights and extinguishes the federal right of eminent domain. It will not require any new land use regulations and will leave in place local control under existing town and State of Connecticut regulations.

Sincerely,



John Erbland, President
East Granby Land Trust

CC: Sally Rieger, Chairman, Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee



June 23, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell and Representatives Bishop and Grijalva,

I am writing on behalf of the Farmington Valley Visitors Association (FVVA), to show our continued support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. We support S.329 and H.R. 646 and urge you to do all you can to move the designation bills forward.

FVVA's mission is to enhance economic vitality within the Farmington Valley and promote the valley to residents and visitors. Our commitment to recognize, protect, and promote the cultural, historical, and recreational sites in the area meld completely with the goals of the Wild & Scenic River Designation. The Farmington River is one of the valley's treasures that we encourage residents and visitors to take advantage of. The distinction will have a positive impact on business, as well as potential funding for conservation and of course, local prestige.

We hope you'll continue your tireless efforts to gain the important Wild & Scenic River Designation. The designation would not impinge on private property rights and even eliminates the federal right of eminent domain.

Sincerely,

Nancy Weiner-Anstey
Executive Director, FVVA

FARMINGTON VALLEY VISITORS ASSOCIATION
33 East Main Street PO Box 1491 Avon, CT 06001
860.676.8878 1-800-4-WELCOME (493-5266)
www.fvva.com fvva@snet.net



June 24, 2015

Honorable Jeff Flake
US Senate
413 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Flake:

On behalf of our three companies, please accept our thanks for your efforts to preserve our national parks and protect access for those who wish to experience them. The work you do today will pay dividends for future generations.

We are proud to provide access to our national parks and monuments to countless individuals who utilize our services and become advocates for these treasures. For a brief time in 2013, the only way the public had any access to the beauty of much of the Grand Canyon (which had been closed during a federal government shutdown) was through an air tour experience.

While our industry saw a very brief increase in business, the consequences of the closure of the Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) were long lasting. Domestic and international tourism business seen at the GCNP decreased in the following months because of the uncertainty associated with the temporary closure.

We want to applaud you for introducing both S. 1750, the Public Access to Public Land Guarantee Act, and S. 2104, the National Park Access Act. These critical bills, if signed into law, will provide the tools and protections necessary to keep our national treasures open in times of stalemate in the federal appropriations and budget process. Granting the ability for the federal

government to enter into agreements with state and local governments to keep these national parks open, coupled with the ability to make those entities made whole after making the associated financial investments, will ensure the unfortunate circumstance of 2013 will not happen again.

Thank you for your work on this, and please contact us if we can help move these critical bills forward.

Sincerely,



Brenda Halvorson
Papillon Airways
President, CEO



Alan Stephen
Grand Canyon Airlines
Vice President of Corporate Affairs



Brian Brusa
Maverick Aviation Group
Vice President of Government Relations



Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage

June 15, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources & the House Committee on Natural Resource

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell and Representatives Bishop and Grijalva,

I am writing on behalf of the Granby Land Trust (Granby, Connecticut) to indicate our ongoing support of the Wild and Scenic designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. We support S.329 and H.R.646 and urge you to do all you can to move the bills forward.

GLT sees the designation as essential to insuring continuation of the high level water quality that characterizes these unique streams and their associated watersheds. This further insures that the Land Trust's many properties in the watershed will receive significantly enhanced protection. The designation contains no threat to private property rights and will actually enhance the value of property owners. There are only positives in this designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Orluk".

Rick Orluk
President
Granby Land Trust

June 24, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman,
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell and Representatives Bishop and Grijalva:

It is with some hesitation that I mention that I have run a small canoe and kayak company for over 30 years on the Farmington River, in that it would tend to bias the petitioners to believe the motivation is financial. While there may be a financial consequence from designating the Lower Farmington River Wild and Scenic it is my heartfelt belief such a designation will help preserve something for future generations to enjoy.

It makes sense to unite the entire river under the protection of the Wild and Scenic Act in that the river as a whole is truly unique. The upper Farmington has white water and the lower Farmington has tranquil flows, all within a comparatively short river length.

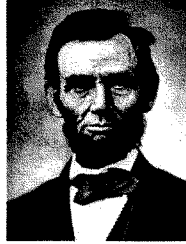
This amazing diversity within such a short span of river is a result of the Glaciers which altered the direction of the river's flow. The upper section of the River flows like most rivers, southward, but the Lower Farmington flows northward into the Connecticut River. The Lower section of the River was actually a large lake at one time. The sediment that filled this lake not only altered the course of the river it resulted in some of the most fertile agricultural land in Connecticut.

I am writing not only on my behalf as a lover of the river and a witness to the joy it brings to so many but on behalf of the Farmington River Watershed Association to join in to indicate our ongoing support of the Wild & Scenic River designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. We support S.329 and H.R. 646 and urge you to do all you can to move the designation bills forward.

The Farmington is truly a unique river and deserves to be protected, thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter that will impact future generations.

Sincerely,

John Kulick, Owner
Huck Finn Adventures
PO Box 137
Collinsville, CT 06022
860-693-0385



THE LINCOLN GROUP INC.
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ORGANIZED 1935

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April 12, 2008

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- Paul L. Pascal
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- Dr. Richard N. Current
Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.
Dr. Wayne Temple

Dear Mayor Dixon,

I am writing this letter for the members of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia. We are the oldest, continuously active Lincoln society in America. We are active in supporting the preservation of historic monuments and in assisting others in their research by providing them with historic information and sources. We have been honored by presidents and major dignitaries.

This letter is to impress on you the importance of preserving the President Street Station and its historic value as it relates to Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln used this train station as a congressman in 1848. In 1861 as president-elect, Lincoln passed through the station during the night of February 22-23 to avoid the Baltimore plot on the way to Washington for his inauguration. He used this train station in June 1862 and again in June and July 1864. It is one of the sites that Lincoln scholars visit to walk the ground of our greatest president.

As we approach the Lincoln Bicentennial in 2009 the President Street Station is a site for that event. A National Historic Landmark designation is a confirmation to us as well as national recognition to all Americans that the President Street Station has a national significance. We encourage you to confirm its national significance by protecting it as a National Historic Landmark. Our time is running out to save this national treasure. Once it is gone part of our history is forever lost. Future generations will not know the value of Baltimore's President Street Station as it relates to Abraham Lincoln. Saving it before the Bicentennial of 2009 would make a statement of Baltimore's historic significance in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Thank you for your interest and I am hoping to hear from you as to the status of the President Street Station.

Sincerely,

Charles Doty

President - Lincoln Group of DC



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
1156 15TH STREET, NW SUITE 915 · WASHINGTON, DC 20005 · P (202) 463-2940 · F (202) 463-2953
E-MAIL: WASHINGTONBUREAU@NAACPNET.ORG · WEB ADDRESS WWW.NAACP.ORG

June 8, 2015

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks
Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Parks
Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: NAACP STRONG SUPPORT FOR S. 610, THURGOOD MARSHALL'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDY ACT

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the NAACP, our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization, I am writing to express our strong support for S. 610, *Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act*. This crucial legislation would begin the process of preserving this important marker in our nation's history, PS 103, in Baltimore, MD., for the benefit of future generations. It is vital that every generation understand what preceded it.

PS103 is a nationally important historic site as the place where young Thurgood Marshall spent the first six years of his public school education. Every scholar of civil rights has heard the story that Marshall, who went on to successfully argue one of the most important civil rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court prior to being named the first African American Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, learned the U.S. Constitution in the basement of the building while serving detention. Whether or not this actually happened, the building powerfully tells the story of racial segregation in America and the rise of one of the country's preeminent thinkers and pioneers in civil rights.

S. 610, the *Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act* would authorize a Special Resource Study on the PS 103, the Elementary school that Thurgood Marshall attended in the Upton neighborhood of West Baltimore. This study is the first step in the National Park Service's process for establishing new units of the National Park System. The NAACP strongly supports this study to determine the merits of commemorating the early education of a man whose importance in the history of our nation cannot, and should not, be understated.

Thank you in advance for taking the opinion and concerns of the NAACP into consideration when the Subcommittee deliberates S. 610 later this week. Should you have any questions or comments on the NAACP position, please feel free to call me in my office at (202) 463-2940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Shelton', written in a cursive style.

Hilary O. Shelton
Director, NAACP Washington Bureau &
Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy

CC: Senator Ben Cardin
Members, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on
National Parks



**Statement of Bruce E. Matthews, Executive Director of the
North Country Trail Association, submitted to the
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,
Subcommittee on National Parks, regarding
S. 403: North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act**

June 10, 2015

SUMMARY

S. 403, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act, is a bipartisan, locally supported effort adjusting the route of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) to: (1) include existing world-class hiking trails in northeastern Minnesota, and (2) connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Vermont. In total, these actions would add a net gain of approximately 500 new miles to the NCNST, 400 of which are already constructed. This bill would remove the originally designated section of about 100 miles between Duluth and Grand Rapids, MN, saving significant construction and maintenance costs as well as avoiding wetlands. This bill does not require nor assume any additional appropriations. As has been the case in its 35 years, the NCNST, including these new sections, is being built, maintained and protected through the partnership efforts of volunteer citizen stewards with the National Park Service.

STATEMENT

Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, on behalf of the 3,000-member North Country Trail Association (NCTA) and the 15,000 members of our partnership and alliance organizations, thank you for this opportunity to further support S. 403, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act (Act).

I commend Senator Klobuchar and her counterpart in the House, Congressman Nolan (MN-08), for reintroducing this bill in the 114th Congress, which will revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota to include existing hiking trails along Lake Superior's north shore and in the Superior and Chippewa National Forests. S. 403 also connects the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) with its sister trail, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Vermont.

We note the strong connections and appreciate the support from a number of members of this Subcommittee with the North Country NST. Senator Portman's state of Ohio hosts 1,050 miles of the NCNST, about 800 miles of which are co-located on the famous Buckeye Trail. Senator Hoeven's North Dakota anchors the western terminus of this great trail, at the point where the Garrison Dam holds back the Missouri River to form Lake Sakakawea. Senator Sanders' constituents in Vermont have been a driving force in this effort to connect these two great trails in the Green Mountain State. With 1,150 trail miles, Senator Stabenow's State of Michigan holds more North Country Trail than any other state; only Florida and California have more National Scenic Trail miles. These and our other 4 states through which the NCNST passes have a strong constituent base of volunteers and supporters of the trail.

I represent these volunteers and citizen stewards who build, maintain, protect and tell the story of the North Country NST. The North Country Trail Association is the major partner with the National Park Service, the agency charged with administering the Trail. The public/private partnership thus established enables the National Park Service to offer a 4,600 mile long by 18 inches wide National Park, at the minimal cost of 3.5 FTE's and

less than a million dollars annually. Further, for every federal dollar invested in this partnership in 2014, **our volunteers returned \$5.17 in hard dollar contributions and sweat equity**. These volunteers are mobilized on behalf of the ideals represented in the National Trails System Act and the enduring notion that they're engaged in 'paying it forward,' with a legacy effort to benefit all Americans, now and in the future.

What does S. 403 call for?

This bill simply amends the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(8)) by:

- (1) Substituting new language delineating the North Country National Scenic Trail's total length (from 3,200 to 4,600 miles);
- (2) Re-defining the eastern terminus as the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Vermont; and
- (3) Substituting a new map reference for the original, with the new map showing the Minnesota Arrowhead and the eastern terminus extension into Vermont.

What does this route adjustment accomplish?

S. 403 completes the original vision for the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) by extending the eastern terminus to link with the Appalachian Trail in Vermont. And this legislation legitimizes the de-facto route of the NCNST in Minnesota since 2005, with the formal inclusion of Minnesota's Superior Hiking, Border Route and Kekekabic Trails as officially part of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

Who benefits?

Outdoor recreationists—hikers, backpackers, hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers will enjoy greater access to public lands. Local businesses will benefit from increased visitation and tourism dollars—a sustainable source of revenues. Local communities will enjoy the increased quality of life values associated with non-motorized trails. Private landowners will see property values increase in direct proportion to the proximity of the NCNST. Families gain access to low cost, low threshold opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation right nearby. Conservation agencies will bolster their corps of citizen stewards with whom they partner in managing public resources, and without which vast

tracts of public lands would be far less accessible. There is widespread and documented local support for this trail re-route. (please see supporting materials)

Who pays?

There are no additional appropriations requested by or associated with this bill. The model developed in this private/public partnership over the past 35 years stretches existing federal funds and matches them with non-federal sources and private funding to cover the costs of building, maintaining and protecting the trail. And in fact, S. 403 will save money. With this Act the sensitive wetlands of the original route between Duluth and Grand Rapids, MN are avoided, where it could cost as much as 12 times more to construct the bridges, puncheon and boardwalk needed to cross them, not to mention the annual maintenance due to frost heaves and frozen ground.

From 3,200 to 4,600 miles?

The original 1980 authorizing legislation contains the language “a trail of approximately 3200 miles.” This was clearly an estimate, since almost none of the NCNST had been built when the 1970’s feasibility studies estimated its length. Since then much of the NCNST has been constructed and the route identified; the trail is on the ground and we have more sophisticated tools for measuring it. In carrying out Congress’ intent for the original NCNST the actual mileage is closer to 4,100 miles, even without the Minnesota Arrowhead or the eastern terminus extension into Vermont (which add another 500 miles). S. 403 would designate a net gain of approximately 500 new miles as National Scenic Trail. The Minnesota Arrowhead section contains about 540 miles—400 of which is already constructed in the Superior Hiking, Border Route and Kekekabic Trails. In Vermont there’s a roughly 60 mile gap between the current terminus at Crown Point, N.Y. and the Appalachian Trail. Subtract the originally designated 100 miles of Minnesota wetlands to get 500 newly designated additional miles of NST.

Fortunately this does not mean 500 more miles needing to be built. Factoring in the already volunteer-constructed (and world-class!) trail in northeastern Minnesota plus the

existing Trails Around Middlebury and the Long Trail in Vermont leaves **between 100 to 200 miles of new trail needing to be built.**

The question of eminent domain

No federal agency, including the National Park Service, has ever had the authority to use eminent domain for the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST). Less than 50 of the 4,600 miles of NCNST are actually owned or leased by the NPS, and these are in the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore or the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, acquisition for both of which preceded the 1980 authorization of the NCNST.

The only land acquisition authority for the NPS on the NCNST was granted by Congress in 2009, and enables the NPS to acquire land only “with the consent of the owner of the land or interest in the land.” (Section 5(a)(8)) of the National Trails System Act (P.L. 90-543, as amended through P.L. 111-11).

The key to building and protecting the trail lies with building local relationships with landowners and land managers—something best accomplished by our local NCTA volunteers. Remaining trail to be completed outside of the Chippewa, Superior or Green Mountain National Forests will need access to private lands, which requires willing landowners recognizing the value of dedicating access to some of their land in the public trust. This takes time, and investment in the local relationships thus built. It will not complete the trail off-road anytime soon, but it will complete the trail eventually and in a manner that creates sustainable value and local support and investment.

What’s wrong with the original route in Minnesota?

The original route between Duluth and Grand Rapids, MN passes through significant wetlands and tamarack/black spruce swamp. Building trail there requires extensive structures, bridges, puncheon, etc. which are not only expensive but need constant maintenance with the freeze/thaw climate conditions in the area. Cost estimates per mile in this terrain typically average 12 times more than standard natural surfaced trail. Environmental sensitivities exist over potential wetlands impacts. The original Minnesota

route assumed, as with the rest of the NCNST, that a local cadre of volunteers would be mobilized to build and maintain the NCNST. None have surfaced for this particular wetlands segment since the 1980 authorization of the NCNST. Instead, some 400-plus miles of world-class hiking trails have been built and paid for (by volunteers) along the north shore of Lake Superior, along the Canadian border, and in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Since 2005, hikers using the NCNST have adopted this “Minnesota Arrowhead” as part of the NCNST. The only things missing are the official trail signs and emblems, and the opportunity for local communities to derive tourism benefits from the official designation.

Senator Klobuchar has championed this bill since her first introduction in the 111th Congress, following this with bills sponsored in the 112th, 113th and now this 114th Congress. In the House, Rep. Jim Oberstar (MN-08) first introduced the bill in the 110th Congress and again in the 111th. Rep. Collin Peterson (MN-07) introduced the bill in the 112th Congress, and Rep. Rick Nolan (MN-08) has championed the bill since then, in the 113th and 114th Congresses. His bill, H.R. 799 in this 114th Congress has 15 bi-partisan co-sponsors. The momentum continues to grow, and it is time to pass this legislation so important to our North Country communities and those who find their recreation there.

Thank you for your consideration.

I submit and request that this statement become part of the Congressional record.

Bruce E. Matthews
Executive Director
North Country Trail Association
229 East Main St.
Lowell, MI 9331
(616) 897-5987
bmatthews@northcountrytrail.org

Supporting Materials

1. File folder with letters of support from local communities
2. Health Benefits of Trails
3. 2015 FAQ for S. 403/ H.R. 799, North Country NST Route Adjustment Act
4. Economic Benefits of Trails (American Hiking Society)
5. Economic Benefits of Trails (Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition)
6. Economic Benefits of Trails (Minnesota Study Summary)
7. Letter to House Committee on Natural Resources re: H.R. 799 (S. 403) signed by 35 outdoor organizations



Roaring Brook Nature Center

70 Gracey Road • Canton, CT 06019 • 860.693.0263 • Fax 860.693.0264
www.roaringbrook.org

June 10, 2015

Sally Rieger
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

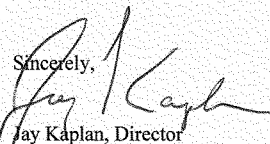
Dear Sally:

I am writing on behalf of Roaring Brook Nature Center to indicate our support for the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook.

As director of Roaring Brook Nature Center since 1975, I have taken countless numbers of students and adults on trips throughout this watershed and I recognize its importance on so many levels. For many years we have offered a popular summer program for students entitled "Farmington River Ramblin.'" The program focuses on the concept of "multi-use," from the obvious recreational usage to providing energy through hydropower to serving as habitat for all manner of wildlife from bald eagles to rare and endangered species of freshwater mussels. The River is also important for its place in Connecticut history as the site of many well-known industrial endeavors from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Salmon Brook, a major tributary of the Farmington River, is of value in its own right. I can recall the excitement of a group of students when they discovered an impressive population of Superb Jewelwing (*Calopteryx amata*), an uncommon damselfly, along the brook in Granby. This was a valuable educational experience for the students as well as one of value for those researchers who are studying distribution of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) in Connecticut.

If I may be of further service in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jay Kaplan, Director
Roaring Brook Nature Center



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM SIMANSKI
SIXTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
HOME: (860) 653-0688

Bill.Simanski@housegop.ct.gov

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BANKS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 17, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Bishop, Chairman
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell and Representatives Bishop and Grijalva,

I write today in strong support of H.R. 646 and S. 329 which would provide the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook with a Wild and Scenic designation. This designation would benefit both watercourses and the surrounding area in many ways.

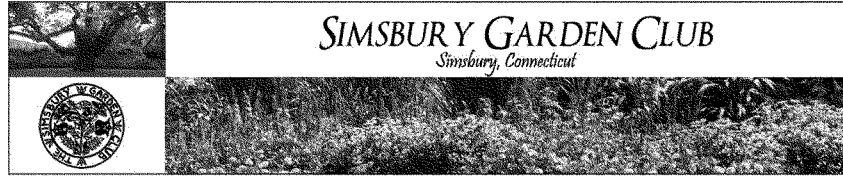
A Wild and Scenic designation removes the federal right of eminent domain and protects private property rights. The designation would leave in place existing regulations by towns and the State of Connecticut and would not require any new land use regulations. The protection afforded to the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook through a Wild and Scenic designation would support the local businesses that serve the many visitors who come from across the country and Canada to enjoy the river and brook.

The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are invaluable recreational and natural resources, and I fully support the effort to further protect them through a Wild and Scenic Designation. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Simanski".

Bill Simanski
State Representative
62nd District



The Simsbury Garden Club
P.O. Box 123, Simsbury, CT 06070
June 18, 2015

Sally Rieger
Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook
Wild & Scenic Study Committee
749 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Rieger,

I am writing on behalf of the Simsbury Garden Club to indicate our support of the Wild and Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Club's general membership at their meeting on January 25, 2010.

The stated mission of the Simsbury Garden Club is, in part, to promote conservation and protection of natural resources. The Club recognizes that the designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as a Wild and Scenic River would benefit these waterways by providing funding, research and support that help protect the Farmington River.

The Simsbury Garden Club hopes that the designation of these treasured natural resources will be achieved for the benefit of our community and our wild areas.

Sincerely,

Carol Bingham and Charmaine Glew, Co-Presidents
The Simsbury Garden Club.



SIMSBURY LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 634 | Simsbury, CT 06070 | tel 860.651.8773 | fax 860.651.8773 | www.simsburylandtrust.org

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Open Space Since 1976*

June 11, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell:

I am writing on behalf of the Simsbury Land Trust to indicate our support of the Wild & Scenic River designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. This position was taken by formal vote of the Board of the land trust at their meeting on June 11.

We are pleased to learn that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has decided to proceed with a hearing on the designation bill, S.329. We urge you to consider this bill favorably and move it forward to a Senate vote.

Our organization is a 501c-3 which has the goal of protecting natural areas in Simsbury that provide good wildlife habitat and related opportunities for public recreation. We also work to protect viewsheds that define our community. We own land on the Farmington River and also own the development rights of a local riverfront farm. River protection enhances the value of our own land and is important to Rosedale Farm where vegetable fields and a vineyard require irrigation using river water.

We understand that no private property rights would be violated by the designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as Wild and Scenic under the partnership model of the Wild and Scenic Rivers program. In fact, designation would extinguish the federal right of eminent domain. Based on the past experience of upper river communities in a Wild and Scenic area designated in 1994 we on the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook look forward to enjoying the advantages of designation that the upper river communities have experienced.

Sincerely,

Fred Feibel
Chairman
Simsbury Land Trust Board of Trustees

June 14, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair	The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member	The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	House Committee on Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building	1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell and Representatives Bishop and Grijalva,

I am writing on behalf of the TARIFFVILLE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION to reiterate our ongoing Support of the Wild & Scenic River designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. We whole heartedly support S.329 and H.R. 646 and urge you to do all you can to move The designations bills forward.

The Tariffville section of Simsbury, is closely bonded with the Farmington River. The well-being of all the River's outstanding resource values directly affects all of our citizens. Protection and enhancement of these resource values is a goal of our community which owes it's very existence to the Farmington River and Salmon Brook. We all benefit greatly from the knowledge and protection of the geology, archeology, cultural landscape, water quality, biodiversity, and recreational values of the river, most notably in the world famous Tariffville Gorge.

Once again the Board of Directors of the Tariffville Village Association voted on June 11, 2015 to enthusiastically endorse these bills.

Sincerely,

Wanda H. Colman, President, Tariffville Village Association