

# PENDING LEGISLATION

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**HEARING**  
BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
FIRST SESSION

ON

<b>S. 257</b>	<b>S. 1073</b>
<b>S. 312</b>	<b>S. 1202</b>
<b>S. 355</b>	<b>S. 1403</b>
<b>S. 391</b>	<b>S. 1438</b>
<b>S. 841</b>	<b>S. 1459</b>
<b>S. 926</b>	<b>S. 1522</b>

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JULY 19, 2017

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The text for each of the bills which were addressed in this hearing can be found on the committee's website at: <https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings?ID=9C398823-7906-4914-B76F-565FA5584600>.

## PENDING LEGISLATION

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017

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

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:22 a.m. in Room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Steve Daines, Chairman of the Subcommittee, presiding.

### OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. STEVE DAINES, U.S. SENATOR FROM MONTANA

Senator DAINES [presiding]. The Subcommittee will come to order.

The 12 bills we are examining this afternoon cover a wide range of issues relating to federal land administered by the Department of the Interior, primarily by the National Park Service (NPS). Today we will hear about legislation that includes a range of issues impacting park units including boundary adjustments, the establishment of national memorials both here in Washington, DC, and elsewhere around our country, redesignations, land conveyances and even issues related to park entrance fees and public land corps programs.

I would like to take a moment and discuss Senate bill 1403, the 21st Century Conservation Corps Act of 2017. Right now in my home state of Montana there is a Veterans Public Lands Corps working hard at Glacier National Park. The Montana Conservation Corps have done some great work in fuel reduction and trail maintenance.

I can tell you I have a state that is suffering from drought. It is very dry right now. And so, this fuel reduction is critically important to try to prevent massive wildfires. With the cost and intensity of catastrophic wildfire continually increasing and the deferred maintenance backlog for land management agencies affecting management and access, corps like the Montana Conservation Corps are good partners in tackling these challenges. I am anxious to hear more about how this legislation can work to expand the good work that these public land corps do in our national parks and forests in Montana and across the U.S.

I will say, as I was growing up in Montana I nearly took a summer job working for the corps, working on some trail maintenance crews. And it is not only in terms of preventative maintenance, but also in providing important skill sets for a new generation of young

Americans as well as veterans. There is nothing better than getting young people outdoors.

In addition, we will hear testimony on Senate bill 926, a bill that would authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work here in the District of Columbia. Since Senator Ernst introduced Senate bill 926 in April, 19 other Senators, including myself and Ranking Member Hirono, have co-sponsored this legislation. While the legislation requires some significant exemptions from the Commemorative Works Act, I believe this marks the beginning of a very necessary discussion regarding the need to appropriately honor those who have served in our nation's longest war.

We are also going to talk about Senate bill 1522, the Every Kid Outdoors Act, which was introduced by Senators Alexander and Heinrich. It is my understanding that there may be a few details left to work out on that, but let me just say, I do support the concept of getting kids and their families spending some time together outside. I think that is something we all can certainly get behind.

I look forward to a robust discussion today. I know that each of these agenda items are not only important to individual members of the Subcommittee, but to our nation, parks and citizens as a whole. Many on our list have passed the House of Representatives, a few of these bills have been heard before in this Subcommittee and others have been considered in previous Congresses. While a few of these bills may spark conversation, I am hopeful we can move through this list fairly quickly.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the Administration's views on these bills and allow Committee members an opportunity to ask questions they might have. We will also include written statements that have been sent to the Subcommittee in the official hearing record.

Because of the large number of bills on today's agenda I will not read through the list, but at this time I will include the complete agenda in the hearing record, without objection.

[The information referred to follows:]

## **COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS**

#### **HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT AND AGENDA**

This notice is to advise you of a legislative hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on National Parks. The hearing will be held on **Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 366** of the **Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.**

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills:

- **S. 257**, Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act
- **S. 312**, Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Redesignation Act
- **S. 355**, Wounded Veterans Recreation Act of 2017
- **S. 391**, African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center Act
- **S. 841**, National Veterans Memorial and Museum Act
- **S. 926**, Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act
- **S. 1073**, Escambia County Land Conveyance Act
- **S. 1202**, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Boundary Modification Act
- **S. 1403**, 21st Century Conservation Corps Act of 2017
- **S. 1438**, Redesignate Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in the State of Missouri as the "Gateway Arch National Park"
- **S. 1459**, A bill to establish Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Park in the State of South Carolina, and for other purposes
- **S. 1522**, A bill to establish an Every Kid Outdoors program, and for other purposes

Senator DAINES. Let me now turn to the Ranking Member, Senator Hirono, a great partner here in the Parks Committee, for her opening remarks.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII**

Senator HIRONO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Across our country, our national parks and public lands preserve environments that are meaningful to our communities. In Hawaii, this includes protecting native plants and animals and sites that hold deep, cultural significance to the Native Hawaiian community. Many of the bills we are considering today represent worthy ideas to improve and expand access to our public lands and national parks. Before we hear from our witness, I would like to comment on two of these bills briefly.

I am a co-sponsor of S. 355, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, introduced by Senator Shaheen. This bill would provide a free, lifetime National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass to veterans with a service-connected disability. Several veterans service organizations have highlighted the healing influence of spending time in our national parks, forests and other public lands. Providing service-disabled veterans with lifetime passes to our national parks and public lands would convey our gratitude for their service.

The second bill I would like to highlight, also highlighted by the Chair, is S. 1403, the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2017, sponsored by Senator McCain. This bill would strengthen partnerships that engage youth and veterans in maintaining public lands and waters. In Hawaii, our accredited 21st Century Conservation Service Corps member is the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps, also known as KUPU. Over the past 10 years, KUPU has provided training to over 3,000 of Hawaii's youth to become stewards of our culture and aina, or land. I know the Department's testimony recommends that Congress defer action on this bill until they can undergo a review of their youth programs, and I will address this recommendation with our witness this morning.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that there are continuing policy concerns about a number of these bills on the agenda today. I look forward to working with you and the bill sponsors to help move these bills through the Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Senator Hirono.

Are there any other Senators who would like to make a short statement on the legislation today?

Senator KING. Yes, Mr. Chairman, if you would.

Thank you.

Senator DAINES. Senator King.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ANGUS S. KING, JR.,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MAINE**

Senator KING. S. 257, Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act. We have had quite a bit of discussion about this with the National Park Service and also with the House. There are some

questions, but we are attempting to work out language that will be satisfactory to all.

Basically, there was a 1929 Act that established Acadia National Park and then in 1986, there were questions about the boundary of the park, and it was established and fixed. I believe one of the staff members that perhaps worked on that, or at least worked in the Office of Senator Cohen, was one Susan Collins. So, anyway, that fixed the boundary.

Then several years ago there was a transfer of about 1,500 acres pursuant to the '29 Act but arguably in violation of the '86 boundary. This bill corrects that problem and deals with some of the other issues along the boundary.

Mr. Vogel, I do not know if you want to add anything, but this is something that we are assiduously trying to get worked out. I think it is a fairly straightforward bill and should be non-controversial once we work through the various provisions. Is that accurate?

Thank you. It is very important to this region and I will, at the appropriate time, urge the Committee's active consideration.

Thank you.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Senator King.

It is now time to hear from our witness, Mr. Robert Vogel, Acting Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Thank you for being with us today. At the end of your testimony, we will begin questions. Your full written testimony will be made part of the official hearing record.

Mr. Vogel, you may proceed.

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Mr. VOGEL. Thank you.

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, thank you so much for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on 12 bills on today's agenda. I would like to submit our full statements on each of these bills for the record and would like to summarize the Department's views.

The Department supports the following bills:

—S. 312, which would redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire, as the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park;

—S. 335, which would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make the lifetime National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available without cost to any veteran with a service-connected disability;

—S. 926, which would authorize the Global War on Terror National Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work on federal land here in the District of Columbia;

—S. 1073, which would provide the authority to Escambia County, Florida, to convey property, subject to certain conditions, that it received from the Federal Government in 1947;

—S. 1202, which would modify the boundary of Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site and expand the park's authority to enter into cooperative agreements;

—S. 1438, which would redesignate the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in the State of Missouri as the Gateway Arch National Park; and

—S. 1459, which would establish Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Park in the State of South Carolina.

The reasons for our support of these bills are explained in our full statements. For several of the bills we are requesting amendments and we would be happy to work with the Committee, of course, on drafting them.

Regarding S. 257, which would clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park and includes changes to a range of authorities for the park, the Department has various positions on each of the bill's nine sections. These positions are explained further in our written statement and we would be happy to work with the Committee, of course, on recommended amendments, particularly with regard to providing administrative boundary adjustment authority and limiting the authority for harvesting clams and worms to the traditional level at which it occurs now.

The Department defers to the Department of Veterans Affairs for a position on S. 841 since the purpose of the legislation is to confer a title on a memorial and museum designed to honor veterans.

The Department recommends that Congress defer action on the following two bills until we have had an opportunity to review all of the Department's youth programs and determine the most cost-effective strategies for engaging youth in our nation's great outdoors: those bills are S. 1403, which would establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps; and S. 1522, which would establish the Every Kid Outdoors Program.

The Department opposes S. 391 which would establish the African Burial Ground National Monument Museum and Education Center to serve as a memorial to the enslaved who are buried at the African Burial Ground and to other enslaved Africans and African Americans. We do not have yet the necessary information to evaluate this proposal as there has been no comprehensive study that addresses the purpose, need, feasibility or cost to establish an associated museum or a study that evaluates alternatives for such a facility.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be very pleased to answer any questions that you may have.

[The prepared statements of Mr. Vogel follow:]

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 257, TO CLARIFY THE BOUNDARY OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**July 19, 2017**

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 257, to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes.

The Department supports the boundary confirmation provided by S. 257. However, this bill also includes changes to a range of authorities for Acadia National Park (Acadia). The Department supports this legislation with clarifying amendments. These positions are explained in this statement.

Section 2 of S. 257 would confirm in statute that the boundary of Acadia National Park (Acadia) now also includes the approximately 1,441 acres of land on the Schoodic Peninsula that comprise the Schoodic Woods property that was donated to the National Park Service (NPS) in 2015. The Schoodic Woods donation was a gift by an anonymous donor that included not only the land but also a newly constructed campground, trails, and other visitor amenities, an endowment to help pay for operating expenses at the site, and funds to pay local governments to help offset the loss of tax revenue. The addition to the park of this land, adjacent to existing national park land and ready to welcome visitors, was strongly supported by the communities on the Schoodic Peninsula and throughout the area surrounding Acadia.

The NPS accepted the donation of the Schoodic Woods property and added it to the boundary of the park under the authority of 16 U.S.C. 342(a), which was enacted as part of the Act of January 19, 1929, and which authorizes the National Park Service to accept donations of lands, easements, and buildings within Hancock County, Maine, the county in which most of Acadia is located. The NPS published the notice of the boundary adjustment reflecting the imminent acceptance of fee title to the Schoodic Woods property in the Federal Register of November 17, 2015.

We are aware of the concerns that have been raised about the use of this authority given that Congress passed legislation in 1986 establishing a "permanent boundary" for the park (Section 102 of P.L. 99-420). To allay those concerns, the Department supports Section 2.

Section 3 provides that the Secretary may only acquire land or interests in land for Acadia National Park in accordance with the 1986 law, except that the Secretary may conduct exchanges of federal and nonfederal lands that are entirely within the park's boundaries. It is important to have this explicit authority to conduct land exchanges (54 USC 102901) because existing law is ambiguous as to whether intraboundary land exchanges are allowed under the 1986 Acadia law. Intraboundary land exchange authority is available for most units of the National Park System.

However, the intraboundary exception alone does not go far enough in providing the authority the NPS needs to work with owners of land adjacent to park boundaries to collaboratively resolve land issues. We believe that Acadia should have the administrative boundary adjustment authority under 54 USC 100506, which allows the NPS to exchange land within a park boundary for land outside the boundary, subject to strict requirements. This authority would assure Acadia has the same ability as nearly every other national park to address encroachments due to mistaken surveys, rationalize boundary lines, and otherwise resolve real-world land ownership dilemmas that have an impact on neighboring landowners. In many cases these adjustments result in no net increase in federal land ownership. For that reason, the Department recommends amending this section to include a second exception to the 1986 law for administrative boundary adjustment authority consistent with 54 USC 100506.

Section 4 would authorize the Secretary, subject to the availability of prior appropriations, to contribute \$350,000 to a regional consortium of local governments on or near Mount Desert Island that is established to improve the management of the disposal and recycling of solid waste. The 1986 law required the Secretary to contribute the lesser of \$350,000 or 50% of the cost of the construction of a waste transfer facility that would benefit the park as well as the local towns. This funding was never appropriated and construction of a facility is no longer needed, but there is local interest in converting the \$350,000 authorization for construction into a federal payment for municipal waste disposal. The Department does not believe that this type of subsidy for municipal waste disposal is an appropriate use of federal funds and therefore opposes this section.

Section 5 would permanently authorize the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission. The Department recognizes the important work of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission. The commission advises the Secretary of the Interior, through his designee, the superintendent of Acadia, on matters relating to the management and development of the park including, but not limited to, the acquisition of land and interests in land, and the termination of rights of use and occupancy. The advisory commission is composed of 16 members, ten of whom are appointed based on recommendations from the park's host communities including the four towns of Mount Desert Island, three Hancock County mainland towns, and three island towns.

The commission was first authorized in 1986 and is currently due to expire in 2026. There are several other advisory commissions for units of the National Park System that are permanently authorized, including the ones at Gettysburg National Military Park, Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, and the National Park of American Samoa.

Section 6 would prohibit the use of the 1929 authority, and authority under section 3 of the Act of February 26, 1919, to acquire land by donation outside of the "permanent boundary" established in 1986. The intent of this section is to ensure that the boundaries of the park cannot be enlarged beyond the lines drawn in 1986 through a donation of land. The Department believes that it is important for parks to have the flexibility to accept donations of land that are adjacent to their boundaries to address a variety of encroachment issues as discussed in section 3. The Department would not object to this provision if the bill were amended to include limited

administrative boundary adjustment authority similar to 54 USC 100506 as an amendment for section 3. We would be happy to work with the committee on this language.

Section 7 provides that specified lands that were part of Acadia and that were conveyed by the NPS to the town of Tremont, on Mt. Desert Island, for school purposes shall no longer be required to be used exclusively and perpetually for school purposes if the land is being used for public purposes, subject to the condition that use of the land shall not degrade or adversely impact the resources or values of Acadia National Park and that the lands shall remain in public ownership for recreational, educational, or similar public purposes.

Public Law 81-629, enacted in 1950, permitted the NPS to convey a parcel identified as NPS Tract 06-126 to the town to locate a new school. The conveyance was completed in 1951, with a reverter clause included in the deed specifying that the land would revert back to the United States if no longer used exclusively for school purposes. The town is now consolidating schools with a neighboring town and thus will no longer use this property exclusively for school purposes, but would like to retain ownership and continue to use the developed property for community purposes. This legislation would allow it to do so. The Department supports this section.

Section 8 provides that the Secretary shall permit the harvesting of marine organisms in the intertidal areas of Acadia in accordance with the laws (including regulations) of the State of Maine and units of local government. The provision would allow for the harvesting and aquaculture of clams, worms, mussels, periwinkles, and other marine organisms (as defined by Maine Revised Statutes as in effect on the date of enactment of this act.).

There is a long history of small-scale commercial harvesting of clams and worms within Acadia's intertidal zone, despite the NPS's general prohibition on commercial harvest. In fact, the activity predates the park's establishment. There is no specific legislation authorizing this activity at Acadia, as required by 36 CRF 2.3(d)(4).

The Department supports permitting harvesting of clams and worms at Acadia, but only if such harvesting can be kept at the traditional level at which it occurs now. However, the language of section 8 extends authority for harvesting far beyond what is needed to allow traditional harvesting of clams and worms. We have concerns about expanding the harvesting to other "marine organisms", or to aquaculture activity. The full range of organisms included in Maine's definition of Marine Organism includes, "any animal, plant or other life that inhabits waters below head of tide." Such a broad definition could include any species, from plants and mollusks to birds, fish, and mammals, that "inhabits waters below head of tide." Rockweed harvest has increased exponentially along the coast in Maine in recent years. While continued commercial harvest of clams and worms poses a relatively small threat to the intertidal area, harvest of rockweed would have much more significant impacts, as could aquaculture operations. In addition, aquaculture has not historically occurred in Acadia's intertidal zone and would represent a new use.

Finally, Section 9 would require the Secretary to convey to the Town of Bar Harbor a 0.29-acre parcel of land for the construction of a solid waste transfer facility. This provision includes a reverter clause if the land were to be used for a different purpose. The Department supports this section but would welcome the opportunity to explore potential land exchange options.

We would be happy to work with the sponsor and the committee to develop amendments to address all of the matters of concern about this bill that are described in this statement.

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 312, TO REDESIGNATE THE SAINT-GAUDENS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AS THE “SAINT-GAUDENS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JULY 19, 2016

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior’s views on S. 312, a bill to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the “Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park”, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 312.

S. 312 would redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire, as the “Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park.” This bill would not have a significant financial impact on the park as the National Park Service would update maps and signage as a part of routine maintenance and reordering of interpretive materials. We note that this bill has been modified from the version introduced in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress and we appreciate the sponsor’s willingness to propose a redesignation that fits with the National Park System’s naming conventions.

Authorized in 1964, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site preserves the home, studios, gardens, and artwork of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), the greatest American sculptor of the Gilded Age. During his career, Saint-Gaudens completed a variety of important monuments and memorials around the country, many of them, like the *Robert Gould Shaw Memorial* in Boston, Massachusetts; the *Sherman Monument* and *Farragut Monument* in New York City; and the Standing and Seated Abraham Lincoln monuments in Chicago, Illinois, memorializing heroes of the Civil War.

Saint-Gaudens began his association with Cornish, New Hampshire, in 1885 when he and his family began using the property that today comprises Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as their summer residence. The presence of the famous sculptor in Cornish attracted a variety of other artists to the area, forming the Cornish Colony of Artists, one of the earliest examples of an unplanned artist colony in the United States. The colony included painters, sculptors, authors, poets, playwrights, musicians, architects, and many other artistic disciplines, and during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, served as the summer White House.

In addition to the Saint-Gaudens estate, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site also includes the Blow-Me-Down Farm, historically the social hub of the Cornish Colony, which was added to the park via a donation from the park’s partner group, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, in 2010. This addition expanded the park’s interpretive themes beyond Augustus Saint-Gaudens and his work

to include the full range of artists and artistic disciplines, as well as the historical impact of the Cornish Colony.

Generally, National Park System units designated as national historic sites tell a discrete story or contain a small number of historic resources related to that story. National Park System units designated as national historical parks have a greater diversity of historical resources and interpretive themes and may be spread out over non-contiguous lands. The addition of the Blow-Me-Down Farm to the park in 2010 added new historical resources and interpretive themes to Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. This increased scope provides a basis for supporting redesignating this park as a national historical park. The name "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park" would incorporate the word "park" into the title, and it would better reflect the broad historical context and resource diversity found at this park, while conforming to naming conventions for National Park System units.

Chairman Daines, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer questions that you or other members of the committee might have.

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 355, A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A LIFETIME NATIONAL RECREATION PASS FOR ANY VETERAN WITH A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.**

**July 19, 2017**

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 355, a bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.

The Department supports S. 355 with amendments that are discussed later in this statement. We believe that the brave men and women who are disabled as a result of their service to our nation in the armed forces should be assured of their eligibility for free entrance to our national parks and other federal public lands. This legislation would provide that assurance.

S. 355 would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make the lifetime National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, without cost, to any veteran with a service-connected disability. S. 355 would further require the Secretary to offset any direct spending authorized under this authority to provide disability discounts using any additional amounts made available to the Secretary for the applicable fiscal year.

Although veterans with service-connected disabilities are not specifically mentioned in FLREA, our nation's veterans who are disabled may already be eligible for a free pass called the Access Pass. This pass provides free admission for permanently disabled U.S. citizens, regardless of past military service, to parks and public lands that charge entrance fees. To be eligible for the free lifetime Access Pass, FLREA requires proof of disability as defined by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Department is sensitive to concerns that there may be some confusion among veterans about whether the Rehabilitation Act's definition of disabled individuals includes veterans with any percentage of service-connected disability. By specifying service-connected disabilities in the law, the intent of S. 355 is to affirm that any service-connected disabled veteran is eligible for the same pass as any other individual with a permanent disability.

The Department recommends that S. 355 be amended in two areas.

Section 2(a) states that eligibility for a free pass for disabled veterans is based on "a service-connected disability as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code". Section 101

defines “service-connected” but not “disability”. We believe that this section should be clarified to ensure that there is no question that every veteran with any percentage of service-connected disability qualifies for the free lifetime pass. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to clarify this language.

Section 2(b) would require the Secretary to offset any direct spending caused by the new authority for issuing Access Passes with funds made available to the Secretary. We would note that, as this bill reaffirms an existing practice, we do not expect that it would generate any significant direct spending. However, we are concerned that this provision would create a complex administrative burden for agencies because it would be difficult to determine and quantify the number of additional Access Passes that are being issued as a result of the enactment of this bill. We strongly urge that the bill be amended to delete section 2(b).

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 391, TO ESTABLISH THE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN NEW YORK, NEW YORK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

July 19, 2017

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 391, to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes.

While the Department understands that a memorial museum at the site of the African Burial Ground National Monument (Monument) was first recommended by a Federal steering committee in 1992, there has been no comprehensive study of the proposal that addresses the purpose, need, feasibility, or cost to establish an associated museum or a study that evaluates alternatives for such a facility. Without having the necessary information to evaluate this proposal, the Department opposes S. 391 at this time.

S. 391 would establish at the African Burial Ground National Monument a memorial museum and educational center to be known as the "African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center" (Museum) to serve as a permanent living memorial to the enslaved who are buried at the African Burial Ground and to other enslaved Africans and African-Americans. The Museum would examine the African cultural traditions brought to the United States by the enslaved and explore in-depth the institution of slavery in the United States and other parts of the world. Many of these themes and concepts are already embraced and presented by the Monument in its present visitor facility and memorial. In the absence of a study or plan that specifically explores this concept, we have little information about how the Museum is meant to relate to the Memorial.

The site encompassed by the Monument is among the oldest, and is the largest known urban burial site of enslaved and free Africans in the United States. The site is one of the most significant archeological discoveries in the 20<sup>th</sup> century – with an estimated 15,000 burials. The Monument provides the opportunity to study, contemplate, and discuss the history and implications of the African Diaspora and redefines and makes accessible to all the history and contributions of Africans in the building of the Americas.

The Monument consists of designed urban space that encompasses a plaza, sculptural elements and seven burial mounds, the location of the re-interred remains from the burial ground. A large 24-foot granite sculpture resembles the prow of a ship and symbolically references the journey from and back home to Africa. Passing through the threshold of the "ship," one encounters a large map depicting the African Diaspora. A spiral ramp provides access back out to the street level past carved symbols from many of the world's religions and African cultural groups.

The visitor center for the Monument opened in February 2010, and is located on the first floor of the Ted Weiss Federal Building at 290 Broadway. The visitor center exhibits are divided into four main topics. The central theme speaks to the experiences, rituals, and customs of the people who used the burial ground. Another area explores the science behind the analysis of the buried remains. A third exhibit area addresses the nature of slavery and the lives of those enslaved. The fourth area examines the activism throughout the New York community that brought the burial ground to the attention of the world and led to its preservation.

This bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to acquire or lease property for the Museum that is located adjacent to the Monument or in any other area of the National Landmark, and to plan, design, and construct the Museum at that location. The Monument would be expanded to incorporate the Museum property, which would nearly double the size of the Monument and require the acquisition or lease of property in a very expensive and complex real estate market. Given ample opportunities for programmatic relationships with the institutions named in this bill, the need for the acquisition of land and the development of a costly new facility is not clear.

S. 391 would direct the Secretary to operate the museum in consultation with the bill's proposed Advisory Council and to assume responsibility for the accession, preservation, restoration, and maintenance of a museum collection. While the National Park Service (NPS) does retain, manage, and curate museum collections, the operation of museums is not part of our normal administrative model. Typically, the NPS has collection repositories that are research-focused but do not function as traditional museums. NPS exhibit spaces are generally interpretive in nature and have few museum objects on display. This is in part because exhibits with accessioned museum objects on display require investment in substantively higher levels of physical security and environmental standards. Such exhibits also require access to professional curatorial staff, which is not available in the NPS workforce. These variables would make it very difficult for NPS to operate or provide support to a museum facility like one that is proposed in this bill.

It is not clear how this museum will relate to or be distinguished from the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, DC. The bill provides broad outlines of subjects that the NMAAHC already includes in their exhibits and directs an association between the NMAAHC and the Museum. This direction has the potential for overlap between the two sites and may be redundant in the representation of certain subjects.

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 841, TO DESIGNATE THE NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM IN COLUMBUS, OHIO.**

**July 19, 2017**

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 841, a bill to designate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio as the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

The Department of the Interior (Department) defers to the Department of Veterans Affairs for a position on S. 841 since the purpose of the legislation is to confer a title on a memorial and museum designed to honor veterans. The memorial is located at a site that is not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and this bill does not provide for any management or funding by the National Park Service.

The Columbus Downtown Development Corporation broke ground on the Veterans Memorial and Museum in December 2015. It is being built with support from the State of Ohio, Franklin County, and private individuals, foundations, and corporations. The museum will become the only one of its kind that exists for the exclusive purpose of interpreting the collective experience of veterans of the United States across all eras, conflicts, and branches of the military. It is expected to open in the summer of 2018.

We are concerned that this legislation proposes the use of the title "national" which could create an expectation among the general public that the memorial and museum has an affiliation with the National Park Service, or at least some connection to the Federal government. This is not the first time the issue of a "national" designation for a non-federal entity has arisen, nor is it likely to be the last. The Department respectfully encourages the committee to be thoughtful and judicious in any decision as to whether an entity that has no association with the Federal government should have a "national" title conferred by Congress.

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 926, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL AS A COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**July 19, 2017**

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 926, a bill to authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 926, as we believe it is important to commemorate the sacrifices made by Members of the Armed Forces who have fought and died in the Global War on Terror. Although the subject matter of the proposed memorial is not consistent with the Commemorative Works Act, we believe that in this case exempting the memorial from time-period requirements for commemorative works, as this bill does, is appropriate.

S. 926 would authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation (Foundation) to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial (Memorial) as a commemorative work, on Federal land in the District of Columbia. This Memorial would commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terror. This bill also prohibits the use of federal funds to establish this Memorial and directs the Foundation to be solely responsible for accepting contributions for, and paying the expenses of, the establishment of the Memorial. Once the memorial is completed, the National Park Service will be responsible for its operation. The annual cost of such operation has not been determined but, as with other recent memorials, would be estimated during the design process, should the memorial be authorized. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation organized under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania whose mission is to establish a national memorial to this conflict.

After September 11, 2001, when the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda initiated a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks on the United States that killed nearly 3,000 people, President George W. Bush declared a worldwide "war on terror." The initial objectives of the Global War on Terror included defeating the terrorists responsible for the September 11 attacks, battling terrorists and dismantling their organizations, and defending U.S. citizens at home and abroad. The War on Terror includes conflicts in Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel) and in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation New Dawn) as well as conflicts throughout the Middle East, Asia, Europe, North America, and Africa. In recent years, the fight against the Islamic terrorist organization ISIS has been included in the Global War on Terror.

The Department notes that Section 3(b) of this bill requires the establishment of the Memorial to generally comply with Chapter 89 of Title 40, United States Code, commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act" (CWA). The CWA provides a process for the establishment of new memorials on certain Federal lands within the District of Columbia. However, the bill exempts the Memorial from the sections of the CWA that require the passage of specific periods of time before a commemorative work may be established. In the case of military conflicts, the period is ten years.

On October 4, 2016, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) reviewed the previous House version of this bill, H.R. 5999, which was introduced in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. On November 29, 2016, the Commission reported to the House Natural Resources Committee that the Global War on Terror was a subject deserving of commemoration, either now or in the future, but that a proposal for commemorating a conflict that had not yet ended was inconsistent with the CWA. However, the Commission also recognized that the nature of warfare has changed since the CWA became law, and that modern conflicts may not have distinct end dates, making it difficult for memorials to these conflicts to comply with the waiting period requirements of the CWA.

The Department supports the concept of a waiting period prescribed by the CWA, as it allows for fuller understanding of the importance of a particular military conflict or other event in the long continuum of our nation's history. However, the waiting period that commences upon the conclusion of the Global War on Terror may not even begin for many years or decades. This is a situation where we believe it is appropriate to waive the waiting period so as to not delay the commemoration of the brave men and women who fought and died many years ago, along with those who continue to fight and die on our behalf today, in the long-lasting War on Terror.

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1073, TO AUTHORIZE ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO CONVEY CERTAIN PROPERTY THAT WAS FORMERLY PART OF SANTA ROSA ISLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT AND THAT WAS CONVEYED TO ESCAMBIA COUNTY SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS ON USE AND RECONVEYANCE.**

July 19, 2017

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's position on S. 1073, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance.

The Department supports S. 1073.

S. 1073 would provide authority to Escambia County to convey property, subject to certain conditions, that it received from the Federal government in 1947. The bill is intended to resolve a longstanding land use issue for the county, which the Department supports.

S. 1073 would supersede the Act of July 30, 1946, which deauthorized the Santa Rosa Island National Monument in the State of Florida and authorized the transfer of the Federal lands administered by the Department of the Interior to Escambia County. The Act of 1946 placed restrictions on the use of the lands, specifying that they must be used for purposes deemed in the public interest, and that they may not be conveyed by Escambia County except to the Federal government or the State of Florida. Pursuant to the 1946 Act, on January 15, 1947, the lands on Santa Rosa Island were transferred to Escambia County. In 1971, the Gulf Islands National Seashore was established, and the boundary of the National Seashore includes all of Santa Rosa Island.

S. 1073 pertains to those portions of Santa Rosa Island within the boundary of, but not owned or managed by, Gulf Islands National Seashore: a nine-mile segment in Escambia County known as Pensacola Beach and a four-mile segment in Santa Rosa County known as Navarre Beach. In 1956, Escambia County leased Navarre Beach to Santa Rosa County. The State of Florida modified the county boundaries in 1991, placing Navarre Beach within the jurisdiction of Santa Rosa County. However, the Navarre Beach lands remained in Escambia County ownership due to the restrictions on reconveyance contained in the 1946 Act.

Communities have been developed at Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach under leases granted by the counties. These are primarily comprised of privately owned residential structures. The developed lands within these communities do not retain any of the natural character and public access that existed at the time of their conveyance from the Federal government. The National

Park Service has no concerns with these developed lands being conveyed into private ownership, thus allowing the counties the benefit of having the lands on the tax rolls and allowing the federal government the benefit of any profits from the conveyances.

Escambia County and Santa Rosa County have also elected to protect certain lands within Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach from development. Through the efforts of the county commissions, these undeveloped portions of Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach have been excluded from commercial or residential development, and remain today in their pristine, natural, condition, providing vital wildlife habitat, guaranteed public access, and outstanding opportunities for public recreation. We support and appreciate the continued efforts of the counties to preserve this wildlife habitat and the recreation opportunities it provides, as many of these undeveloped lands directly adjoin lands owned and managed by Gulf Islands National Seashore, and strongly support maintaining these protections in perpetuity.

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1202, TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARY OF LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**July 19, 2017**

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1202, a bill to modify the boundary of Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in Arkansas, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of this bill.

S. 1202 would amend Public Law 105-356, which established Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site by modifying the park's boundary and expanding the park's authority to enter into cooperative agreements. The proposed boundary modification, which is consistent with the park's General Management Plan (2002), would include seven privately owned residences on South Park Street, consisting of 1.47 acres, within the boundary of the national historic site. The cooperative agreement authority provided by the bill would allow the National Park Service (NPS) to give financial and technical aid to the property owners within the area added to the boundary to preserve the facades and maintain the ambience of the 1957 historic scene. NPS' ability to provide financial and or technical assistance is subject to the availability of appropriations and must be balanced with other competing priorities. The NPS has no plans to purchase these properties. Thus, S.1202 would help preserve the historic scene without adding any new structures to the NPS asset inventory and would not add to the NPS deferred maintenance backlog.

Little Rock Central High School and the surrounding neighborhood stand as a testament to the effort to end racially segregated public schools in the United States. The area provided the setting for one of the most prominent examples of brave individuals who struggled to implement the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The admission of nine black students to Central High School in 1957 drew national and international attention, and was the first fundamental test of the nation's resolve to enforce black civil rights in the face of significant public defiance.

In recognition of the importance of Central High School in the history of the United States, the site was designated by the Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark in 1982, and in 1998, it was established by Congress as Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park System to be administered by the NPS in partnership with Little Rock School District and the City of Little Rock. In 1996, the surrounding neighborhood, including seven privately owned houses on the east side of South Park Street, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Central High School Neighborhood Historic District. The designation recognized the neighborhood's association with the significant events of 1957 and the architectural characteristics and qualities that remain relatively unchanged from that period.

Images of the South Park Street properties are inextricably associated with the 1957 events. As images of the Little Rock Nine, crowds of protestors, public, and National Guardsmen appeared in newspapers across the nation and were broadcast live through the emerging media of television, the neighborhood became as recognizable as the high school itself. Because South Park Street in front of Central High School retains a high degree of historical integrity, this legislation would provide a unique opportunity to preserve a setting that will allow visitors to more accurately visualize the events that occurred there in 1957 when the Little Rock Nine attempted to attend Central High School.

This bill would authorize the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with private property owners of the South Street properties. This authority would allow the NPS to use the park's operational funds to mark, interpret, improve, restore, and provide technical assistance for the preservation and interpretation of the properties. It would also allow the NPS to assist the homeowners in applying for federal grants. The cooperative agreements would include a provision specifying that no changes or alterations shall be made to the exterior of the properties, except by mutual agreement, in order preserve the historic character of the properties.

All the property owners and several community members have expressed their support for this proposal, including the Central High Neighborhood, Inc., and Preserve Arkansas.

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1403, TO AMEND THE PUBLIC LAND CORPS ACT OF 1993 TO ESTABLISH THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS TO PLACE YOUTH AND VETERANS IN NATIONAL SERVICE POSITIONS TO CONSERVE, RESTORE, AND ENHANCE THE GREAT OUTDOORS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**July 19, 2017**

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1403, to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to establish the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps to place youth and veterans in national service positions to conserve, restore, and enhance the great outdoors of the United States, and for other purposes.

The Department recommends that Congress defer action on S. 1403 until we have an opportunity to review all of the Department's youth programs and determine the most cost-effective strategies for engaging children, youth, and young adults in our nation's great outdoors. This legislation would officially rename the Public Lands Corps as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps, expand the participation of veterans of the U.S. armed forces in the corps, increase the number of Federal agencies that are able to use the program, and authorize a program specifically for Indian youth to carry out projects on tribal lands.

The Department's land management bureaus, along with the U.S. Forest Service, have established successful public-private partnership programs using the authority of the Public Lands Service Corps. Informally, the agencies identify these arrangements as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Service Corps or "21CSC" partnerships, so we believe that converting the Public Lands Corps Act authorities to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Service Corps authorities in statute is appropriate. In addition, a new identity for the program seems appropriate in light of the bill's highlighting of veterans as an eligible group of participants and the extension of the program to multiple Federal agencies beyond the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture.

In the Department of the Interior, using the authority of the Public Lands Corps Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), have collaborated with youth conservation corps on 21CSC projects all across the country. These projects, which are undertaken through the use of cooperative agreements, have ranged from trail maintenance to watershed restoration, historic preservation to forest regeneration, and invasive species removal to front-line services for visitors. The projects have decreased the land management agencies' maintenance backlogs and helped to fill critical staffing gaps. They have also given many young people, including youth from underserved communities and veterans, opportunities to gain in-demand skills for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace. Through these partnerships, the bureaus have been able to generate an interest among

young people in pursuing careers in public land management, which is an increasingly important aspect of the program as growing numbers of Federal employees become eligible for retirement.

A few specific examples of public-private partnerships help illustrate the success of the 21CSC partnerships:

In Maryland, the NPS Historic Preservation Training Center and a partner organization, Conservation Legacy recently piloted the Traditional Trades Youth Initiative to provide a structured, experiential training opportunity to young adults in traditional construction trades (carpentry, masonry, and woodcrafting). Participants work closely alongside experienced craftspeople, serving as assistants or apprentice level trades workers to learn preservation trades skills while completing projects within parks, such as restoring historic windows and replacing a shingle roof on a barn at Gettysburg National Military Park.

In Oregon and California, the Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) built on a long-standing partnership with the BLM and FWS to expand its internship program and improve outreach to underserved communities, including Native American and Hispanic youth. The combination of KBO's established long-term monitoring program and an intensive bird banding training curriculum foster the integration of youth engagement and professional training. The internships have provided opportunities for training and practical experience in bird monitoring techniques; learning through a well-rounded curriculum in field biology; and attaining bird bander certification through the North American Banding Council.

In Arizona, the Conservation Legacy organization worked with the BIA to lead an eight-person Native American youth crew in completion of natural resource conservation projects on the Navajo Nation. The crew consisted of local area high school students and two adult crew leaders. During the four-week program the crew restored and stabilized Hubble Wash, maintained trails, and repaired and constructed wildlife fencing.

In New Mexico, the Talking Talons Youth Leadership, in partnership with the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), the Bureau of Reclamation, the New Mexico State Land Office, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, Amigos Bravos, Friends of the Valle de Oro, and Friends of the Sandia Mountains provided approximately 560 hours of paid employment for urban and minority youth in conservation work that benefited the public lands and the mission of the Valle de Oro NWR, BOR, and the State of New Mexico. In addition to receiving in-depth education and training in diverse aspects of environmental restoration, monitoring, and stewardship, crew members conducted surface and groundwater quality monitoring and removed invasive vegetation on 80 acres on the refuge and adjacent Federal and state lands.

And, in Maine, the Friends of Acadia hired young people to work on projects with the NPS in Acadia National Park, including engaging the public in raptor viewing opportunities and working on a trail crew mediating trail issues. Many of the youth work experiences occurred in accessible, highly visited areas, such as Sieur de Monts Springs.

S. 1403 would increase the number of Federal departments and agencies authorized to partner with conservation organizations to support and carry out 21CSC projects. In addition to the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, the authorities could be used by the Departments of Transportation, Labor, Energy, Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Commerce; the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and any other agencies as designated by the President. The bill would give participating agencies flexibility to support 21CSC projects in a manner consistent with each agency's mission and resources, while seeking to minimize the duplication of a specific project by another agency. Authorizing these entities to carry out project directly with other agencies would relieve the administrative burden on the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, which currently serve as sponsoring entities for 21CSC projects carried out by Federal entities outside of those two departments. The bill would also require participating agencies to report to Congress to ensure 21CSC activities are carried out in a cost-effective manner.

This bill delineates the categories of projects that could be conducted through a cooperative agreement between an agency and a partner. While the projects are focused on the full range of activities that constitute conservation, restoration and management of public lands and waters, the list includes work that would be conducted primarily inside, such as service in a science, policy, or program internship, which has a clear benefit for natural, cultural, or historic resources or treasures, including interpretation and education services. This will make clear to agencies that manage almost any kind of work related to conservation or restoration that they have the ability to use this program, even if those agencies are not considered land management agencies.

S. 1403 also establishes a 21CSC specifically for Indian youth to participate in projects on tribal lands. This program would be administered through a cooperative agreement with a tribal agency or a 21CSC organization. Guidelines for this program would be issued by the Secretary of the Interior within 18 months of enactment of the bill.

This bill maintains two changes to the Public Lands Corps Act that were passed by Congress in December 2016 as part of the NPS Centennial Act: one providing an upper age limit of 30 for participants (raised from 25), and the other providing a two-year period of eligibility for non-competitive Federal hiring for participants (increased from a period of 120 days) who complete the requirements of the program. These provisions both increase the pool of potential participants and the opportunities for participants who have developed the skills the agencies need to move into permanent Federal positions.

In addition to these changes, the lower end of the age limit for participation would be reduced from 16 to 15. 21CSC organizations would be encouraged to select veterans of age 35 or younger for projects to focus on training young people, but veterans would not have any age limit for participation.

S. 1403 would reduce the cost-share requirement for 21CSC projects from 25 percent to 10 percent, while resource assistants participating through 21CSC organizations would still require a 25 percent cost-share. The Department supports the cost-share requirement reduction for 21CSC projects, which would enable a greater range of organizations such as smaller,

community-based organizations that draw from low-income and rural populations to participate in the 21CSC.

If the committee acts on S. 1403, we recommend an amendment to Section 12. This section retains existing law that allows land management agencies to use direct hire authority to hire former resource assistants who have completed "a rigorous undergraduate or graduate summer internship" and extends that authority to other agencies, we suggest amending this section. As currently written, Section 12 would eliminate the reference to the National Park Service Business Plan Internship as an example of the kind of internship that meets the definition of "rigorous." We think that keeping that phrase in law would maintain the Business Plan Internship as a benchmark for the types of internships that are sufficiently rigorous for interns to be hired by agencies without going through the competitive hiring process. Without maintaining that benchmark, agencies will have a more difficult time determining what internships meet the definition of "rigorous." We would be pleased to provide language to amend this section. Finally, as the Department reviews this legislation more thoroughly and considers it in the context of other programs aimed at youth engagement, we may want to suggest additional amendments.

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1438, TO REDESIGNATE JEFFERSON NATIONAL EXPANSION MEMORIAL IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI AS GATEWAY ARCH NATIONAL PARK.**

**July 19, 2017**

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1438, a bill to redesignate the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in the State of Missouri as the "Gateway Arch National Park."

The Department of the Interior supports renaming the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial to highlight its iconic feature, the Gateway Arch. However, we recommend designating the site as a national monument, to be known as "Gateway Arch National Monument," rather than a national park, in order to be more consistent with National Park Service naming conventions.

The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, located in St. Louis, Missouri, near the starting point of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was designated as a national memorial by Executive Order 7523, on December 21, 1935. The 91-acre park was established to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase, and the subsequent westward movement of American explorers and pioneers. This site played an important part in our nation's debate over slavery, as the Dred Scott case was heard in the Old Courthouse, now included in the memorial's boundaries. The Gateway Arch, designed by world-famous Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen in 1947, and completed in 1965, is the world-recognized symbol of St. Louis, much as the Statue of Liberty National Monument serves that purpose for New York City. The name Jefferson National Expansion Memorial does not readily identify where the memorial is located or the fact that the key feature of the park is the Gateway Arch. Using "Gateway Arch" in the name of the site would make the name immediately recognizable to all citizens and future visitors to St. Louis.

The proposal to rename Jefferson National Expansion Memorial as Gateway Arch National Park is supported by the partners in the City Arch River 2015 alliance, a public-private partnership founded in 2009 to support and coordinate the project to connect, invigorate and expand the arch grounds. The partners that make up the alliance are Jefferson National Parks Association, Bi-state Development, Great Rivers Greenway, Gateway Arch Park Foundation, and the City of St. Louis. After a year of extensive research and public scoping, one of the partners, the CityArchRiver Foundation, changed its name to Gateway Arch Park Foundation, a reflection of how immediately identifiable the name "Gateway Arch" is for the site.

Although we would welcome using the term "Gateway Arch" in the name of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, the National Park Service strives to provide consistency in the naming of park units. To better align with the standard nomenclature for units of the National

Park System, we recommend that Congress redesignate the unit as "Gateway Arch National Monument." National parks contain a variety of resources and encompass large land or water areas to help provide adequate protection of the resources. The existing 59 designated national parks protect at a minimum thousands of acres each, and some span millions of acres. At only 91 federal acres, we believe that the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial is too small and limited in the range of resources the site protects and interprets to be called a national park. Since it is a site similar to the Statue of Liberty National Monument, in its iconic status and small land area, we believe that a more fitting name for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial would be "Gateway Arch National Monument."

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1459, TO ESTABLISH FORT SUMTER AND FORT MOULTRIE NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

July 19, 2017

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, 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. 1459, to establish Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Park in the State of South Carolina, and for other purposes.

The Department of the Interior supports this legislation with amendments described later in this statement. Notably, and as discussed in more detail below, we recommend using the name "Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park."

S. 1459 would redesignate Fort Sumter in a way that would provide well deserved recognition of Fort Moultrie. Although Fort Sumter is the more commonly recognized fort in Charleston Harbor, Fort Moultrie is of great national importance as it is the only site in the National Park System that preserves the history of the Nation's coastal defense system from 1776 through 1947. The bill would also address a longstanding administrative need by officially establishing a boundary and management authority for this unit of the National Park System. The boundary would include not only Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie, but also the Sullivan's Island Life Saving Station Historic District, which is also managed by the National Park Service as part of the park. These resources are associated with important aspects of American history, including the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the development of the United States coastal defense system from 1776 to 1947.

Fort Moultrie interprets coastal fortifications and defense from 1776 to 1947, focusing on the national response to continuing changes in international military technology and the simultaneous growth of the United States' place in world affairs and its concepts of national defense.

Located adjacent to historic Fort Moultrie, Battery Jasper, constructed circa 1899, is part of the Endicott Period System of national coastal defense. Located adjacent to Battery Jasper, Construction 230, constructed circa 1944, is an underground bunker from the World War II era.

Fort Sumter was designated as a national monument and transferred to the Secretary of the Interior from the Secretary of the Army in 1948, by an act of Congress. Authority to administer the site as part of the National Park System was provided in the same law. In contrast, Fort Moultrie, Battery Jasper, Construction 230 (a WWII bunker currently used as a maintenance facility), and the U.S. Coast Guard Life Saving Station were conveyed from the State of South Carolina to the Federal government in 1961 under authority of the 1935 Historic Sites Act, but no boundaries were established and no directives were given to the National Park Service for

managing it. At the time of the conveyance, the Secretary of the Interior did not issue the proper papers to formally include this property within the park boundary. These three structures are listed as contributing features of a National Register Property. As a result, the National Park Service has been managing Fort Moultrie without clear management authority or established boundaries for nearly 60 years.

Although we would welcome including "Fort Moultrie" in the name of the site, the National Park Service strives to provide consistency in the naming of park units. To better align with the standard nomenclature for units of the National Park System, we recommend that Congress redesignate the unit as a national historical park rather than a national park. Generally, a national park contains a variety of resources and encompasses large land or water areas to help provide adequate protection of the resources.

The existing 59 designated national parks protect, at a minimum, thousands of acres each and some span millions of acres. At approximately 235 acres, we believe Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie are too small and limited in the range of resources the sites protect and interpret to be called a national park. We believe that a more fitting name for the park unit would be "Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park."

Additionally, the National Park Service would support the inclusion of language providing the Secretary of the Interior with land acquisition authority within the redesignated boundary of the park. Such authority to acquire lands is common in other national park service units and provides willing sellers of non-federal land within the boundary the opportunity to sell or donate their lands to the federal government. Such an arrangement benefits both the private landowner, who may be interested in selling or donating the land for financial reasons or an interest in furthering the park's ability to tell its story to the public, as well as the park and its visitors. Although the owners of private land within the park's boundary may not have any interest in selling their land at the current time, this authority provides them with the flexibility to make that decision in the future if circumstances change. Before the NPS would seek to acquire any property, whether by purchase, donation, or exchange, we would take into consideration the condition of any structures on the property that would add to the NPS's deferred maintenance backlog. Any funding to purchase land would still be subject to future appropriations from Congress.

Finally, we would request a technical edit to the map reference, in order to substitute a more up-to-date legislative map. We would be happy to work with the sponsor and the committee to develop amendments to address these points.

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

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT VOGEL, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1522, A BILL TO ESTABLISH AN EVERY KID OUTDOORS PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**July 19, 2017**

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Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1522, a bill to establish an Every Kid Outdoors program, and for other purposes.

The Department recommends that Congress defer action on S. 1522 until we have an opportunity to review all of the Department's youth programs and determine the most cost-effective strategies for engaging children, youth, and young adults in our nation's great outdoors.

S. 1522 would establish in statute a program based on the administratively established "Every Kid in a Park," which was an initiative launched during the National Park Service's Centennial in 2016 as one way to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors. To date, Every Kid in a Park has reached over 350,000 fourth graders across the country and has provided an outdoor classroom for teachers and students across our 417 national park sites and other public lands.

S. 1522 would build upon Every Kid in a Park and continue to nurture and create future generations of stewards as they learn about their environment and conservation all while enjoying and recreating in America's great outdoors.

S. 1522 would direct seven specified bureaus in four agencies to jointly establish the Every Kid Outdoors program to provide any United States fourth grader with a pass to gain free access to publicly accessible Federal lands and waters. The bureaus that would establish and administer the program would be the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The student would request a pass which allows the student and accompanying individuals free entry to applicable Federal lands and waters managed by the above-listed agencies. The pass would be valid from September 1 to August 31 of the following year, and would require the student to be present at time of entry for the pass to be honored.

S. 1522 would require the agencies to collaborate with state park systems interested in adopting a complimentary Every Kid Outdoors state park pass. It would also require the agencies to develop and maintain an official Every Kid Outdoors website that would contain essential program information. All the participating agencies would be authorized to provide a variety of visitor services in support of the Every Kid Outdoors program.

The bill would require the agencies to jointly develop an annual report, to be submitted to Congress, describing the implementation and execution of the program in addition to capturing statistical data such as the number and the geographical distribution of students who participated in the program, and the number of passes obtained and redeemed. If the bill were enacted, execution of its requirements would be subject to the availability of appropriations and would need to be balanced with other competing priorities.

In developing the Every Kid in a Park program, the Department focused on children 10 years of age—the age of most fourth graders—based on research that indicated children ages 9-11 are at a unique developmental stage in their learning where they begin to understand how the world around them works in more concrete ways. At this stage, they are highly receptive to new ideas and most likely to hold positive attitudes towards nature and the environment. By targeting this age group year after year, the program aims to ensure every child in the United States has the opportunity to visit their Federal lands and waters by the time he or she is 11 years old, thereby establishing a lifelong connection to enjoy and protect our American outdoor heritage.

If the committee acts on this bill, we recommend that the committee amend the bill in several areas: to include home-schooled students; to better define “access” to public lands; and to allow coordination with the Department of Education. We would be happy to work with the sponsors and the committee on language for these amendments.

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

Senator DAINES. Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Vogel. I will start off with some questions here.

Like I mentioned in my opening testimony, I agree with Senator Ernst and Ranking Member Hirono and the other 19 co-sponsors of Senate bill 926. It is important we commemorate the ongoing sacrifices being made by those who have given so much, many the ultimate sacrifice, in the global war on terror.

One of the key discussions I think we do need to have with this legislation is the unique nature of the global war on terror itself. I think we can all agree that the nature of modern warfare has changed so that it can be difficult to figure out how to commemorate a conflict that has lasted nearly two decades at this point without, truly, a clear end in sight. Certainly, a different set of circumstances than a building say, that would be the World War II or the Martin Luther King Memorial.

Setting aside the exemptions that this legislation would require from the Commemorative Works Act for a moment, does the NPS have any specific suggestions as to how we might proceed in terms of the process for this memorial which faces some unique challenges? How might we appropriately approach that?

Let me throw something out. For example, would NPS accept the current definition of global war on terror as defined in the legislation or would you wish to defer to the Department of Defense (DoD) on that issue? If you agree to waive the waiting period requirement do you anticipate this hitting a problematic precedent in relation to other proposed commemorative works?

Mr. VOGEL. Well, Mr. Chairman, the Department does value and support, in general, the waiting period for commemorative works as established in the Commemorative Works Act in 1986. However, I think that we might all agree that the nature of military conflict has changed in the last 30 years and the Department recognizes that the global war on terror really does not conform to how military conflicts were once understood.

While the nation hopes, of course, for a clear end to this ongoing war, it is apparent that it's not going to end soon and that a sustained and potentially war effort remains ahead of us. So it would not do justice to those who served and died in a conflict that started almost 16 years ago, to wait for decades to honor their service.

I think we do recognize the unique nature of this while we still very much support the overall time restrictions in the Commemorative Works Act. I think we would recognize that this is a unique situation.

Senator DAINES. In terms of perhaps deferring to DoD on this issue, is that something that we might pursue, do you suggest, to define the global war on terror?

Mr. VOGEL. I think we certainly would work with the Department of Defense on defining that and we've done some initial work and again, I think we recognize that it's gone on for at least 16 years, but we would work with them to identify the key five operations that we've already identified related to the global war on terror.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Vogel, I want to shift gears and talk about Senate bill 391. As written this would add a museum in lower Manhattan to the existing African Burial Ground National Monu-

ment. The Monument as it exists today includes an outdoor site that commemorates and interprets the large gravesite as well as a visitor center in the nearby General Services Administration (GSA)-owned building that interprets the site further and provides a comprehensive story of enslaved persons in New York history. The question is this: do you consider the current outdoor site and the visitor's center for the current African Burial Ground National Monument as insufficient to tell the story behind the significance?

Mr. VOGEL. I think at the current time we do feel that it is sufficient and I think we are willing to consider the proposed legislation in the future, but we need to do some initial planning.

We certainly have our new African American Museum here in Washington, DC, that tells some of the same stories. And I think we need to go through a complete planning process to determine, fully, what this additional proposal would be like.

Senator DAINES. Do you believe, or I should say, does the NPS believe that the site's purpose should be expanded in scope?

Mr. VOGEL. I think at the current time we feel that the current scope is adequate to telling this very important story to our nation.

Senator DAINES. My last question, then I am going to turn the gavel over to Senator Hirono here as we have a vote that has been called.

Senate bill 391 proposed a partnership between the Smithsonian, the NPS and GSA. Is there anything preventing the NPS from entering such a partnership if it was an interest to the U.S. without the passage of S. 391?

Mr. VOGEL. There is nothing that would prohibit us from doing that.

Senator DAINES. So, said another way, doesn't the NPS already have the authority to enter into partnerships with other units of government and/or non-profit organizations?

Mr. VOGEL. We indeed do have the authority. In fact, we work with both of those organizations in a number of ways in cooperative agreements.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Mr. Vogel.

I will turn the gavel here over to Senator Hirono.

Senator HIRONO [presiding]. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Vogel, thank you very much for supporting 7 of the 12 bills that are on the agenda today.

With regard to your position or the Department's position to defer action on two of these bills, S. 1403 and S. 1522, both having to do with youth programs and supporting youth engagement in our parks, are you undergoing such a review now, and what is the timeframe? With regard to both of these bills, are you reviewing the programs that are encompassed in these bills? Are you doing a review of these programs, and what are you focusing on in your review of these youth programs?

Mr. VOGEL. Well, we are not undergoing a formal review of either program, so we can't give you any exact timeframe. But certainly with the change in Administration, it's a normal process for us to want to look at these programs and to get a full extent of what they currently are and what are the most cost-efficient and effective ways to provide services to our youth.

We've had, as the testimony indicates, we've had great success with the Every Kid in a Park Program and, of course, that is still continuing through the end of August. And we've had great support with our Corps Network. And so, we're hopeful that we will still have robust youth programming in the Department of the Interior. I think we just need a little bit more time to fully vet the existing programs and to figure out our approach in the future.

Senator HIRONO. Do you have a list of all of the existing programs that impact youth in our country with regard to your mission?

Mr. VOGEL. I do not have that with me. We certainly have a wide variety of incredible programs.

Senator HIRONO. Could you provide the Committee with such a list?

Mr. VOGEL. Absolutely.

Senator HIRONO. Of course, to the extent that you can coordinate with other departments, for example, the Department of Education, with your review, I hope you will undergo that because I think that these programs have proven themselves to be worthy of support and that you do undergo the review in an expeditious way so that these programs can be continued. And while you are at it, will you coordinate with other departments that would have an interest in supporting our young people's experiences?

Mr. VOGEL. Yes, Senator, in fact we are definitely planning on engaging with the Department of Education on these efforts.

Senator HIRONO. Also, with regard to S. 1403, I think you should consult with The Corps Network. That is another group.

S. 1522, again, which authorizes the Every Kid Outdoors Program, builds on the Department's Every Kid in a Park initiative that was put in place a few years ago. My understanding is that the Department's initiative was very popular and was considered to be successful in introducing fourth graders to our national parks and other public lands. As I said, I hope that since this program has proven itself that the deference of support for this program, I hope, is something that is going to be resolved. We would like to have these programs continue expeditiously.

Can you comment on the National Park Service's experience with the Every Kid in a Park initiative and from your perspective how effective was this program in introducing our young people to our parks?

Mr. VOGEL. From my perspective it's been a very effective program and we've reached hundreds of thousands of young people in the fourth grade in not only engaging the students, but bringing their families along with them to learn about our national parks.

And again, I think the Department indicates that it's been very successful, but we, again, would like to, again, do a full assessment of the program and perhaps add language, again, for the Secretary of Education to collaborate with the other secretaries involved and perhaps include homeschooled students in the language and to better define the access to public lands and waters. So I think we want to just defer that until we have a little bit more time to assess the program.

Senator HIRONO. You indicated that this is a normal kind of an assessment that all of the departments are doing with regard to on-

going programs. I do not know where the review of your youth programs falls within the purview of all the other programs that you are reviewing. So where does it fall in terms of your priority for review?

Mr. VOGEL. I really don't have a timeframe. Again, we haven't undergone a formal review process. I would hope that it would be an expeditious review, but I don't have a timeframe for that. I apologize.

Senator HIRONO. Are you going to be developing a timeframe?

Mr. VOGEL. Yes, we will.

Senator HIRONO. And when you do that could you let—

Mr. VOGEL. We, of course, will let you know.

Senator HIRONO. —our Committee know so that we can make sure that we are on the same page?

My time is up.

Senator Heinrich.

Senator HEINRICH [presiding]. Thank you.

I think our Ranking Member has been very diplomatic in her language around this. I would hope that we could do more than hope.

You said this is a very effective program. I want to speak, not just to S. 1522 but also to S. 1403, because the bill introduced by Senators McCain, Bennet and Udall to establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps as well as the Every Kid Outdoors Act have a long history of success.

You said Every Kid Outdoors is a very effective program, and we have had great success. So why should we put these programs in jeopardy while investing precious National Park Service resources and money into another bureaucratic review?

Mr. VOGEL. Well, I wouldn't necessarily say that the programs are in jeopardy. I think that the hearing came up on fairly short notice and the Department has just asked for additional time to review so that we could come up with a formal position on it.

Senator HEINRICH. How much time do you need?

Mr. VOGEL. I can't answer that, but I would think that we would be trying to do it expeditiously. And I certainly can provide a timeframe to—

Senator HEINRICH. Mr. Vogel, what does that mean, expeditiously? Are we talking about a few days, a few weeks, a few months? If you are going to ask for time you should know how much you need.

Mr. VOGEL. I would think it would take several months to complete the review looking at all of the other programs that we're currently under review on. We certainly can provide a clearer timeframe.

Senator HEINRICH. So I know we have a vote on the Floor. There are a number of points I was going to make; however, I think I am going to wrap up my comments and say that on behalf of those of us who have worked on these issues that government can always find a reason not to do something and they can always find a reason to do the bureaucratic thing. I would hope that we would take this opportunity rather to do the right thing. I hope the Committee will choose not to defer these bills.

I want to commend Senators McCain, Bennet and Udall on their work on the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps bill; I want to commend Senator Alexander on his work with me on Every Kid Outdoors; and I hope this Committee will move expeditiously, as well as being willing to work with you on actual underlying criticisms of these legislations.

Senator Portman, ready to take the baton?

Senator PORTMAN. Yes.

Senator HEINRICH. Yes.

Senator PORTMAN [presiding]. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate it.

First of all, thank you for being here, Mr. Vogel.

As you know, I have been focused on the backlog of the Park Service for some time and we have been able to help in small ways with the Centennial Initiative which we got passed at the end of last year, I think at five o'clock in the morning. We are looking forward to proactive implementation of that legislation, including getting more public-private partnership dollars in both for the Park Service directly and for the Foundation which can then help on the backlog.

I want to talk to you about another issue as well and that is new legislation, the National Park Service Legacy Act that Senator Warren and I have introduced. Do you support that?

Mr. VOGEL. Well, I think that we very much appreciate your interest in deferred maintenance and we share your concern that it's a significant issue for us. And I think that we would just respectfully request a little additional time to figure out our position on that.

Senator PORTMAN. It would be a huge shot in the arm for the Park Service. The number that I hear most frequently is \$12 billion which is a big number, eye-popping really. Senator Warren and I think that this is a way for us to go beyond what we were able to do in the Centennial Initiative and really provide the Park Service the ability to deal with the backlog.

Let me ask you about another issue. As you may know, in Columbus, Ohio, there is a National Veterans Memorial being designed right now. I have been there. I have seen the site. It is spectacular, and it is a classic example of a public-private partnership, heavy on the private side. In fact, \$75 million has already been contributed from private foundations, individuals and corporations to make this museum a reality.

What it does is it holds up the veteran, in every respect. It is a beautiful design, but once the interior is completed and the exhibits are there I think it will be something that will be able to both honor and connect us to veterans but also inspire and educate Americans to the importance of service and the sacrifice that our veterans have made will be highlighted.

I am really excited about it and we are home, in Ohio, to the sixth largest veteran population in the country. In fact, Columbus was the birthplace of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the first organization to represent all U.S. veterans who fought overseas. We are also home to a lot of military bases, as you know, including Wright Patterson Air Force Base which is the largest logistical base in the

country. So we think we are well situated to be able to have this museum there.

I noticed in your testimony you expressed some concerns about designating this as a national museum. Let me ask you one question, again, having worked on your backlog for years now, going back to my days at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Does the National Park Service intend to create a new unit of the National Park Service, similar to the veteran's museum being built in Columbus, that will honor the lives and history of our nation's veterans?

Mr. VOGEL. We do not, and it certainly seems like an incredible and worthwhile endeavor. I think we would just defer to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) since it really doesn't use any of our lands and have direct involvement with the National Park Service. It does sound like a very worthwhile endeavor.

Senator PORTMAN. Well, I appreciate your saying that. I would just hope that, at the very least, the Park Service would not stand in the way of us raising private dollars to be able to do such a worthy mission, as you have talked about. We would appreciate your not making it more difficult for us to designate this as a national museum and to get this legislation that we have completed.

So I thank you for that comment and I thank you for your willingness to be helpful in honoring our veterans and also your work with us on the appropriate way to deal with the backlog, in addition to what we were able to do in the Centennial Act.

I am told that this hearing is now going to be in recess until Senator Daines returns. I do not have a gavel, so I will take Senator Hoeven's nameplate.

We are officially in recess until the return of the Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Vogel.

[RECESS.]

Senator KING [presiding]. —there seems to be no real, serious effort to coordinate the way these things work together. In fact, I was in a hearing before coming here with the proposed Deputy Director of the National Intelligence Office. I suggested, perhaps, the Intelligence community could design a schedule for us so that we do not have so many conflicts.

Mr. VOGEL. That's perfectly alright.

Senator KING. I appreciate your being here. I look forward to working with you.

I think there are several provisions of the Acadia bill that are important to discuss. One is the worming and clamming issue. There was worming and clamming in that intertidal zone long before anybody ever thought of Acadia National Park. We have to get that worked out because it is a traditional and important business for people in that region. I understand the Park Service concern about the breadth of the language, so I will look forward to working with you on that. Secretary Zinke has given me his commitment to work with us on this issue, and I hope we can get it resolved in this bill. If you want to state your concerns for the record, I think that might be helpful.

Mr. VOGEL. Absolutely.

We do support, with conditions, permitting the long tradition of harvesting of clams and worms at Acadia, but only if such har-

vesting can be kept at the minimum levels in which it occurs now and where the activity occurs, as it does now, by non-mechanized means and in small numbers of locations.

However, the language of Section 8 extends authority for harvesting far beyond what is needed to allow traditional harvesting of clams and worms. So we do have some concerns about expanding the harvesting to other marine organisms or to aqua culture activity and believe that not only should intertidal harvesting be limited to clams and worms, using non-mechanized methods, but considering the 3.3 million visitors coming to Acadia last year and the sensitive nature of the intertidal area, that these activities should be subject to those regulations and rules that the Secretary deems necessary to protect the important park resources and, of course, the safety of our park visitors.

Senator KING. Well, I think that you use the term minimum or minimal. I think we would prefer the use of the term traditional.

Mr. VOGEL. Yes.

Senator KING. The idea, I think, as we all agree is to allow traditional clamming, worming, and periwinkles, as has been used. The discussion is about mechanized and about other types of marine organisms, perhaps seaweed and those kinds of things. So we will follow up on those discussions and work with you, but I hope that it is the position of the Department that the traditional uses are to be allowed.

Mr. VOGEL. Very much so, Senator.

Senator KING. Thank you.

There was one part of the testimony that puzzled me a little bit. In 1986, there was a provision in the statute to transfer \$350,000 from the Park Service to the local communities to participate in waste disposal. The idea was to create a waste facility. That is no longer the case, but they are now talking about a transfer station and here you mentioned 3.3 million visitors—that is a lot of waste.

For some reason the Department has never made that transfer. We should have put interest in that bill in 1986, but is there some reason? This is a funding requirement in the law, and I hope we can work with the Department to see that this transfer is made, subject to appropriations.

Mr. VOGEL. My understanding is, indeed, it was authorized but it was never funded. And I guess the facility wasn't fully brought into operation.

We do pay a tipping fee to the local municipality for all of the waste generated by park visitors. The Department really doesn't believe that this type of subsidy for municipal waste disposal is an appropriate use of federal funds, so we do oppose that section.

Senator KING. But I presume since it has already been authorized in law, if it's appropriated you would spend it according to the appropriation?

Mr. VOGEL. I believe we would have to, yes, sir.

Senator KING. Thank you. That was the right answer. I appreciate your testimony.

There is one other area of discussion and that is you are requesting greater authority for boundary transfers. I think the problem that we have with that is that that is, sort of, what got us into this in the first place in terms of the communities not being involved

in the enlargement of the park. That is the sensitivity in the area, and I think that is a provision that, perhaps, should be in different legislation or there should be a different way to approach it, but I am reluctant to include that here because that would take us back into the problem that brought about the 1986 legislation—that is the expansion of the park without authorization of Congress.

Mr. VOGEL. I think we would be happy to work with you and the Committee on that, Senator. Our goal is in the small boundary adjustment, authority would, of course, require us to work with the local communities and, of course, give notification to Congress.

We find throughout the Park Service that we frequently have some odd situations of a few acres here or there that are irregular or someone builds a garage inadvertently and we discover 10 years later that it's on federal property. And so, it gives us some leeway to adjust the boundaries. And we, in no way, are intending to do that without consulting with the local community or Congress.

Senator KING. Well, we will have to discuss that position further with the Department.

Mr. VOGEL. Certainly.

Senator KING. There is a famous story about the man who lived on the Maine-New Hampshire border, and he was 80 years old. They resurveyed and found out that all these years he had been in New Hampshire. They asked him what he felt about that new survey and he said, "I'm really delighted because I don't think I could have taken another one of those Maine winters."

[Laughter.]

Mr. VOGEL. I like that story.

Senator KING. Thank you, Mr. Vogel.

Senator DAINES [presiding]. Thank you, Senator King.

Mr. Vogel, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, there is a veteran's crew working in Glacier National Park as we speak, as well as several other Veteran Corps working around the country, mostly on Forest Service land. The Montana Conservation Corps has done some great work in our state.

I am interested in learning more about how this legislation might help veterans and other young people. In Montana, we have one of the highest per capita veteran populations in the United States. So how might this help veterans, other young people and expand employment opportunities while also doing something very important, and that is reducing the threat of wildfires. Can you expand upon how the National Park Service might use this legislation to pair those opportunities?

Mr. VOGEL. Well, I think we have used this authority and should the Department decide to continue with it, I think there's a number of ways that we could partner, continue to partner and expand our involvement with veterans in all sorts of ways and certainly in wildfire remediation.

As we've all discussed here we have enormous maintenance projects and backlogs, and we have successfully used these corps to help us in our critical work there in a cost-efficient way and in a way that provides important skills to members of the crews. In backlog maintenance and providing more recreation and access to our park lands and certainly can be useful in our rural workforce

development too. So I think we've had some great successes in the past.

Senator DAINES. To follow up, we have focused a great amount on this Committee on the—there are two words that I hear a lot as relates to our national parks as I travel to our national parks. I have one of the park season passes there in my pickup back home. We are passionate about our parks, and we get to them a lot. But it is the words “deferred maintenance.” It is not the most exciting topic to talk about, but arguably it is one of the critical issues facing our national parks today. We have this huge backlog in the National Park Service.

While a big portion of that can be attributed to roads, there is still a significant amount that can be accounted for in general infrastructure, trails and overall preservation. And corps, like the Montana Conservation Corps in my home state, have partnered with concessionaries to leverage private-public funds to try to accomplish some of these projects while providing essential workplace skills to young adults at the same time. I will tell you, nothing is better training than just doing hard work which is part of the process.

Can you talk more about how this legislation might help the National Park Service and the existing corps facilitate more backlog and maintenance projects generally getting accomplished? And the follow-up is, do you feel that this legislation might, even in a minor way, work toward stretching the NPS budget a bit further or contributing to reducing the deferred maintenance backlog?

Mr. VOGEL. Well, certainly if we continue with this program, I think we would want to make sure that it's an incredibly cost-efficient program. And I think it could be, certainly using young people and engaging people that are part-time employees is an incredibly effective way that can provide critical job training and helping us in our myriad of projects throughout the country in deferred maintenance. So I think if we continue the program, that's part of the evaluation that we want to do is find out, you know, the most cost-effective, efficient way to continue the programs. But certainly, use of young people and job corps would be one way that we have been very effective in making cost-effective inroads into our deferred maintenance.

Senator DAINES. Last question and then I am going to turn to a second round here for the other members.

As our military continues to protect us from ever-changing global risks, we are united across all 50 states, across the aisle, supporting our veterans who have shared in sacrificing for the freedoms that we all enjoy here today and we take them for granted, frankly.

I think Senate bill 355 is well-intended, but I want to make sure we do not create any additional administrative burdens for veterans or create an unnecessary cost in this process. I know some changes have been made to the language in the legislation this last Congress, but here is the question. What would currently prohibit a disabled veteran from obtaining a free access pass?

Mr. VOGEL. There, in our opinion, really is nothing that would prohibit anyone from getting the pass now. And so, again, that's

some of our questions. We just want to clarify it. We certainly are very supportive of veterans having—

Senator DAINES. So the question then is, how would the bill provide additional benefits to the existing access pass for a disabled veteran?

Mr. VOGEL. I guess that's our question. We would like to evaluate the bill further and work with the Committee for some clarification on it to make sure that we are able to truly define disabled veterans and certainly wouldn't want a veteran to arrive at an entrance station and have to provide some paperwork which they might not have with them and somehow deny them access. So we would like to work with the Committee to clarify that.

Senator DAINES. Do you think—and this is my last question, then I will be done.

Would implementing this legislation require additional funding or staff in your agency?

Mr. VOGEL. I don't think so. I'd have to defer on that a little bit. I can get you an answer.

Senator DAINES. Okay.

Thank you.

Ranking Member Hirono.

Senator HIRONO [presiding]. Let me just follow up on S. 355, the veteran passes.

Currently anyone with a permanent disability, as I understand it, can get a pass to go to our national parks—those with a permanent disability or total disability. What is the criteria that already exists?

Mr. VOGEL. Really anyone that has a permanent disability can get a park access pass today.

Senator HIRONO. My question is what constitutes permanent disability?

Mr. VOGEL. I think that is part of the clarification that we would like to follow in this. We, generally, are not asking people to provide identification at an entrance station as to, you know, what their disability is.

Senator HIRONO. You are confusing me.

So people, who are not necessarily a veteran, but people with permanent disabilities can already get free passes to our national parks?

Mr. VOGEL. That is correct.

Senator HIRONO. And you already have some kind of process for this to occur?

Mr. VOGEL. Yes, we do.

Senator HIRONO. There should be a definition that you have for what constitutes permanent disability that is showing that someone has to provide in order to get a free pass.

What we are doing with this bill is basically to open the opportunity for people with less than 100 percent disability. This is why I do need to get clarification on the necessity for this bill. We are not looking to just those veterans who have 100 percent permanent disability. We need to get to a certain level of disability.

As we implement something like this, I would think that you would want to figure out ways to work with the VA so that when

they get their ratings for their level of disability, it could be that they would just automatically get a free pass from you all.

There are some things that need to be worked out, and I would want to be working with you on how to get this clarified because I do see a need for this bill.

Mr. VOGEL. Indeed, Senator.

And our guidance comes from the Rehabilitation Act. Our intent is not to keep any veterans with any disability from having free access to the parks. So we would just like to work with you and the Committee to clarify that. I think we have a mutual goal of providing free access to our disabled veterans.

Senator HIRONO. Getting back to the youth programs, Senator Heinrich said that I was very tactful in my questioning of you, but I do not want my tactfulness to be interpreted as somehow being really benign about giving you a timeframe that could result in nothing happening with these kinds of programs.

I would ask you to have a sense of purpose and urgency about supporting these programs. I think it is really critical that the young people in our country have the experience of being in our national parks. There are a lot of cultural aspects to this, and you are creating another generation of people who are going to be very supportive of our parks, and I think that is critical. So, there is a sense of purpose and urgency there.

Mr. VOGEL. Indeed.

Senator HIRONO. Thank you.

Senator Alexander.

Senator ALEXANDER [presiding]. Thank you, Senator.

Senator Daines went to vote.

Senator King, have you had an opportunity to ask questions?

Welcome, I am glad you are here.

Mr. VOGEL. Thank you.

Senator ALEXANDER. Thanks for staying until I could get here.

I was talking with some Senators from the Committee on the Floor of the Senate as we voted and it seems like the thrust of the discussion is that these two programs, the Every Kid Outdoors and the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act, both seem like good ideas to the Park Service. Is that right?

Mr. VOGEL. I think they have historically proven to be a benefit to the Service.

Senator ALEXANDER. Right.

But the question is how best to implement them, right?

Mr. VOGEL. Yes.

Senator ALEXANDER. I have a couple of suggestions about that. It boils down to this—red teams and pilot programs. And let me say what I mean by that. At Oak Ridge we have a huge facility called the Uranium Processing Facility which was going out of control in terms of spending. It is eventually going to cost \$6.5 billion, but Senator Feinstein and I asked the Department to create a red team to take a look at how to bring the spending under control. They asked the head of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to do it. He got 14 or 15 people around the country who knew what they were talking about. They met for about two and a half months and came back with a recommendation that basically solved the problem.

We asked them to do it again with a red team on the MOX facility in South Carolina, and they came back with a recommendation in about two and a half months that, in my view, would solve the problem, although the problem is not yet solved.

My point is the normal government way of solving problems takes a long time, but in those examples they were able to move quickly, like within two or three months.

Why not ask the Secretary to appoint a red team, somebody who knows a lot about parks, conservation service, these programs, assemble a group of 12 or 15 people informally, to take a look at it and recommend what to do and get it done in say, 90 days? Would that work?

Mr. VOGEL. I would be more than happy to take your recommendation back to the Secretary, and I feel comfortable in saying that he is committed to doing an expeditious review of this and that we could hopefully, soon, provide a formal position on this.

Senator ALEXANDER. The other thing you might consider are pilot programs. Typically in government, if McDonald's wants to introduce a new gravy, it doesn't introduce it everywhere in the country. It tries it out in Pittsburgh for a while to see whether people like it or not.

These are not brand new ideas or ideas you know a lot about. The questions just are how best to implement them—with a new Administration, decision-making may take a while. Maybe the red team could say why don't we start out with these five, you know, let's start out in five different places.

Let's go to the Smokies, for example, where fourth graders can already get in free because there is no entrance requirement. But let's expand the Conservation Corps there, operate it for a year and see how it works before we try it everywhere else, or let's go to Yellowstone and do it.

So my suggestion is, since it has broad, bipartisan support and since these are two ideas that make obvious good sense to everybody, that maybe a red team type of review that could be done in 90 days and to begin with some action rather than waiting to decide how to apply every single place in the United States, might be a sensible way to get started. What about that?

Mr. VOGEL. It sounds like an interesting approach and I, again, would be happy to take that back to the Secretary and see if we could make that happen.

Senator ALEXANDER. Well, I would appreciate your doing that because I know the Secretary is action-oriented and sometimes it takes doing things a little bit differently to get that kind of result.

I grew up, basically, in the national parks and I live within two miles of the Great Smokies, and my whole life has changed because of it. In scouting we went there every weekend, so I still go there a lot and I see on a regular basis what volunteers can do. We could not keep our trails in good shape and the park in good shape. We have retired people from Florida who come and spend the summer in the Smokies and do all this hard work and then they go back home. They love to do it, and it does not cost us anything.

I would appreciate your taking back to the Secretary the suggestion of, number one, red teams, and number two, pilot programs and broad, bipartisan support for both these ideas.

Mr. VOGEL. Thank you. I will, Senator.

Senator ALEXANDER. Are there further comments by the Senators?

Senator King.

Senator KING. I think my only comment is we love what you do. The national parks are one of the greatest aspects of this country, and they mean so much to so many people.

I just want to express my thanks to the Department and to the National Park Service for the great work that you do, representing the country beautifully all across America. So would you please take that back to the——

Mr. VOGEL. I certainly will, and thank you very much for your continued support of our national parks.

Senator KING. Thank you.

Senator ALEXANDER. Senator Hirono, any further comment?

Senator HIRONO. And my thanks——

Mr. VOGEL. Thank you.

Senator HIRONO. Our parks provide opportunities for being with nature to everyone in our country. So as we say in Hawaii, Mahalo.

Mr. VOGEL. Thank you.

Senator ALEXANDER. Thank you, Senator Hirono.

Thank you, Mr. Vogel, for your work for our country——

Mr. VOGEL. Thank you.

Senator ALEXANDER. ——and on America's best idea.

The record will remain open for 10 days so that the Senators and others can submit information, if they wish.

The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:20 a.m. the hearing was adjourned.]

**APPENDIX MATERIAL SUBMITTED**

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**U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
July 19, 2017 Hearing: Pending Legislation  
Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. Robert Vogel**

**Questions from Chairman Lisa Murkowski**

**Question 1:** During the hearing, a question was posed regarding S. 355, the “Wounded Veterans Recreation Act of 2017.” Subcommittee Chairman Daines asked if anything would currently prohibit a disabled veteran from obtaining a free Access pass, to which you responded, “nothing now.” Please describe, in detail, the current process for any disabled veteran interested in obtaining an Access pass.

**Answer:**

A disabled veteran may obtain an Access Pass one of two ways: either at a Federal recreation site where entrance or standard amenity fees are charged, or through the mail.

Regardless of whether the pass is obtained on site or by mail, the applicant must have identification to verify that he or she is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, which could include:

- a U.S. State- or Territory-issued Driver’s License, Identification or Birth Certificate;
- a U.S. Passport or Passport Card; or
- a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

The applicant must also have documentation that he or she has a permanent disability, which could include:

- a statement signed by a licensed physician attesting that they have a permanent physical, mental, or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, and stating the nature of the impairment; or,
- a document issued by a Federal agency, such as the Veteran’s Administration, which attests that they have been medically determined to be eligible to receive Federal benefits as a result of blindness or permanent disability. Other acceptable Federal agency documents include proof of receipt of Social Security Disability Income or Supplemental Security Income; or,
- a document issued by a state agency such as the vocational rehabilitation agency, which attests that they have been medically determined to be eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation agency benefits or services as a result of medically determined blindness or permanent disability. Note: a state motor vehicle department disability sticker, license plate or hang tag is not considered acceptable documentation.

To obtain an Access Pass through the mail, the applicant must complete an application, provide a photocopy of proof of citizenship or residency and documentation of disability, and pay a \$10 processing fee.

To obtain an Access Pass at a Federal recreation site, no application form or processing fee is necessary. When the disabled individual arrives at the recreation site, the Federal employee

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selling the pass will verify the individual's documentation of disability and citizenship or legal residency.

If the individual claims eligibility for the Access pass, but cannot produce the documentation outlined above, the applicant must read, sign, and date a Statement of Disability form in the presence of the Federal employee issuing the pass. If the applicant cannot read and/or sign the statement, someone else may read, date, and sign the statement on the applicant's behalf and in presence of the applicant and the Federal employee issuing the pass.

The Federal employee issuing the Interagency Access Pass does not evaluate whether the applicant is permanently disabled; the employee only assesses whether adequate documentation, or a signature on the Statement of Disability form, has been provided by the applicant.

**Question 2:** Regarding S. 391, if the proposed Museum were to become a unit of the National Park Service, what do you project the annual operating costs to be for the NPS? Does the NPS have the funds within its current budget to cover these costs?

Answer: Based on the current annual operating budget for the visitor center and the needs of the existing site, we estimate that annual operating costs for the park with the addition of the proposed Museum could range from \$3 million to \$3.5 million per year. The current annual operating budget for the park is \$1.98 million. The NPS does not have funds within its current budget to cover either the one-time establishment cost or the recurring annual costs associated with the proposed Museum.

**Question 3:** Regarding S. 391, do you expect that the expansion and addition of a Museum would add to the NPS deferred maintenance backlog? If so, by how much?

Answer: The expansion of the site with the addition of a Museum would not directly add to the NPS deferred maintenance backlog. However, the significant costs to establish the Museum would draw funding away from existing park and regional needs, including deferred maintenance, which would result in an increased maintenance backlog for the NPS.

We are unable to quantify how much the NPS deferred maintenance backlog would increase if funding was directed to establishing and operating the proposed Museum. However, it is evident that establishing the Museum would entail a significant cost due to the lack of available space close to the existing site and the nature of the highly competitive and expensive real estate market in New York City. In addition to the cost of acquiring property, the new structure itself would be expensive to build and operate, and over time it could contribute significantly to the deferred maintenance backlog. Comparable NPS sites that include museums have current replacement values for those museums ranging from \$27 million (Independence National Historical Park), to \$33.4 million (Springfield Armory National Historic Site), to \$37.5 million

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(Liberty Island Visitor Center Museum). We anticipate that establishing the proposed Museum, and either relocating or combining the exiting visitor center with the new facility, would be even higher than the cost of replacing these sites, given construction costs in New York City.

**Question 4:** Please provide an estimate of the annual costs associated with the existing “Every Kid in a Park” program. Do you expect the current language in S. 1522 to closely reflect the program costs of “Every Kid in a Park”? Please explain.

**Answer:** The cost for the first year of the “Every Kid in a Park” program (2015-2016 school year) was roughly \$1 million. That figure includes one-time startup costs. The cost of the second and subsequent years is estimated at about \$400,000 a year. These costs include dedicated program support, printing the fourth-grade passes, and website support. The “Every Kid Outdoors” program authorized by S. 1522 closely tracks the current “Every Kid in a Park” program. We would expect the annual operating costs to follow the same trend; however, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) would provide an official estimate on the bill.

**Questions from Senator Martin Heinrich**

**Question 1:** In your written and oral testimony, you recommended that action on my bill to establish the Every Kid Outdoors program, as well as Sens. McCain’s bill to establish the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps be deferred until the Department of the Interior could conduct a review of all the Department’s youth programs. Since both these programs are ongoing programs that are proven successes, why spend department resources on a bureaucratic review? How long will a review take?

**Answer:** The National Park Service is the lead agency for the “Every Kid in a Park” program and it also makes the most use of the authority under the Public Lands Corps Act of any of Interior’s bureaus. Therefore, the Department would like to wait until a new National Park Service Director is on board before determining how these two programs fit into the Department’s strategy for engaging youth and whether new legislation is needed.

**Question 2:** In testimony before the committee, you noted that the Every Kid in a Park program will continue through August. What about the rising class of fourth graders? Will they be able to participate in this program without Congressional action?

**Answer:** The Department plans to continue the “Every Kid in a Park” program for the 2017-2018 school year that began September 1, so the current class of fourth graders will be able to participate in the program. No additional authority is needed from Congress to operate this program.

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**Question from Senator Mazie Hirono**

**Question:** As mentioned during the hearing, I request that you provide to the Committee a list of all of the Department's youth programs.

**Answer:** The requested list is attached.

## Department of the Interior Youth Programs

### *Introduction*

Youth programs within the bureaus of the Department of the Interior include a wide range of opportunities and activities. For younger participants, the programs tend to focus on education. For older participants, the programs tend to focus on service projects, internships, and job skills. The list below includes the national or regional youth programs. Programs that are specific to an individual park, refuge or other public land unit are not included.

### **Multiple Bureaus**

#### *Programs with internships/employment opportunities:*

Partnership Youth Employment - Public Land Corps (PLC): Using the Public Land Corp Act authority, the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) partner with service organizations to provide work opportunities for youth and veterans, ages 16-30. Hundreds of individual projects on public lands involving facilities maintenance, visitor services, and resources management are completed each year through this program.

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC): This is a summer youth employment program that engages young people ages 15-18 in meaningful work experiences in national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, fish hatcheries, and other public lands while developing an ethic of environmental stewardship and civic responsibility. Most YCC opportunities are non-residential programs. YCC members work on a variety of projects including building trails, maintaining fences, cleaning up campgrounds, improving wildlife habitat, environmental education planning and teaching, stream restoration, and historic building preservation.

Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC) Program: This program involves collaboration among six national parks (Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks, Great Basin, Parashant, Pipe Spring and Zion), four national forests and BLM lands in the southern Utah region. Through a partnership with Southern Utah University, young people are hired locally to participate in YCC crews, PLC crews, and in internships ranging from front line visitor services and interpretative programs to complex research projects.

Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists Program: This partnership program leverages funding from BLM, BOR, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and other partners to engage hundreds of youth each year in conservation projects.

Pathways Temporary/Seasonal Youth Employment Programs: Youth fill a variety of positions at all bureaus. The Pathways program is a government-wide hiring authority.

#### *Programs focused on education and without internships/employment opportunities:*

Every Kid in a Park (EKIP): Through this program, the NPS, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Army Corps of Engineers, BLM, USFWS, BOR, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provide fourth-grade students and their families with free admission to national parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year. The EKIP pass is valid at more than 2,000 federally managed sites.

Hands on the Land (HOL): “America’s largest classroom,” HOL is a national network of field classrooms that connects students, teachers, families, and volunteers to public lands and waterways across America. The program brings classroom learning to life through hands-on experiences in natural, historical, and archaeological settings. Students are also exposed to careers in natural resources. HOL was formed in 1999 by Partners in Resource Education, an alliance of five federal agencies (BLM, USFWS, NPS, USFS, and NOAA) with initial funding from the Environmental Protection Agency. The National Environmental Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1990, provides the coordination of the agency alliance, with the Environmental Protection Agency continuing to provide technical assistance and advice.

Student Leadership and Environmental Education Partnerships: Land management bureaus partner with organizations to focus on the importance of the outdoors, increase environmental literacy, and offer the opportunity to lead community natural and cultural resource stewardship on public lands. Examples of partnerships between the NPS and youth organization include those with the Girl Scouts of America, the Boy Scouts of America, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and the YMCA.

#### **National Park Service**

##### *Programs with internships/employment opportunities:*

The NPS offers internships and other short-term opportunities for students and recent graduates that provide training across many NPS units and offices. These opportunities include:

- Cultural Resources Diversity Internships
- Historic Preservation Training Internships
- Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey Summer Employment
- Business Management Plan Internships
- Community Volunteer Ambassadors
- New Leaders in Community Conservation Assistance
- Community Assistance Fellows
- Geoscientists-in-the-Parks
- Mosaics in Science Internships
- Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Internship Program
- Latino Heritage Internship Program
- National Park Service Academy

- National Scenic and Historic Trails Young Adult Internships
- Wild Scenic River Explorers and Managers
- Historic Preservation Training Center Traditional Trades Apprenticeships
- Northwest Youth Corps American Sign Language Internships
- Hawaiian Youth Ranger Program
- Asian Pacific American Legacy Internships
- Groundwork USA Corps Experience
- Urban Archeology Corps
- ProRanger Program

*Programs focused on education and without internships/employment opportunities:*

Junior Rangers: Many national parks offer young visitors the opportunity to join the National Park Service "family" as Junior Rangers. Interested youth complete a series of activities during a park visit, share their answers with a park ranger, and receive an official Junior Ranger badge and Junior Ranger certificate. Junior Rangers are typically between the ages of 5 to 13, although people of all ages can participate.

Web Rangers: WebRangers offers a fun, free online opportunity for young people to connect with their national parks. This online extension of the Junior Ranger program is designed to give all children, anywhere in the world, access to the National Park System. The program offers more than 70 different games and activities that teach kids interesting facts about everything from various NPS ranger uniforms, signal flags, water quality, animal behaviors, and many different famous Americans.

Outdoor Nation Campus Outdoor Ambassadors: College students increase active outdoor recreation participation among young adults by leading campus outdoor clubs, spearheading social media campaigns, and coordinating six student outings per year each, at least two of which visit NPS units. College outing clubs also nurture the development of high school outdoor clubs in racially diverse communities. These youth-led clubs provide opportunities in skill building, leadership development, service to community, and exposure to the NPS system.

#### **Bureau of Land Management**

*Programs with internships/employment opportunities:*

Direct Hiring Authority for Resource Assistant Internship Program: Rigorous summer internship program for current college students or recent graduates, with particular attention to ethnically and racially diverse populations, directed toward hard-to-fill and high-demand occupational series. Conducted in partnership with institutions of higher education and their representative associations and non-profit organizations.

Executive Orders Program: Program to establish and implement partnerships with organizations associated with underrepresented groups (minorities, women, disabled individuals), to perform various work projects and provide employment opportunities on BLM lands.

Project Archaeology: National heritage education program developed in the early 1990s by BLM for educators and their students for three purposes: to develop awareness of our nation's diverse and fragile archaeological sites, to instill a sense of personal responsibility for stewardship of these sites, and to enhance science literacy and cultural understanding through the study of archaeology. Project Archaeology is a joint program of Montana State University and BLM.

*Programs focused on education and without internships/employment opportunities:*

Junior Ranger Education and Engagement: Young people pursue healthy recreational activities, spend time with friends and family, nurture their curiosity about the natural world, discover clues to our country's past, and participate in service projects on millions of acres of BLM public lands. Through the Junior Ranger program, the BLM and local community partners expand on these activities to engage the next generation of conservation stewards and leaders.

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

*Programs with internships/employment opportunities:*

Volunteer Service Program: Student volunteers work in nearly all branches of the agency, and extend the USFWS capacity to provide quality experiences to the many millions of visitors to USFWS lands each year.

*Programs focused on education and without internships/employment opportunities:*

Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program: Teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to k-12 students. The educational program concludes with a national art work contest.

Schoolyard Habitat Program: The program establishes schoolyard wildlife habitats in urban and rural communities, which are used as multi-disciplinary outdoor learning classrooms to enhance student environmental stewardship.

Youth Recreation Program: State fish and wildlife agencies receive funds through USFWS to directly engage youth and/or their educators in fishing, stewardship, and hunter safety and ethics related classes and events.

#### **U.S. Geological Survey**

*Programs with internships/employment opportunities:*

National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) Cooperative Summer Field Training Program: Nominated undergraduate students are hired as interns to work on research projects mostly in the field or laboratory, for 12 weeks.

Student Interns in Support of Native American Relations (SISNAR): Provides student interns work opportunities on current USGS projects directly related to, and preferably on, Native American tribal lands, assisting Tribes with natural resource research issues including water, hazards, fish and wildlife, and climate change. These mutually beneficial projects also serve to build upon or create new relationships with Native American Tribes.

June 23, 2017

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We write to express our support for further consideration of S.355, Wounded Veterans Recreation Act of 2016, by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. S.355 allows free access to disabled veterans to our national parks and other federal lands.

In addition to physical injuries, veterans often deal with mental health issues resulting from military service. Our public lands can provide a place of respite for our military transitioning back to civilian life from participating in outdoor recreation activities to contributing in volunteer opportunities. By providing free access to our national parks and other federal lands to our nation's disabled veterans, the federal government is giving back in a small way to these individuals and their families who have made huge sacrifices for our country.

The America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is currently made available at no charge to, and for the lifetime of, any U.S. citizen or person domiciled in the United States who has been medically determined to be permanently disabled. S.355 amends the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to require the pass also be made available at no charge to, and for the lifetime of, any veteran with a service-connected disability. While the National Park Service broadly interprets those that have been medically determined to be permanently disabled, the additional authority to provide the pass to any veteran with a service-connected disability provides certainty for our injured veterans. The coalition supports expansion of the pass at no charge for our disabled veterans beyond the statutory definition of being permanently disabled.

We further encourage the Committee to work with the Appropriations Committee to enhance operation and construction accounts to provide the necessary accommodations for visitors with disabilities to our federal lands.

We sincerely hope the Committee moves this legislation forward to ensure more of our veterans have free access year round to our national parks and other federal lands.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Aquanauts Adaptive Aquatics  
Big Bend Conservancy  
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks  
The Corps Network  
Friends of Acadia  
National Tour Association  
North Carolina Outward Bound School - Veterans Program  
Public Lands Alliance  
Southeast Tourism Society  
National Parks Conservation Association  
United States Tour Operators Association  
Western National Parks Association  
The Wilderness Society  
Regan C. Turner – The Mission Continues, West Region

THE AUGUSTUS SAINT-GAUDENS MEMORIAL  
CORNISH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

April 17, 2017

**The Honorable Steve Daines**

Chairman  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Mazie Hirono**

Ranking Member  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: S. 312**

Dear Chairman Daines and Ranking Member Hirono:

I am writing on behalf of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial to strongly urge consideration and passage of S. 312, which calls for the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site to be re-designated as the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park.

The Saint-Gaudens Memorial is a supporting organization to the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire. It was founded in 1919 to preserve the former home, studio, gardens, and collections of the great American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907). Its Trustees were the original owners of what is now the historic site and their mandate was to create a "living memorial" to Saint-Gaudens. He was at the center of the Cornish Art Colony at the turn of the twentieth century which not only included fine artists such as Maxfield Parrish; but also writers and dramatists such as Percy MacKaye; dancers and actors such as Isadora Duncan and Ethel Barrymore; and public servants, including Judge Learned Hand and President Woodrow Wilson. An important part of Saint-Gaudens' legacy is the rich cross-fertilization of arts and ideas that he helped to foster here.

In the 1940s, following traditions from Saint-Gaudens' day, the Memorial established a summer concert series (which has included the re-creation of two historic masques), and in the early 1950s began a schedule of contemporary art exhibitions featuring regional, national, and international artists. Both programs continue to flourish to this day.

In 1965, the Memorial gifted the property, historic structures and extensive collection of art to the federal government for creation of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, while continuing to provide the site with financial and administrative support, advocacy advice, and ongoing public arts programming. In 1998 the Memorial purchased the adjacent Blow-Me-Down Farm property, with its strong ties to the Cornish Colony. The Memorial held and maintained this property until 2010 when it was accepted by the federal government for inclusion within the boundaries of the historic site.

Not only are a variety of arts traditional to this place, but the park is working with multiple non-profit and community partners to develop additional arts programming for the public at Blow-Me-Down Farm. This new property includes more than 42 acres and nine historic structures which offer the potential for a great expansion of artistic programming. Some of these programs by park partners include opera and other musical events; a lunch and arts program for seniors in the community; and more contemporary and historical exhibitions, including those of works by members of the Cornish Colony. All of these programs have received strong support from the local community.

We believe the name "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park" most clearly states what the park represents now, and to an even greater extent what the park and its partners are planning and doing together here for our public in the coming years. This place is more than a "historic site", a title that suggests to most people the idea of a single building, or place such as a battlefield. National Historic Sites are generally only a few acres in size with discrete boundaries and a single narrative. It may also convey the idea that this place reflects a particular moment in history and a single mission, not one of many interrelated stories where hands-on creative activities continue to happen throughout the season.

A name that designates this extraordinary place more broadly as a "National Historical Park" would communicate much more clearly to the public what this property is, namely 190-acres that include more than one mission focus and overlapping historic stories, as well as multiple historic buildings, a vast collection of American art, a variety of arts-related activities, and inspiring vistas, landscapes, and trails.

The Saint-Gaudens Memorial believes that this proposed name change will help attract more interest in the park and facilitate fundraising for capital improvements and programs. As one of the partners who will be fundraising for capital improvements at Blow-Me-Down Farm, the clear identification as a National Park with a core arts mission will be crucial to our success.

The "National Historical Park" designation is a better indicator of our efforts to broaden the park's focus and to continue the Memorial's legislated mission as a "living memorial" to Augustus Saint-Gaudens and members of the Cornish Colony. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Byron Bell  
President of the Board of Trustees

cc: Senator Jeanne Shaheen  
Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Senator Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

**Senator Roy Blunt  
Statement for Legislative Hearing Record  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
S. 1438, Redesignate Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in the State of Missouri as the  
“Gateway Arch National Park”**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for your consideration of the bill I have introduced to redesignate the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial as the “Gateway Arch National Park”.

Originally established in 1935, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial is located near the starting point of Lewis and Clark’s expedition to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase and our nation’s westward growth. The site also recognizes our nation’s debate over slavery as the *Dred Scott* case was heard in the Old Courthouse which is located in the park’s boundaries.

The Gateway Arch is one of our nation’s most iconic landmarks. The Arch is known throughout the world as a symbol of American ingenuity and westward expansion. Despite this widespread recognition, many people are unaware that the Gateway Arch is part of the National Park System as a feature within the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

The Gateway Arch, completed in 1965, was the vision of renowned architect Eero Saarinen who sought to celebrate St. Louis’ role as the “Gateway to the west.” At the time of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial establishment and designation, the Gateway Arch had yet to be conceived.

Today, the Gateway Arch is the most recognizable feature of the park.

The Gateway Arch is the world’s tallest arch, our nation’s tallest memorial, and Missouri’s tallest accessible building.

The Gateway Arch visitor’s center and the Museum of Westward Expansion are located directly underground.

It is the Gateway Arch that brings millions of visitors every year to the park.

The park has undergone significant changes since its inception, culminating in a recent public-private partnership effort to renovate the Gateway Arch grounds and its surroundings. As a result, this unique urban site will be even more accessible to visitors and improve the National Park Service’s ability to interpret and share the important history that is preserved there.

Colleagues, I have introduced this bill to rename and grant the Gateway Arch and surrounding area its proper recognition as part of the National Park System.

I request that information from individuals from Missouri be submitted to the record.

I appreciate your consideration and support of this bill.



May 16, 2017

U.S. Senator Tom Cotton  
ATTN: Lisa Harst  
124 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cotton,

On behalf of the Central High Neighborhood, Inc. (CHNI), I would like to express support for your proposed legislation that would move the boundary of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site to include seven properties across the street from the high school.

CHNI is proud to support this initiative, which would recognize the historical significance of seven homes located on the 1400 and 1500 blocks of Park Street. The boundary adjustment encourages proper care and preservation of these homes by allowing property owners, on a case by case basis, to enter into cooperative agreements with the National Park Service.

CHNI understands that property owners will maintain rightful ownership and that the Park Service has no intention to purchase the homes neither now, nor in the future.

CHNI would like to thank you for your work on this very important issue and hopes you will remain engaged with us as your bill advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Whitney Patterson, *President*  
on behalf of Central High Neighborhood, Inc.



June 16, 2017

Senator Roy Blunt  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blunt,

As the CityArchRiver Alliance, our organizations care deeply about the future of the Gateway Arch and its surroundings. We write to you in full support of changing the name of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial to Gateway Arch National Park.

This alliance of the City of St. Louis, Bi-State Development Agency, Great Rivers Greenway, Jefferson National Parks Association, and Gateway Arch Park Foundation has worked in partnership with the National Park Service to implement a \$380 million public-private renovation of the Arch grounds and its surroundings. This alliance will continue its partnership into the future to ensure that this National Park remains a world-class destination for generations to come.

The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JNEM) was named and created as a National Park in 1935. The JNEM name came far before the design for what would become the Gateway Arch was selected in 1947. As we know now, the Gateway Arch is the undeniable icon and identifier of this park and of St. Louis to the entire world.

The Gateway Arch is an international icon known by many. But very few people are aware of the park's official name or that the Gateway Arch sits in a National Park. By changing the park's name to Gateway Arch National Park, the icon and park are better connected to how it is identified and brings attention to the fact it is an urban National Park – one of the few in America. Gateway Arch National Park also does not lose any of the connection to the park's mission of commemorating westward expansion.

We appreciate your support in helping provide a name for this park that is consistent with how it is identified around the world and brings attention to the fact that we have one of the few urban National Parks in the country right here in St. Louis.

Sincerely,

Lyda Krewson  
Mayor  
City of St. Louis

David Grove  
President and CEO

Jefferson National Parks  
Association

Susan Trautman  
CEO  
Great Rivers Greenway

Eric Moraczewski  
Executive Director  
Gateway Arch Park  
Foundation

John Nations  
President and CEO  
Bi-State Development  
Agency



July 18, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I am writing on behalf of the Columbus Downtown Development (CDDC) to ask you to support S. 841, which would designate the Veterans Memorial & Museum being built in Columbus, Ohio as THE National Veterans Memorial & Museum.

This institution will serve as a civic landmark to honor, connect, inspire and educate visitors about the service and sacrifice of all our nation's service men and women. The creation of this institution will have a profound, lasting impact and will help instill a deeper meaning of the freedoms we all enjoy.

CDDC serves as the project manager for the National Veterans Memorial & Museum (NVMM) – leading the design, construction, exhibit development and fundraising campaign. CDDC, a private, non-profit development organization, has a successful track-record of creating award-winning civic projects in the heart of Ohio's capital city. Under the leadership of CDDC, Downtown Columbus has experienced a renaissance, seeing almost \$4 billion in public/private sector investment since 2000.

When NVMM opens in 2018, it will be the crown jewel of Downtown Columbus, providing world-class exhibits and programming about the veteran experience. CDDC has raised more than \$75 million to date and continues efforts to raise additional funds from around the country. In order for CDDC to continue to be successful, it is vital to have this national designation.

I urge you to support this important legislation. Our 22 million living veterans deserve a national museum to call home. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Guy V. Worley  
President & CEO

150 S. Front Street, Suite 210  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
T: 614.545.4700 | F: 614.545.4702

**CDDC Board Members**

Guy V. Worley  
President & CEO  
Columbus Downtown Development Corporation

Michael G. Morris, Chair  
Past Chairman of the Board  
American Electric Power

Stephen D. Steinhour, Vice Chair  
Chairman & CEO  
Huntington Bancshares

David P. Blom, Treasurer  
President & CEO  
OhioHealth

Alex Shumate, Secretary  
Managing Partner, North America  
Squire Patton Boggs

Nicholas K. Akins  
Chairman, President & CEO  
American Electric Power

Russell P. Austin  
Senior Vice President, General Counsel &  
Secretary  
Battelle

George S. Barrett  
Chairman & CEO  
Cardinal Health

Dr. Michael Drake  
President  
The Ohio State University

Joseph Hamrock  
President & CEO  
NISource, Inc.

Nancy Kramer  
Founder & Chairman, Resource/Ammirati  
Chief Evangelist, IBM IX

Melissa Ingwersen  
President, Central Ohio Market  
KeyBank

Jordan A. Miller  
CEO & President  
Fifth Third Bank, Central Ohio

Stephen S. Rasmussen  
CEO  
Nationwide

Bruce A. Soli  
Senior Vice President & Counsel  
Limited Brands

Abigail S. Wexner  
Chairman & CEO  
Whitebarn Associates

www.ColumbusDDC.com  
www.NationalVMM.org  
www.ColumbusCommons.org

Senator Tom Cotton – Statement for the Record  
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources’ Committee on National Parks  
July 19, 2017

This September will mark the 60th anniversary of the Little Rock Nine—the nine African-American students who enrolled in the then-all-white Little Rock Central High School in 1957.

Ask anybody who lived through the crisis, and they’ll tell you they remember it vividly. They may not have been there in person. But they remember the photos—those searing images of an angry mob, the stoic students, and the bayoneted troops, all gathered at a high school—of all places. Perhaps the most searing image is of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine, who was then only 15 years old. She didn’t get word that the other students were going as a group, so she went alone, in a simple black-and-white dress she’d made just for the occasion. The mob baited her, menaced her, cursed her—some even threatened to lynch her. She later said of her walk to the school’s entrance: “It was the longest block I ever walked in my whole life.”

We preserve historic battlefields like Yorktown and Gettysburg because we want our children to know what it took to gain and keep our freedom—the sacrifices made, the hardships endured. But equally important is preserving historic sites like Central High—where our citizens began the long road to freedom from oppression and intolerance.

That’s why we made Central High School an historic site years ago—though with one oversight. Across the street from the school stands seven homes, their exteriors in many of the pictures that are now so famous. There has long been a movement to preserve those exteriors so that future generations will be able to see Central High exactly as it looked when the Little Rock Nine arrived for school.

That’s why I am proud to have introduced legislation with three of my colleagues—the senior senator of Vermont, Senator Pat Leahy; Congressman French Hill of Little Rock; and civil-rights legend, Congressman John Lewis—to do just that. My bill would move the boundary of the Central High School historic site to include the seven homes and add a total of 1.47 acres to the 28.88-acre site. This bill would encourage the property owners and the National Park Service (NPS) to work together to preserve the exterior of the homes through NPS-initiated cooperative agreements.

Ownership status of the properties would not change as a result of this legislation. My bill would simply allow the Park Service to establish cooperative agreements with the homeowners and use federally authorized park funding and park staff to work on the properties.

There is widespread agreement in the community—and in our state—that this site is not just a part of Arkansas’s history; it’s part of our national heritage. Our legislation has received enthusiastic support from the homeowners, as well as the Central High neighborhood association and my state’s historic-preservation-advocacy group, Preserve Arkansas.

I think it’s of the highest importance that we preserve the story of the Little Rock Nine and share it with our kids. It’s a reminder of the courage shown by nine young Arkansans, who helped our state and our nation overcome deep-seated prejudices by appealing to the better angels of our nature. As Billy Graham said during the crisis: “There is no color line in heaven.” It was a hard-won lesson, and one I think we should do everything we can to pass on to the next generation.

JONI K. ERNST  
IOWA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE  
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## United States Senate

July 19, 2017

COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION  
AND FORESTRY  
ENVIRONMENT  
AND PUBLIC WORKS  
SMALL BUSINESS  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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

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

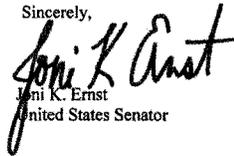
Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On April 25, 2017, I introduced S, 926, the Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act along with Senator Manchin. This bill would authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia. In just a short while, this bill has garnered strong bipartisan support from twenty of our colleagues here in the Senate, many of whom are members of this committee. It's also worth noting that the companion bill has over 140 cosponsors in the House of Representatives.

This legislation sends a signal to those who have served and those who continue to serve in the Global War on Terror. As a veteran of the Global War on Terror, I saw firsthand these brave men and women defending our nation. I saw young men and women leaving their regular lives behind to ensure we at home were able to sleep safely at night. Now, many of those men and women are old enough to have their own children deployed in the name of this war. They, too, fight to defend us from an enemy that is ever present and threatens our security here at home.

What makes this commemorative work different from others that have come before this committee is the fact that the War on Terror is still ongoing. I am well aware that the Commemorative Works Act (CWA) requires that at least ten years elapse from the end of a war or conflict until such event can be commemorated. However, I'm also keenly aware that if we were to wait that long, a 40-year-old servicemember who deployed in 2001 would be approaching sixty-five years of age. The longer we wait, the greater the chance that our first veterans of the Global War on Terror will not be witnesses to a National Memorial dedicated to their service and sacrifice. It is my hope that the discussion today will revolve around why it is necessary and appropriate for a time-period exemption from the CWA be granted, so all those who have served in our nation's longest war, and their families, be given the opportunity to heal, honor, and remember.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator

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explore **st. louis**

June 23, 2017

Honorable Roy Blunt  
U.S. Senator  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blunt,

As you know, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JNEM) was named and created as a National Park in 1935, long before the Gateway Arch was designed and selected in 1947.

The Gateway Arch is an international icon known around the globe and a unique identifier for St. Louis. But few people are aware of the JNEM name or that the Gateway Arch sits in a National Park. By changing the park's name to Gateway Arch National Park, the icon and park are better identified as connected and the fact that they are part of our system of national parks – one of the few in urban America – will be realized. As the Gateway Arch National Park, the connection to the park's mission of commemorating westward expansion is not lost.

As a champion of the tourism industry, we appreciate your support in helping provide a name for this park that is consistent with how it is identified around the world, which will help us identify St. Louis as a destination for international and national visitors.

Sincerely,  
  
Kathleen M. Ratcliffe  
President



19 July 2017

**Testimony for:**

**The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,  
National Parks Subcommittee,  
S. 926 (Senator Joni Ernst), "Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act"**

**Written Testimony of:**

**Andrew J. Brennan  
Executive Director  
Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation  
100 M Street SE, Suite 200  
Washington DC, 2003**

On behalf of the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation, and the more than 20 national Veteran Service Organizations that have endorsed this bill, I want to thank you for accommodating a hearing amidst a very busy legislative schedule. I serve as the Executive Director of the nonprofit leading these efforts, and while I have a deep passion for this memorial becoming a reality, I am not unlike the nearly 3 million Americans who served abroad in support of this war over the last 16 years of sustained combat.

I do not claim to be an expert in the academic fields of history or sociology, but I do consider myself a student of both when it comes to Memorials, and I will rely on them today as I humbly request your support of this bill and its swift movement out of committee and onto the Senate floor.

One of the most common questions I receive from office staffers, committee staffers, and Senators themselves revolve around the question of "How do we memorialize a war with no end in sight?" The common push back is that there exists no precedent in American history for starting work on a memorial when a war is still ongoing. However, that is not the case if I may bring your attention to the National Civil War Monument, known as Battle Monument, as a prime example. While Battle Monument clearly predates the process provided by the 1986 Commemorative Works Act, its foundation began in 1863 in the midst of the Civil War, when a young West Point Lieutenant, H. C. Hasbrouck, devised an idea for a memorial to honor the men who had died fighting alongside him in battle. The men serving in the Regular Army wanted so much to honor their brothers lost thus far in the war, that they raised the money for the memorial in one single month by way of a scaled rate based on rank; \$24 for a Major General down to \$1 for each enlisted man.

The curious, and somewhat ironic part of this historic vignette is that despite the memorial being entirely funded by the men themselves during the war, the monument ended up not being built and dedicated until May of 1897 at West Point, 32 years after the war ended. The reason: political and bureaucratic infighting. Many of the Veterans who attended the 1897 ceremony were infirmed and greatly advanced in years at its dedication, not unlike the situation we witnessed and continue to witness with our National World War II Memorial.

The second very recent vignette resides with our closest ally in the Global War on Terrorism; Great Britain. Their own SAS Operators earlier this month engaged ISIS fighters in hand-to-hand combat after being almost overrun during an ambush during intense fighting in Mosul, Iraq. This event occurred nearly four months after Great Britain dedicated a memorial for our ongoing war. Great Britain did not just approve a memorial, and they did not start work on a process to eventually build a memorial; as a nation they collectively recognized the need and benefits that come from memorializing the service and sacrifice of their citizens and soldiers, and they went ahead and dedicated it.

This event was attended by the Queen, the Royal Family, many Veterans and family members of their fallen. Lord Stirrup who served as Chief of Defence Staff from 2006-2010 said the following at the dedication:

"Literally hundreds of thousands of British military personnel and UK civilian citizens served this country in all sorts of various ways in support of those campaigns and we felt that it was extremely important that the way they had conducted themselves, carried out their duties and the service they had given to the nation was honoured and commemorated. So the memorial is exactly that, it's to commemorate duty and service, it's not about the campaigns themselves per se, it's about those principles which are important in any civilised society and have always been an integral part of who and what we regard ourselves to be as a nation."

As a student of history, I inherently know and understand the unquantifiable value that the Vietnam Wall brought to a generation of Veterans that were not welcomed home with ticker tape parades. Their memorial served as a validation of their service, which they did not feel from their countrymen upon coming home. Korea was our forgotten war, and their memorial also brought a great deal of appreciation for their service. While the World War II generation was welcomed home as victors with ticker tape parades, their memorial, 59 years later, still had an immense impact on those who were alive to see it. It also has impacted the family members of those from the Greatest Generation, who more often than not never spoke of the war, yet the National World War II Memorial gave these Veterans a license to open up about the war. It sparked conversations and the preservation of valuable oral histories that would have very likely been lost otherwise. The National Desert Storm War Memorial will do much the same for another generation of Veterans who were welcomed home as victors.

I have made this Memorial endeavor my personal mission over the last three years. It has certainly not been easy for my team and I, but I would like to share with you what gets me out of bed every morning to work diligently at this. As a Captain returning home from Afghanistan, I had the privilege of being the senior ranking officer of our deployment flight home, and led a portion of my battalion into our aircraft hangar amidst a loud and thunderous applause from close friends and family. It was both a real and symbolic echo in that hangar due to the applause, because those there at the ceremony already understood the cost. They were the families and friends already close to our Nation's 1% who serve in uniform. It is a scene known and understood only by those who have witnessed it, and it is largely unknown by our citizenry. But I have this picture in my mind's eye that in summer 2024, when the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial is dedicated in our Nation's Capitol, a returning flight of troops from Fort Drum or Camp Lejeune will not land at their base of origin. Instead, that flight lands at Dulles or Reagan International, and that unit gets on a bus, and is welcomed home in a public fashion at their National Memorial. At that event, you may very well witness a now 63-year-old Veteran who seized the first airfield in Kandahar Afghanistan in 2001 reach his hand out and welcome home the 19-year-old Specialist who just finished doing their first duty abroad in support of our National interests and hear what is 23 years removed, a common saying from the Vietnam Era: "Welcome Home".

The last thing I would like to leave the committee with is this. The American people, as represented by our elected officials, have become quite comfortable with the idea of asking our all-volunteer force and their families to courageously continue to engage an ever-changing enemy in an ambiguous multi-generational war that has now spanned 16 years and will continue into the future. I humbly ask each of you on this committee to exercise the same courage in approving a memorial for those who have served, are serving today, and will serve in the future. Help this generation of warriors and their families Heal, Honor, and Remember, as we Educate our civilian counterparts about what service and duty entails in the 21st century. Please support the passage of S. 926.

Thank you and I welcome any questions you may have.



July 25, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

In the military, "got your six" means "I've got your back." As a coalition, Got Your 6 works to integrate that commitment of support into popular culture, engage veterans and civilians together to foster understanding, and empower veterans to lead in their communities. While we work to promote these goals across all generations of veterans, Got Your 6 is proud to support the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation and the *Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act* as a meaningful way to honor the sacrifices of post-9/11 veterans and better connect the American public to the nation's longest conflicts.

Got Your 6 strongly supports the *Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act* as a necessary step to overcome the beauratracitic hurdles to establishing the Global War on Terror Memorial. The bill would allow the Global War on Terror Memorial to be exempt from current antiquated regulations governing memorial development, which we believe is appropriate given the unique and long lasting nature of the conflicts covered by the Global War on Terror. The bill would also designate the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation as the only non-profit authorized to lead in the creation of the memorial. The foundation has already proven to be well organized, well led, and committed to accomplishing their mission. Got Your 6 believes they are fully empowered to lead this endeavor.

Speaking more broadly to our support of the creation of the Global War on Terror Memorial, we believe it will serve as a powerful tool to help bridge the ever widening military-civilian divide. Memorials provide opportunities for the public to connect and learn about the service of veterans. They also provide veterans with a space to honor the sacrifice of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and reflect on their own service. Providing a shared space will help empower all generations of veterans, especially those who have served post 9/11, while re-assuring future generations of warriors that our great nation will always have "their six" once they return home.

If you have any additional questions please contact Lauren Augustine, [laugustine@gotyour6.org](mailto:laugustine@gotyour6.org).

Sincerely,

William J. Rausch  
Executive Director  
Got Your 6



July 13, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) and our more than 425,000 members I would like to express our strong support for the *Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act* (S. 926).

As of July 12, 2017, 6,911 service members have given their lives for our nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other Post-9/11 conflicts. The time has come for our nation to honor the sacrifice of these fallen troops, veterans of those conflicts, and their families with a memorial in Washington, DC. A memorial gives veterans, families, and the nation a place to gather and reflect on the heroism of our military and the sacrifices made.

A new generation of veterans should not wait many years to see a memorial established, as those who served in Vietnam, Korea, and World War II were forced to do. IAVA urges Congress to swiftly pass this legislation into law.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: [thomas@iava.org](mailto:thomas@iava.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tom Porter'.

Tom Porter  
Legislative Director  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

777 North Capitol St NE  
Washington, DC 20002



July 17, 2017

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
 Subcommittee on National Parks  
 304 Dirksen Senate Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Daines and Ranking Member Hirono:

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) and Friends of Acadia (FOA) would like to provide the following comments on S. 257, the *Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act*.

MCHT and FOA have enjoyed a long and proud tradition of working closely with the National Park Service in support of Acadia National Park. Friends of Acadia has contributed more than \$25.6 million to Acadia National Park since 1986 to support infrastructure and natural resources restoration projects, volunteerism, internships, and cooperative projects like the Island Explorer bus system. Maine Coast Heritage Trust is the preeminent land conservation on the coast of Maine and has helped Acadia secure more than 25 inholdings that Congress intended to be included in the park when Acadia's boundaries were set by Congress in 1986.

The park, which just completed its centennial celebration, welcomes millions of people each year from around the country and around the world. S.257 will strengthen the park's ability to operate in the future as a member of the local community. Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Friends of Acadia would like to offer the following comments and suggestions for your consideration.

First, we support the bill's central focus, an effort to confirm the addition of recently donated land on the Schoodic Peninsula, while clarifying the role of the 1986 legislation that defined the park's boundary. The Schoodic expansion has improved Acadia National Park and greatly expanded visitor experiences. At the same time, we support the boundary defined by Congress in 1986 and believe all future additions to the park outside this boundary (except de minimis ones as discussed below) should be pre-approved by Congress.

We also support Section 3(b) of the bill that states that the Secretary of the Interior may conduct exchanges for land and interests of land within the legislated boundaries of the park in accordance with 54 U.S.C. Section 102901. The land protection program at Acadia National Park has always been focused on receiving donations of or purchasing private properties within the legislated boundaries of the park as they are offered by willing sellers. This improves the park's management efficiencies by providing greater continuity among park lands and wildlife habitats, as well as reducing the boundaries with private properties that must be maintained or patrolled.

In addition to this, we recommend that the bill be amended to also allow de minimis boundary changes for the park, as authorized by 54 U.S.C. Section 100506. Because Acadia National Park was

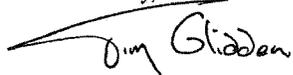
founded mostly through the donation of private property about a century ago, the park is a patchwork of public lands intertwined with private property, and it is not uncommon for minor issues to emerge with abutters along the park's boundary. These small encroachments or areas where the boundary does not quite match ownership patterns create problems for both landowners and the Park. Under the current bill language, Acadia would be unable to work directly with landowners to resolve these types of issues. We support amending the current bill to give Acadia the ability to be a good neighbor with abutting private landowners, by allowing minor boundary adjustments impacting fewer than 10 acres.

We are concerned about Section 4 of S.257 which requires a \$350K appropriation to a "regional consortium...for the purpose of improving the management of the disposal and recycling of solid waste." Carving this funding out of Acadia National Park's operating budget as appropriated by Congress would be devastating to park operations here. The park annually spends about \$1 million from its Congressionally-designated operating funds for the seasonal workforce, so a \$350K loss would mean the park would have to scale back seasonal operations by a third.

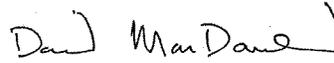
We are supportive of Section 8 of the bill concerning continuation of traditional uses, but we recommend that the language be revised to more accurately reflect what those traditional uses have been. The current draft which relies on Maine statutory language is broader than tradition by including marine activities such as aquaculture leasing, rockweed harvesting, and other potential future harvesting activities. We encourage you to limit the language in a way that reflects actual traditional harvesting activities, commercial and non-commercial, of clams, mussels, worms, and periwinkles. These are the species that have been traditionally harvested in the park and we agree harvesting of these species using traditional methods should continue to be allowed in the future. This position was also supported unanimously and communicated to the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, and the Maine Congressional delegation by the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, an advisory committee comprised of citizen representatives from the towns surrounding the park.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,



Tim Glidden, President  
Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Suite 201  
Topsham, ME 04086  
(207) 729-7366  
www.mcht.org



David MacDonald, President  
Friends of Acadia  
43 Cottage Street, P.O. Box 45  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609  
(207) 288-3340  
www.friendsofacadia.org

Cc Senator Angus King  
Senator Susan Collins  
Representative Bruce Poliquin  
Representative Chellie Pingree

**Senator Joe Manchin III**  
**Statement for the Record**  
**Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks**  
**Hearing on Various National Park Service-Related Bills**  
**Wednesday, July 19, 2017**

I am honored to have introduced S. 926, the Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act, with Senator Ernst of Iowa. S. 926 simply provides authorization to the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in honor of the members of the armed services who fought in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This bill does not authorize any federal funds to pay for the establishment of the memorial; it is merely the first but necessary step toward constructing a memorial for the Global War on Terror.

Since Senator Ernst and I first introduced this bill, it has received bipartisan support with 19 additional Senators cosponsoring—including four other members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. An identical house companion bill (H.R. 873) has 159 cosponsors. As a nation, we continue to remember and mourn the tragic events of September 11, 2001. That day changed our way of life forever. On September 14, 2001, both chambers of Congress voted to approve the use of military force, three days after the atrocities committed against our nation. Since that day, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces have taken up arms to defend our nation and our allies without hesitation and without wavering. These patriots and their families gave and will continue to give selflessly.

Many of these warriors sacrificed their lives and many others returned home with both visible and invisible wounds. This memorial must move forward as soon as possible to honor these brave men and women, and it must remain open for to honor future warfighters of this enduring mission. America's sons and daughters are still at war across the globe and we owe them the opportunity to tell their stories to the visitors of our nation's capital. As members of Congress, we must honor our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines through the approval of the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial.

This legislation has received the support of many Veterans Services Organizations including: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US (VFW), Iraq And Afghanistan Veterans Of America (IAVA), Wounded Warrior Project, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Veterans (AMVETS), American Goldstar Mothers, Student Veterans of America, The Green Beret Foundation, Team Rubicon, The Mission Continues, Team Red White and Blue, Travis Manion Foundation, Got Your Six, Warrior Expeditions, Union Veteran Council of the AFL-CIO, and Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors (TAPS).

I urge my colleagues to support S. 926 and move it forward through the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources as expeditiously as possible.

3/25/2017

Print

**Subject:** WASHINGTON HERITAGE HOUSE  
**From:** Patricia McGraw (mpata@att.net)  
**To:** mpata@att.net;  
**Date:** Saturday, March 25, 2017 9:13 AM

WASHINGTON HERITAGE HOUSE  
1421 S. PARK STREET  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72202  
(1411, 1417, 1501, etc. Park Street)

MARCH 25, 2017

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:  
CITY OFFICIALS

DEAR SIR, MADAM: *Ms. Harst:*

We, the owners of the properties, addresses listed above, located directly across Park Street in front of the famous and renowned educational facility, Little Rock Central High School, wish to express our gratitude and appreciation of all that you do for our neighborhood, our city, and our state, particularly in learning that the National Park Service wishes to expand their boundaries to include our seven houses. It is our belief that our houses add to the beauty and dignity of the structural and environmental beauty, dignity, and grace to this area of Little Rock,

In that we are greatly interested in the continuous celebrated dignity of this site, we are very supportive of direction to expand upon this historic city development, and we appreciate our being included in this significant idea. Please continue to keep us abreast of new developments and ideas which we intend to implement as wished by the city officials, and intend to seek funding to make this dream of our foreparents to come true.

Thanks again for including us, and please take care of yourselves and our city.  
Love and Deep Appreciation For All That You Do:  
Sincerely,

Dr. Patricia Washington McGraw *Patricia McGraw*

Mrs. Grace Blagdon *Grace Blagdon*

Other Concerned Owners

## NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

Honor | Connect | Inspire | Educate

Veterans Advisory Committee Members
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Al Burzynski, Army, Communications Sub- Committee Chairman
Burt Logan, Army, Interior Sub- Committee Chairman
Peter Mansoor, Ph.D., Army, Exterior Sub-Committee Chairman
Earl Bailey, Marine Corps (Ret.)
Sam Beall, Army
Susan Bogan, Army Family
Paul Craft, Colonel Army National Guard (Ret.)
Shawn Delgado, Marine Corps (Ret.)
Russ Goodwin, Navy
Joe Jennings, Army
Patrick Malay, Colonel Marine Corps (Ret.)
Jim McClaugherty, Colonel Air Force (Ret.)
Warren Motts, Army
Richard Reynolds, Lieutenant General Air Force (Ret.)
Alex Rozanski, Marine Corps, Army National Guard
Tim Shigley, Air Force (Ret.)
Karen Roddy-Spikes, Captain Army
Chip Tansill, Colonel Army (Ret.)
Fred Weed, Army

July 18, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I am writing on behalf of the National Veterans Memorial & Museum (NVMM) Veterans Advisory Committee to ask you to support S. 841, which would designate the Veterans Memorial & Museum being built in Columbus, Ohio as THE National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

There is no single comprehensive monument or museum dedicated to all branches of the military and all eras of war that share the veteran's experience in our country. With almost 22 million veterans alive today, we are creating a place where we can honor the sacrifice and celebrate the service of our veterans.

It began with an idea from our founding chairman, the late Senator John Glenn (1921-2016), Colonel, USMC (Ret.). He believed there was no greater calling than to inspire young people. Thanks to his leadership, a committee of veterans was put together to provide feedback and recommendations to the architects and designers of the facility with the goal of creating a world-class, state-of-the-art representation of the contributions and sacrifices made by military veterans and their families, and educating and inspiring the public about veterans and military affairs.

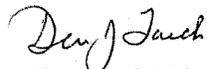
The Veterans Advisory Committee developed the pillars on which NVMM's mission and goals are based. Those pillars are: HONOR Americans' contributions through military service; CONNECT civilians with veterans and their military experience; INSPIRE visitors to serve their community and nation as citizens; and EDUCATE schoolchildren about the history and value of service via an interactive permanent exhibition.

NVMM is scheduled to open to the public in summer 2018. The museum will present the veteran experience through the lens of personal stories and life-changing experiences from which visitors will be inspired to learn more about our country's history and actively engage in their own communities as informed citizens.

After raising more than \$75 million to construct the facility, the NVMM leadership team is working to fund an Endowment with the goal of offering free admission to veterans. A critical component to raising the necessary funds to accomplish free admission is to receive a national designation for our institution.

The creation of this institution will have a profound, lasting impact on every American and will help instill a deeper meaning to the freedoms we all enjoy.

Very Respectfully,



Major General Dennis Laich, US Army (Ret.)  
Chairman  
Veterans Advisory Committee

---

**National Veterans Memorial & Museum**

300 W Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | [NationalVMM.org](http://NationalVMM.org)

**Testimony prepared for the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources'  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
Ms. Jackie Ostfeld  
Founder and Chair, Outdoors Alliance for Kids  
Wednesday, July 19, 2017**

Dear Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and Members of the Subcommittee,

On behalf of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, a national strategic partnership of nearly 100 businesses and organizations representing more than 60 million Americans, I write in support of S. 1522, the Every Kid Outdoors Act, and thank the National Parks Subcommittee for holding a hearing to advance this critical bipartisan legislation. We urge the Subcommittee to take prompt action to approve this legislation and send it to the full Committee.

The Outdoors Alliance for Kids (OAK) is vitally concerned with the growing divide between children and the outdoors. Our children's lives are out of balance. Today's young people are growing up inside, spending less time in nature than any generation in history, with profound consequences for their physical and mental health. Our nation's network of protected lands, waters, and shores are special places where our children can play and get active, learn about America's history, culture, and ecology, and develop an ethic of stewardship towards America's great outdoors.

The indoor and sedentary lifestyles of our children are contributing to a national health crisis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that children engage in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day, yet nearly three-quarters of all youth do not meet these basic guidelines. Nearly one in three children is overweight or obese, and we are seeing more and more kids develop what were once adult-onset-only chronic diseases. More than twenty percent, or \$190.2 billion, of annual medical spending in the United States is on health care costs of obesity-related illness. Childhood obesity alone costs our country \$14 billion in direct medical expenses.

At the same time, America's great outdoors drive an \$887 billion economy, supporting more than seven million jobs across our nation. The outdoor recreation economy generates nearly \$125 billion in tax revenue (\$65.3 billion federally; \$59.2 billion in state and local tax revenue); this federal tax revenue alone is enough to pay for more than six million critical jobs from firefighters to police officers to teachers.

The Every Kid Outdoors Act would codify the highly successful Every Kid in a Park program that is introducing young children to the outdoors and leveraging private sector investments in our kids. The Act would help to ensure that America's children have opportunities to get active, healthy and outdoors, which is critical to the health and wellness of our kids, communities, and the economy. The Every Kid in a Park program has proven a cost-effective common sense solution to improve our children's health, support long-term economic investment, and introduce a new generation to the beauty and wonder of America's public lands, waters, and shores.

In the program's first year, over two million fourth graders downloaded the Every Kid in a Park pass. In addition, over the first two years, nearly \$5 million in private funding has been leveraged to support transportation costs for children from Title 1 schools across America. Members of OAK have stepped up to

support the program by providing transportation grants and delivering high quality programming to kids, many of whom were visiting a park for the first time. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke even credited the Every Kid in a Park program as one of the reasons for the surge in visitation to our National Parks during the centennial year of the National Park Service. Several Governors, Democrats and Republicans alike, have seen the long-term potential of the Every Kid in a Park program and are accepting the passes in their state park systems. Nevada took it a step further and recently passed a law to give free entry to all of it's fifth graders to state parks.

The program is making a difference in the lives of our children and we are already hearing from rising fourth graders who are excited to get their pass. Ben T. from Arlington, VA, has this to say: "I hope to visit Shenandoah National Park, as well as places not too far away like Harper's Ferry in West Virginia. But, I'd REALLY like to see someplace like Yellowstone or Denali! I'm looking forward to having my own park pass."

The Every Kid Outdoors Act has momentum and is supported by dozens of groups from all sectors, including the Outdoors Alliance For Kids and the following OAK members: Alliance for Childhood, American Heart Association, Children & Nature Network, Girl Scouts of the USA, National Park Trust, National Recreation and Park Association, National Wildlife Federation, NatureBridge, North American Association for Environmental Education, Outdoor Industry Association, Sierra Club, The Corps Network, The Wilderness Society, Trust for Public Land, and the YMCA of the USA.

The Outdoors Alliance for Kids is happy to see this bipartisan legislation advance in committee, and we urge the committee to report favorably on S. 1522 so that all children have the opportunity to visit the parks and public lands that make America great.

Sincerely,



Jackie Ostfeld  
Founder and Chair  
Outdoors Alliance for Kids  
202-548-6584 | [contact@outdoorsallianceforkids.org](mailto:contact@outdoorsallianceforkids.org)



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May 4, 2017

Ms. Lisa B. Harst  
Legislative Assistant  
U.S. Senator Tom Cotton  
124 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ms. Harst,

My name is Rachel Patton, and I am the executive director of Preserve Arkansas, Arkansas's statewide historic preservation advocacy group. On behalf of our board of directors, I am writing to support the proposed expansion of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site boundary to include the seven homes across the street from the high school. This simple boundary adjustment will encourage the preservation of the seven historic homes in the 1400 and 1500 blocks of Park Street and allow homeowners, on a case by case basis, to enter cooperative agreements with the National Park Service while retaining private property ownership.

We feel that this is an important step in the right direction for the Central High School Neighborhood Historic District as a whole. Please let me know if I may provide further assistance with this initiative.

Sincerely,

Rachel Patton  
*Executive Director*



**STATEMENT ON S. 1403, THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION CORPS ACT OF 2017,  
AND S. 1522, EVERY KID OUTDOORS ACT**

July 18, 2017

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Daines and Ranking Member Hirono:

The Public Lands Alliance (PLA) commends the Subcommittee on National Parks for considering two valuable, bipartisan bills: S. 1403, the 21st Century Conservation Corps Act of 2017, and S. 1522, the Every Kid Outdoors Act. These bills encourage greater stewardship of America's parks, forests, refuges, conservation areas and other public lands by enabling land managers and partners to engage more powerfully with youth and veterans. PLA urges their speedy passage by the Senate.

PLA represents more than 120 nonprofit public lands partners operating in every U.S. state, territory, and the District of Columbia. PLA members serve more than 600 public lands sites and collectively contribute over \$250 million annually to their benefit. Standing side by side with land managers and with local communities, PLA members not only see the value of youth and veterans connecting with their public lands, they also marshal private resources to create these opportunities.

**S. 1522, Every Kid Outdoors Act**

Since 2015, nonprofit organizations have provided substantial funding to transport 4<sup>th</sup> graders to federally managed public lands through the Every Kid in A Park program. Once on a public land, these students benefit from interpretive and educational programs that many

2401 Blueridge Avenue, Suite 303 | Silver Spring, MD 20902 | 301.946.9475

nonprofit organizations conduct or provide critical funding to operate. PLA supports the continuation of these initiatives through the Every Kid Outdoors Act, codifying recent successes and adopting a new moniker that reflects the multiagency scope of the program.

**S. 1403, the 21st Century Conservation Corps Act of 2017**

The goal of the 21st Century Conservation Corps (21CSC) is to place youth and veterans in the United States in national service positions to protect, restore, and enhance the great outdoors. PLA endorses the long-term authorization of 21CSC to tackle public lands infrastructure issues, increase stewardship opportunities for young people and veterans, and demonstrate the value of private-public partnerships to accomplishing goals.

Together, these bills ensure that a ladder of progressive engagement exists between young people and their public lands, as well as provide our fighting men and women greater opportunities to continue their service to our nation and connect with the outdoors. Nonprofit public lands partners are eager to assist their land management agencies to attract private resources to invest in these programs.

PLA appreciates your steadfast commitment to enhancing America's public lands and the experience of their hundreds of millions of visitors. These bills embody that commitment.

Sincerely,



Dan Puskar  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell



**SANTA ROSA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Administrative Offices | 6495 Caroline Street, Suite M | Milton, Florida 32570-4592

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April 24, 2017

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
United States Senate  
700 South Palafox Street, Suite 125  
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Senator Rubio,

At the April 24, 2017 meeting, the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners approved the Santa Rosa Island draft bill language regarding conveyance of certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything else you may need from the Board regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Gomillion".

Tony Gomillion  
County Administrator

**Statement for the Hearing Record: Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)**  
**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks**  
**Hearing on National Parks Legislation**  
**115<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**July 19, 2017**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks:

Thank you for holding this hearing today to review legislation critical to the preservation of our public lands and the historic and cultural resources of the Nation. I am pleased that the Subcommittee has decided to focus on two of my bills during today's hearing: the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Re-designation Act (S.312) and the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act (S.355). In addition to my statement, I would also ask that the Subcommittee include in the hearing record letters I have received in support of S.312 and S.355, as well as information describing the works of famed sculptor and artist Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

My first bill, S.312, would redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire as the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park. The effort to re-designate this important site is strongly supported by the site's non-profit operating partner group, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, by the Cornish community, and by the entire New Hampshire delegation, including Senator Maggie Hassan who is a cosponsor of my legislation.

Authorized in 1964, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site preserves the home and artwork of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the foremost American sculptor of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. During his career, Saint-Gaudens created over 150 works of art, ranging from exquisitely carved cameos to heroic-sized public monuments. Many of the works, including the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial in Boston and the Standing and Seated Abraham Lincoln monuments in Chicago, commemorate heroes of the Civil War.

In addition to the Saint-Gaudens estate, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site also includes the Blow-Me-Down Farm, which was donated by the Saint-Gaudens Memorial in 2010. The farm is historically significant for its association with the Cornish Art Colony, one of the earliest examples of an unplanned artist colony in the United States. From 1895 through World War I, the Cornish Art Colony was home to more than 100 artists, sculptors, writers, poets, musicians and politicians. The colony's central figure was Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

The addition of Blow-Me-Down Farm, which includes over 42 acres, nine historic structures, agricultural fields and more than a quarter mile of frontage along the Connecticut River, has dramatically broadened the utilization of the grounds. While once a site solely featuring exhibitions of the great sculptor, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site now includes constantly rotating contemporary and historical exhibitions, a summer concert series, hands-on workshops, lectures, artist-in-residence programs and educational opportunities relating to Saint-Gaudens, the Cornish Colony of artists that formed around him, as well as the arts generally.

The ever-expanding uses of the grounds now exceed the present designation as an historic site, so this is no longer the most appropriate or useful classification for this significant area. National Park System units designated as national historic sites are generally only a few acres in size, with discrete boundaries, and feature a single building. By contrast, the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site encompasses 190 acres and is composed of two non-contiguous units with broader historical contexts. My legislation, the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Re-designation Act, would incorporate the word “park” into the name of the unit to more appropriately describe the size and resource diversity found at this site.

In the past decade, the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site has expanded to include overlapping stories of historically significant artists, as well as multiple historic buildings, a vast collection of American art, a variety of arts-related activities, landscapes and trails. This park is about much more than history; it is also about celebrating the creation and exhibition of contemporary art. The new name proposed in my legislation will reflect this broader scope and purpose.

My second bill, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, would provide veterans living with service-connected disabilities free, lifetime access to enjoy our national parks and other federal lands, thereby giving military men and women the opportunity to enjoy the American land they fought and sacrificed to protect. This bipartisan legislation, which I introduced with Senator Collins, is also cosponsored by several members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

As we all know, national parks and public lands protect the best of our natural and cultural heritage. These protected areas attract millions of visitors annually, help protect America’s unique wildlife and majestic forests, and contribute to our economic and social wellbeing. Although their primary purpose is conservation, federal lands also deliver invaluable mental, physical and societal health benefits to Americans. For our veterans, access to national parks and federal recreation sites is also vital to rehabilitation.

For many veterans, the transition back to civilian life is often difficult. In addition to coping with physical injuries, veterans often must deal with mental health issues, including depression, trauma, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. Public lands provide much-needed respite for military families and allow for non-traditional methods of recovery, such as nature-based recreation, to help veterans cope with transition. In fact, a 2013 study from the University of Michigan found that veterans participating in extended outdoor recreation activities showed signs of improved mental health, with those experiencing the most severe on-going health issues benefiting the most.

Given the numerous benefits, it is essential that military men and women who have fought and sacrificed to protect America be allowed to more easily access our nation’s parks and recreational lands. Unfortunately, the relevant federal agencies do not offer a pass specifically for veterans.

Under current law, a lifetime America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass (Lands Pass) is available to any U.S. citizen “who has been medically determined to be permanently disabled” (16 U.S.C. 6804). The definition includes “a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual.”(42 U.S.C. 12102). Major life activities include: caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, speaking and breathing. This definition sets a relatively high bar for qualification.

The National Park Service currently interprets that authority to include certain disabled veterans. However, there are significant differences between the statutory definitions for 'permanently disabled' among civilians and veterans with service-connected injuries under Title 38. Lack of statutory guidance has required the agency to make broad judgements about eligibility for veterans.

As a result, it is unclear to what degree disabled veterans can access the program. For example, many veterans are initially diagnosed with a service-connected injury but given a disability rating of zero. The diagnosis serves as recognition by the Department of Veterans Affairs that the veteran was injured while serving in the military though the severity does not yet merit disability payments. Many veterans receive this initial diagnosis and are later awarded a higher rating as the injury worsens over time.

My legislation clarifies the current statutory language to ensure that all wounded veterans are eligible for free, lifetime access to America's outdoor recreational treasures. Specifically, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to make the Lands Pass available, without cost, to a veteran with a service-connected disability. This legislation has received broad support from veteran and conservation groups, including the Vet Voice Foundation, the Sierra Club Military Outdoors, the Wilderness Society and the National Parks Conservation Association.

We owe it to our returning servicemen and women to do all we can to help them recover from the pain and suffering experienced in war. This legislation will honor the service of our veterans who have all earned the right to free, lifetime access to our national treasures.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of my bills. I look forward to working with the Committee to advance these pieces of legislation.

**Addendum: Information Regarding the Influence of Augustus Saint-Gaudens and the  
Cornish Art Colony**

**Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)**

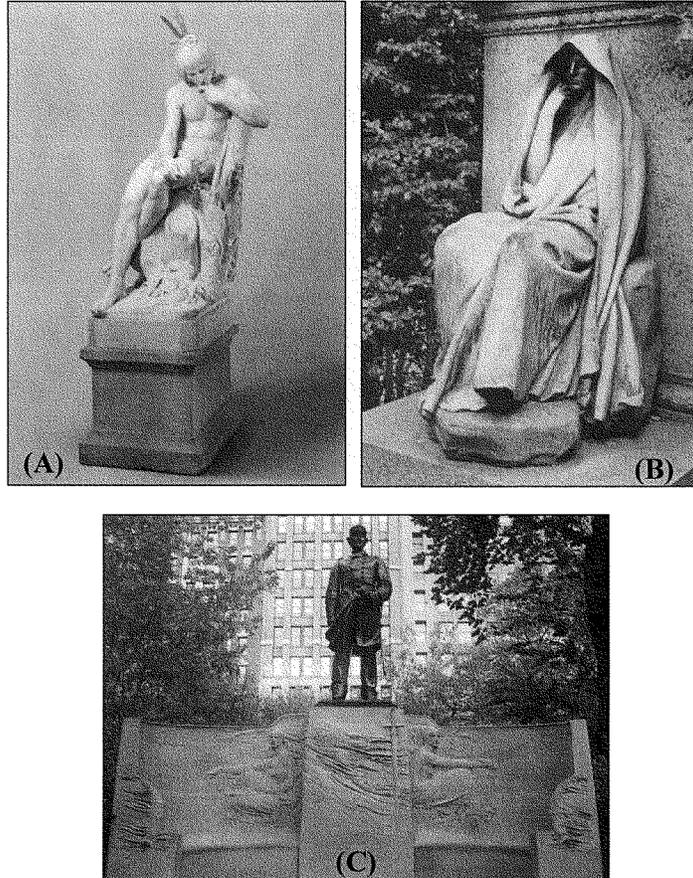
August Saint-Gaudens is widely regarded as one of the greatest American sculptors in history. His work resides in over 500 locations worldwide and with each commission, he further defined the American Renaissance and pushed the bounds of what could be done in sculpture. His magnificent ability to channel the elegance and realism of the Italian Renaissance, in order to capture the powerful spirit of Civil War heroes, catapulted him and his work to success—success that he used to cultivate America’s artistic scene and change American sculpture permanently.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens was born in 1848 in Dublin, Ireland to a French father and Irish mother. A few months after he was born, his family immigrated to the United States in order to escape famine and settled in New York City. After discovering his passion for art, he trained at Cooper Union, the National Academy of Design, and later in Paris, where he was one of the first Americans to study sculpture at the acclaimed École des Beaux-Arts. During his time in Europe, he was heavily influenced by Italian Renaissance artists; this lively, naturalistic style defined his career.

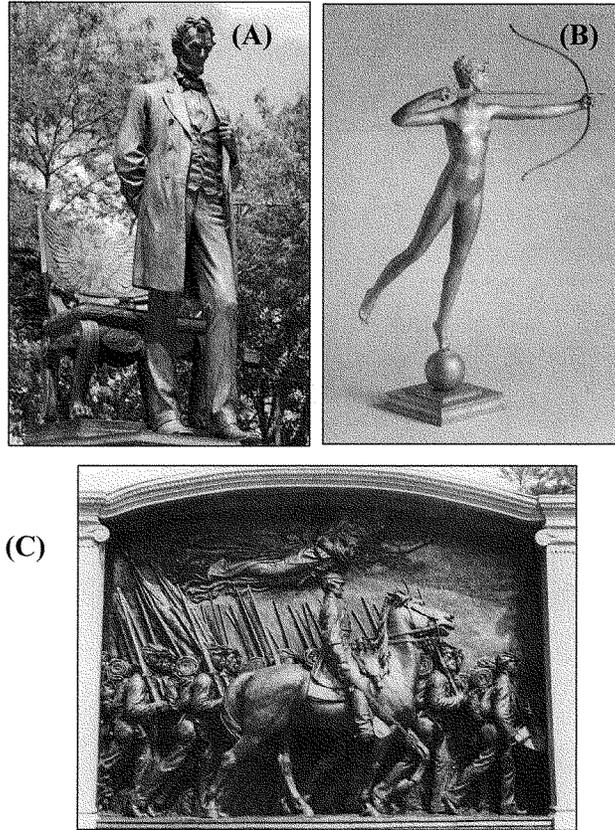
In 1875, Saint-Gaudens moved to New York City and received the commission for one of his most important works, the *Admiral David Farragut*. Admiral Farragut’s career was decorated by military victories, and with his craft, Saint-Gaudens was fully able to capture his spirit. The statue was lauded for its realism and precision; this statue signified Saint-Gaudens’- and subsequently American sculptors’- departure from neoclassical styles to embrace the style of the French École des Beaux-Arts.

In the late 1880s and 1890s, after his first public success with the Farragut monument, Augustus Saint-Gaudens worked on several other statues, including twenty public commissions, funerary monuments and personal projects. Earlier projects included reredos for Cornelius Vanderbilt’s New York mansion and *The Puritan*, a monument which still stands in Merrick Park in Springfield, Massachusetts. Saint-Gaudens also cast a winged, ethereal female who appeared in three different works (most notably, the *Amor Caritas* memorial) and became one of the most recognized art figures of the time period.

Some of the Saint-Gaudens most renowned sculptures include the *Standing Lincoln* for Lincoln Park, Chicago (1884-1887); *Adams Monument* for Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C. (1886-1891); the nude *Diana* (1886-1891), for Madison Square Park, New York; and the *Robert Gould Shaw Memorial* (1897) for Beacon Street, Massachusetts. The *Standing Lincoln* is considered one of the most important sculptures of the president from the nineteenth century; because of its excellence, it has been replicated many times, particularly for diplomatic purposes. The *Adams Monument* was created as a memorial for a woman who committed suicide but this personal monument become widely known and replicated because of its emotional power. *Diana*, stood atop Madison Square Garden when it was the second tallest building in New York City and, notably was the first statue lit with electricity at night. Finally, the *Robert Gould Shaw Memorial* was dedicated to the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment and their commander, drawing acclaim for its accurate depictions of the African American soldiers and its masterful combination of realism and religious imagery. Each of these sculptures further distinguished Saint-Gaudens as the best sculptor of his time as the statues both defined and became a part of American history.



**Figure 1.** Shows examples of Saint-Gaudens sculptures. **(A)** Saint-Gauden's created his first full-length sculpture, *Hiawatha*, in 1875 while in Rome. It currently resides in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. **(B)** The *Adams Monument* expresses the Buddhist idea of nirvana; Saint-Gaudens was able craft both a deeply personal and monumental memorial that has enticed tourists to visit Rock Creek Cemetery. **(C)** Saint-Gaudens created the bronze *Admiral Farragut Monument* and Stanford White built the granite base. It represents Farragut in a naval uniform, wielding binoculars and a sword. This monument is currently located in Madison Square Park in New York City.



**Figure 2.** Shows examples of Saint-Gaudens sculptures. **(A)** In *Standing Lincoln*, Saint-Gaudens created the looming 12-foot figure in front of his Chair of State as if he is about to deliver a public address. He based the statue on a portrait by Leonard Wells Volk. **(B)** The original *Diana* was an eighteen-foot statue made of gilded sheet copper. It was soon determined that it was too large to be a weather vane on top of Madison Square Garden and it was replaced by a thirteen-foot replica. **(C)** *Robert Gould Shaw Memorial* took fourteen years for Saint-Gaudens to complete. Saint-Gaudens called it a “labor of love” as the monument evolved to commemorate not only the Colonel, but also the whole army regiment.

In addition to the commissions and statues he created, Saint-Gaudens was also engaged in the greater art community during the 1890s. He took on private students, supported the American Academy in Rome, cofounded the Society of American Artists and taught at the Arts Students League of New York. He also engaged with other artists, joining the McKim, Mead and White architectural firm to collaborate on several monuments and decorative sculptures. A notable contribution to the art community was his founding of the Cornish Art Colony. His arrival in Cornish, New Hampshire marked the beginning of the colony, one of the earliest of its kind in the United States.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens first came to Cornish in 1885 after being persuaded by Charles Cotesworth Beaman, Jr., a successful New York lawyer and patron of the arts. Beaman was able to convince Saint-Gaudens to come to Cornish because he promised him a plethora of "Lincoln-shaped men" to model for his *Standing Lincoln*. He went on to settle in Cornish, sparking the beginning of the Cornish Art Community in the small town. Saint-Gaudens rented a house on Beaman's property which he later bought in 1891. He named the property "Blow-Me-Down Farm" or "Aspet", after the French village in which his father was born. Once he arrived, other artists quickly followed.

The first group of artists to immigrate to the Cornish Art Colony were the painters George de Forest Brush and Thomas Dewing, who were attracted by the area's beautiful landscapes. Other prominent art figures, such as painter Henry O. Walker, painter and etcher Stephen Parrish, and illustrator and painter Maxfield all joined the Cornish Art Colony and settled in New Hampshire during the 1890s. Moreover, artists like sculptor Daniel Chester French, painter John White Alexander and sculptor Paulanship would venture to the small town during the summers. President Woodrow Wilson also spent a summer in the colony after converting Winston Churchill's "Harlakenden House" into a summer White House. As the colony grew, Cornish, New Hampshire was increasingly seen as a place of collaboration and intellectual stimulation. By 1905, there were nearly forty families that resided in the colony permanently or seasonally.

Between 1895 and 1925, nearly 100 artists, sculptors, writers, designers and politicians came to Cornish. The artists stimulated the local town, bringing economic growth, patronizing local markets and creating commercial enterprises in a place where the agriculture economy was struggling. Furthermore, the Cornish Art Colony promoted cultural interest. In the town of Cornish, the artists supported local libraries, drama productions and participated in town beautification projects. Discussion was stimulated by the creation of the Mothers' and Daughters' Club in Plainfield, New Hampshire, the first club of its kind in New Hampshire and one of the first in the United States. Members of the Cornish Art Colony often engaged with the local community and lent their talent to the town as architects. For instance, Charles Platt built dwellings in the community that combined Italian inspirations with the spirit of America.

When Saint-Gaudens died on August 3, 1907, the Cornish Art Colony began its decline as he was no longer there to draw in new artists. However, the impact of Saint-Gaudens and the Cornish Art Colony can still be seen in New Hampshire to this day. In 1966, the property of Augustus Saint-Gaudens was designated as a national historic site unit in the National Parks System, preserving his talent, spirit and contribution to America and its art culture.

Figure 3. Various works from artists that resided in the Cornish Art Colony.



Williard Leroy Metcalf  
(1858-1925), painter



John White Alexander  
(1856-1915), painter



Edith Prellwitz  
(1865-1944), painter



Henry Brown Fuller  
(1867-1934), painter



Maria Oakley Dewing  
(1845-1927), painter,  
writer and  
photographer



Herbert Adams  
(1858-1945), sculptor



James Earle Fraser  
(1876-1953), sculptor



Louise Cox  
(1865-1945), painter

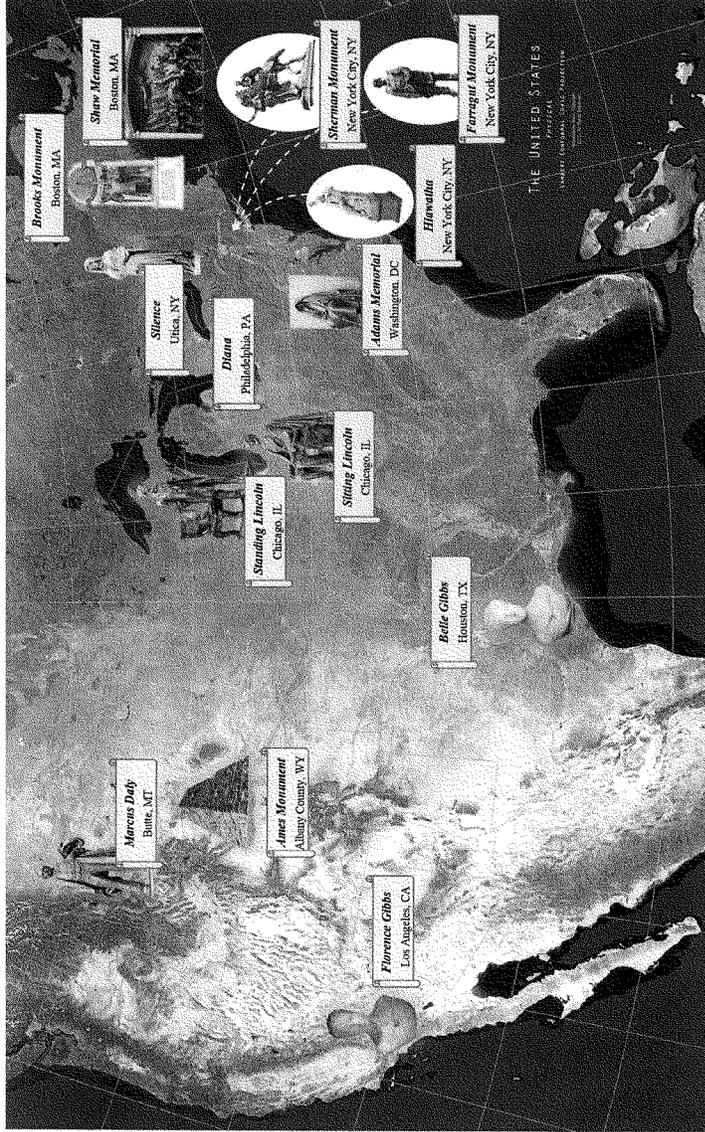


Figure 4. Various works of Augustus Saint-Gaudens throughout the United States.



July 19, 2017

The Honorable Steve Daines  
Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on National Parks  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mazie Hirono  
Ranking Member  
Senate Subcommittee on National Parks  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and Members of the Subcommittee,

On behalf of the Sierra Club's 3 million members and supporters, I write to thank the National Parks Subcommittee for considering S. 1522, the Every Kid Outdoors Act, and S. 1403, the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act, and to urge you to support and advance these important and bipartisan bills which would ensure our children, youth, and young veterans have opportunities to experience America's great outdoors. I respectfully request that the following testimony be included in the July 19, 2017, hearing record.

Our children's lives are out of balance. Today's young people spend less time outdoors than any generation in history. In fact, the average young American is spending more than fifty hours a week on electronic media and just minutes a day in unstructured outdoor play. The indoor and sedentary lifestyles of our children and youth are contributing to a national health crisis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that children engage in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day, yet nearly three-quarters of all youth do not meet these basic guidelines. Nearly one in three children is overweight or obese, and we are seeing more and more kids develop what were once adult-onset-only chronic diseases. These medical expenses are bankrupting our country. More than twenty percent, or \$190.2 billion, of annual medical spending in the United States is on health care costs of obesity-related illness. Childhood obesity alone costs our country \$14 billion in direct medical expenses.

At the same time, America's great outdoors drive an \$887 billion economy, supporting more than seven million jobs across our nation. The outdoor recreation economy generates nearly \$125 billion in tax revenue (\$65.3 billion federally; \$59.2 billion in state and local tax revenue); this federal tax revenue alone is enough to pay for more than six million critical jobs from firefighters to police officers to teachers.

The Every Kid Outdoors and the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Acts would codify two highly successful programs that are not only getting our kids and youth active and outdoors, but preparing them to be environmental stewards of tomorrow.

Every Kid Outdoors Act, S. 1522

The Every Kid Outdoors Act would codify the highly successful Every Kid in a Park program that is encouraging children from urban to rural America to get outdoors where they can be active and develop lifelong habits that improve their health and ensure they are prepared to be the next generation of environmental stewards. The Every Kid in a Park program has proven a cost-effective common sense solution to improve our children's health, support long-term economic investment, and introduce a new generation to the beauty and wonder of America's public lands, waters, and shores.

In the program's first year, over two million fourth graders downloaded the Every Kid in a Park pass. In addition, over the first two years, nearly \$5 million in private funding has been leveraged to support transportation costs for children from Title 1 schools across America. The private sector has stepped up to support the program by providing transportation grants and delivering high quality programming to kids, many of whom were visiting a park for the first time. For example, Sierra Club expanded our outings offerings to connect fourth graders from the San Gabriel Valley to the San Gabriel Mountains in their backyard.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke even credited the Every Kid in a Park program as one of the reasons for the surge in visitation to our National Parks during the centennial year of the National Park Service. Several Governors, Democrats and Republicans alike, have seen the long-term potential of the Every Kid in a Park program and are accepting the passes in their state park systems. Nevada took it a step further and recently passed a law to give free entry to all of it's fifth graders to state parks.

The new school year starts next month, and rising 3rd graders are anxious to get their Every Kid in a Park pass. Ben T. from Arlington, VA, has this to say: "I hope to visit Shenandoah National Park, as well as places not too far away like Harper's Ferry in West Virginia. But, I'd REALLY like to see someplace like Yellowstone or Denali! I'm looking forward to having my own park pass."

21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act, S. 1403

The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) Act codifies another highly successful program that reaches older youth and young veterans with work opportunities to address mission-critical maintenance projects on our public lands and waters. The 21CSC is a public-private partnership that engages more than 25,000 returning veterans and young Americans each year to strengthen America's infrastructure, boost local economies, and protect our nation's public lands and waters.

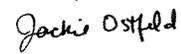
America's public lands and waters have a combined maintenance backlog of over \$18 million. The legislation would expand the use of highly trained conservation and service corps on federal lands and waters, whittling away this maintenance backlog while providing skill building and employment opportunities for youth and veterans. Additionally, the legislation would impose no new costs to taxpayers, but rather rely on existing appropriations and leverage public-private partnerships in ways that get more done with less. Conservation Corps serve critical functions including fighting wildfires, building trails, and removing invasive species.

In addition to the maintenance backlog, the National Park Service is expecting half of all of its employees in leadership positions to retire any day now. Employees in our parks and public lands are aging, and there is a critical need to ensure the generation coming up behind them has the skills necessary to become the next generation of land managers.

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I understand the the National Park Service intends to recommend deferred action on both of these bipartisan bills. It is my testimony that a delay is unnecessary and will only create uncertainty for our children, youth, veterans, and our land management units. Both of these programs have incredible momentum and are leveraging substantial private investments to provide critical opportunities that improve the health of our kids, communities, economy, and our planet. I urge the Subcommittee to reject the National Park Service's recommendation and move quickly to report S. 1522 and S. 1403 favorable to the full committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Ostfeld". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jackie Ostfeld  
Associate Director, Outdoors Campaign  
Sierra Club



July 11, 2017

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

The Vet Voice Foundation is a non-profit organization with a national network of nearly 500,000 Veterans, active-military and their families, dedicated to engaging in issues of civic importance, particularly in conservation. We are writing to express our support for your bill, the Wounded Warrior Recreation Amendment, which would provide less than 100% service connected disabled Veterans, with a free pass to our national parks. Passing this bill will mean access for all veterans to over 2000 national parks, as well as covering their entrance fees.

Veterans have an important relationship with public lands. As a matter of heritage, we see these parks and public lands as a part of the homeland we defended while in uniform. And in that sense, a part of the stewardship of invaluable cultural, biological, and scientific resources. We need them to ensure continued recreational access and enjoyment; to benefit our economy; and to ensure that future generations can enjoy these lands as we do today.

Perhaps more importantly for us, this is about protecting the Veterans and active duty military who find that public lands offer places to recuperate from the stresses of overseas service (such as PTSD), and to reconnect with family and friends, adequately reintegrating into civilian life after completing overseas missions. Our Veterans, need this amendment.

We are committed to doing what we can to preserve and protect, by wholly endorsing the Wounded Warrior Recreation Amendment. Please know that the Vet Voice Foundation will continue to offer our unfailing support to your efforts, and continue to make our voices heard for passage. Thank you so much for focusing your attention on creating greater access for our public lands.

Sincerely,

Steve Dunwoody  
California Director  
The Vet Voice Foundation

cc:

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of Interior  
The Honorable Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality



July 19, 2017

The Honorable Steve Daines, Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on National Parks  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mazie Hirono, Ranking Member  
Senate Subcommittee on National Parks  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Hirono, and members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of The Wilderness Society's more than one million members and supporters from across the country, I write to thank the National Parks Subcommittee for its consideration of S. 1522, the Every Kid Outdoors Act, and S. 1403, the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act, and to express strong support for both of these important and bipartisan bills. I respectfully request that the following testimony be included in the July 19, 2017 hearing record.

Every Kid Outdoors Act

It is well-established that America's youth spend less time outdoors than ever before. On average, they spend over 40 hours a week in front of screens and just minutes a day in unstructured outdoor play. The rise of sedentary lifestyles and screen-time among children is a major factor in the health crisis facing our youth, with nearly one in three children now overweight or obese. Time spent outdoors has profound positive impacts on physical and mental health, and boosts academic performance. Yet, kids face many barriers to accessing our parks.

The Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) Act would codify and make permanent the highly effective, bipartisan Every Kid in a Park program. This program provides free one-year National Park passes to fourth graders and their families. The Act would help tackle one of the most significant barriers to access -- the cost of entry. In doing so, it would provide fourth graders and their families with valuable opportunities to experience America's outdoors.

We understand that the National Park Service is recommending that the Committee defer action on S. 1522 until the Department of the Interior has an opportunity to review the program to determine if it is cost effective. No such delay is necessary. In the first two years of the Every Kid in a Park program, the initiative has clearly demonstrated its value. In year one, fourth graders downloaded over two million park passes. In the first two years, the program leveraged nearly \$5 million in private funding to support transportation costs for children in historically underserved schools. As a result, hundreds of thousands of young people experienced America's parks and historic sites, many of them for the first time.

The Every Kid program is a low-cost, high reward way to help ensure our kids can learn about our unique history and experience our public lands, waters, and shores. For these reasons, the

Wilderness Society urges the Subcommittee to reject the NPS recommendation and move quickly to report S. 1522 favorably to the full committee.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps Act

America's land and water management agencies have a combined a maintenance backlog of more than \$18.6 billion. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps Act (21CSCA) is part of the solution. 21CSCA would expand the use of conservation and service corps on federal lands and waters, thereby helping to address the maintenance backlog and providing young people and veterans with valuable work and personal growth experiences that prepare them for a wide range of careers later in life.

21CSCA would impose no new costs on taxpayers. Instead, it would rely on existing agency appropriations, leveraging them through flexible public-private partnerships in a way that gets more work done with less resources. Corps members fulfill mission-critical functions, building trails, fighting wildfires, managing habitat and maintaining other park and public land facilities. In doing so, conservation corps increase public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation activities, which helps drive the \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy.

As with EKO, we understand that the National Park Service is recommending that the Committee defer action on S. 1403. Again, no delay is necessary. America's conservation and service corps have been providing high quality, cost-effective service to America's public land and water management agencies for decades, and producing better-skilled and more prepared job candidates for America's diverse workforce. There is no reason to postpone action on the bill. We urge the Subcommittee to reject the NPS recommendation and move quickly to report S. 1403 favorably to the full committee.

Conclusion

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,



Paul Sanford  
National Director of Recreation Policy  
The Wilderness Society  
[paul\\_sanford@tws.org](mailto:paul_sanford@tws.org) | 202.429.2615

