

PENDING LEGISLATION

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

ON

S. 1863	S. 2827	S. 3265
S. 1910	S. 2924	S. 3331
S. 1969	S. 3098	S. 508/H.R. 182
S. 2206	S. 3119	H.R. 1472
S. 2340	S. 3121	

MARCH 4, 2020



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PENDING LEGISLATION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020

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

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:15 p.m., in Room SD-336, 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. The Subcommittee will come to order. I am excited to be here to chair the Subcommittee on National Parks, our very first hearing of the year. While we are about to discuss 15 interesting pieces of legislation before us, I want to take a minute to reflect on some of the changes the National Park Service has seen over the past ten years as we enter into the 2020's.

Just last week, the National Park Service released its annual visitation statistics. In 2019, there were 327.5 million visits to units of the National Park System. That is an increase of 46 million visits going back to just 2010. That is a 16 percent increase. These numbers are impressive, and I think they are a testament to the enthusiasm from Americans and visitors from abroad who want to see the incredible landscapes and cultural sites that are in our National Park System. But, and here is the but—there always is one it seems, there are also significant management challenges for the Park Service. Chief among those is how to address the Park Service's almost \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog.

The good news is, just yesterday the President reiterated his full support for this important issue, and as we are here at the dais today, I am most grateful for Ranking Member Angus King and for Senator Martin Heinrich as well from New Mexico who were just standing a few minutes ago at a press conference announcing this great news of the progress we are making on the Restore Our Parks Act to deal with this \$12.5 billion deferred maintenance. As Senator Angus King has just said, we should view that as debt, and he is exactly right. We have to address it.

I know that Congress has an important role in these discussions, and I want to thank my colleagues on this Subcommittee who are here and who are not here who support the Restore Our Parks Act. We have a chance to get this done, to actually get this done in the near-term, and I look forward to working with the Ranking Member and my colleagues to see this through. It has truly been a great

example of checking egos in at the door and bringing Republicans and Democrats together to solve an important problem.

In the long-term will be how to plan and account for routine and unexpected maintenance to ensure that visitation is growing in a sustainable way. I also believe that as the Subcommittee debates designating new park units or adding more responsibilities for the Park Service to manage, we need to think critically about the National Park Service's capacity to respond to a bigger workload.

As mentioned earlier, there are 15 bills being considered today. We have some simple renaming bills, like one from Senator Sasse that redesignates the Homestead National Monument of America as the Homestead National Historic Park. We have some good governance bills like Senator Gardner's legislation to convey about 0.18 acres of Rocky Mountain National Park back to a private landowner that was mistakenly conveyed to the National Park Service.

Additionally, we have some bills that would change the management status of certain units. This is one of Senator Heinrich's bills to designate the Bandelier National Monument as the Bandelier National Park and Preserve as well as Senator McSally's Casa Grande Ruins National Monument Boundary Modification Act. It is a lot of words to get out there in one title.

One of my personal favorites is Senator Tillis' legislation to provide a Sense of Congress to encourage the American Battle Monuments Commission to help care for the Mardasson Memorial. That Memorial, which is located in Belgium, honors the service of Americans who were wounded or killed while fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, the famous battle that ended World War II.

I look forward to a good discussion, and with that, I want to ask unanimous consent to include written statements and letters that have been sent to the Subcommittee in the official hearing record, without objection.

We have one witness today, Mr. Shawn Bengé, who is the Acting Deputy Director of Operations for the National Park Service within the U.S. Department of the Interior. I want to welcome you and thank you for being here today, and for your patience. I will now turn to Ranking Member King for his opening remarks.

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

Senator KING. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And your statement about the press conference that we just had only told half the story of the press conference to announce bipartisan support, including the support of the Administration, for not only the Restore Our Parks Act but permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This is the best news for land conservation in many, many years.

I joked at the press conference that we were the most distinguished group of conservationists since Teddy Roosevelt had breakfast by himself. But it is an extraordinary moment and we really think that we are on the verge of passing truly historic legislation in terms of both maintaining the National Parks but also permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is really going to make a huge difference in this country. The Chair is one of the two guys who pulled this together over the last several

days, brought the Administration along, and I think this is a major achievement.

I look forward to putting it over the finish line, hopefully, in a couple of weeks. This is our first meeting of this Subcommittee of this year. We have worked very well together over the last several years. We have moved quite a few bipartisan bills, including the Restore Our Parks Act, and we have a wide range of bills here today, as the Chairman alluded, in different areas. Ten of the 15 bills look at creating new park units or re-designating existing units with new names, and I want to understand the criteria bit for that process.

Senator Cardin also, Mr. Chairman, asked me to introduce a statement that he has for the record relating to his bill, S. 1969, so I will put that in the record.

Senator DAINES. Without objection.

[The information referred to follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN L. CARDIN (D-MD)

Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks
Hearing on S. 1969, the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Chairman Daines and Ranking Member King, thank you for holding this hearing on S. 1969, the “Fallen Journalists Memorial Act”. This bipartisan legislation, which I introduced with my colleague from Ohio, Senator Rob Portman, authorizes the establishment of a national memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to honor our Nation’s global commitment to a free press by recognizing the sacrifices of journalists who have died while performing their jobs.

Less than two years ago, on June 28, 2018, the deadliest attack on journalists in U.S. history took place at the office of the *Capital Gazette*, the local newspaper in Annapolis, MD, when a gunman shot and killed five employees and wounded two others. The five people he killed are among the more than 1,300 journalists worldwide who have lost their lives in the last 25 years in the line of duty. I had a chance to visit with the employees of that proud and historic newspaper soon after that tragic day. I will never forget the journalists who died

or the resiliency and courage of the remaining staff and volunteers who continued to publish the newspaper without a single day's interruption.

The *Capital Gazette* shooting is a stark reminder that journalism is not a safe profession and that the freedom of press is under attack around the world today. Journalists are imprisoned and killed because of their commitment to democracy, transparency, and accountability. A Fallen Journalists Memorial will give us a chance to re-double our efforts as a Nation to understand how important the freedom of press is to our democratic system here in America and around the world.

My legislation authorizes the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to lead the effort to raise funds to design, develop, construct, and maintain a memorial that will be an enduring tribute to the reporters, photojournalists, producers, editors and others who have died while performing their jobs as journalists. The Foundation operates under the auspices of the National Press Club Journalism Institute (NPCJI), which is the non-profit educational affiliate of the National Press Club. Numerous leaders from all segments of the journalism community support the Foundation.

Organizations that support S. 1969 include the Military Reporters and Editors Association, National Federation of Press Women, National Newspaper Association, News Media Alliance, Committee to Protect Journalists, Freedom Forum, News Leaders Association, and Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

I want to emphasize that, as provided for in S. 1969, the design, development, construction and maintenance of the Fallen Journalists Memorial will not involve the use of any taxpayer funds. The legislation requires the Foundation to locate, design, and construct the memorial in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act, and to provide sufficient funds to the National Park Service to maintain the memorial. It is our clear intention that private donations will completely fund and sustain the project.

The House Natural Resources Committee has marked up a companion bill, H.R. 3465, which Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA, 32nd) introduced. The Committee voted unanimously to order the bill to be reported. The new version contains changes to reflect recommendations the Acting Director of the National Park Service and the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission made. I am not aware of any opposition to the bill, as amended.

Like so many of our colleagues, constituents, and visitors from around the world, I find inspiration in the memorials that I see when I walk around the National Mall and its adjacent areas. We have memorials to those who fought for our democracy and to strengthen democratic institutions in America and around the world. We have memorials to leaders whose achievements have helped to build and sustain this great and continuous experiment in democracy we call the United States. These memorials reflect our commitment to be the “Shining City on the Hill” and humanity’s best hope for freedom, equality, peace, and prosperity.

I am pleased we have all of these monuments but, clearly, there is something missing because so much of what we value would not exist without a free and independent press. We do not have a focal point where we can honor those individuals at the *Capital Gazette* and the thousands more around the world who have died while trying to expose the truth and hold governments and public institutions accountable. A memorial to fallen journalists is a missing tile in the mosaic of our national tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to the values of freedom and democracy.

Thomas Jefferson, while he served as Minister to France, wrote to Edward Carrington, whom he had appointed to represent the State of Virginia at the Continental Congress. Jefferson vigorously defended the importance of a free press, stating:

The people are the only censors of their governors: and even their errors will tend to keep these to the true principles of their institution. To punish these errors too severely would be to suppress the only safeguard of the public liberty. The way to prevent these irregular interpositions of the people is to give them full information of their affairs thro' the channel of the public papers, & to contrive that those papers should penetrate the whole mass of the people. The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers & be capable of reading them.

I look forward to working with the Subcommittee, the full Committee, the National Park Service, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, and our Senate colleagues to advance S. 1969 through the Senate as quickly as possible and am happy to provide the Subcommittee with any additional information you may need.

Thank you.

#

Senator KING. And there are some policy questions we have to face in connection with these bills. I just really want to thank our witness, Mr. Bengé, for being here. I understand he worked in planning and facilities at the Park Planning, Facilities and Lands, so he is certainly knowledgeable about the issues that we are going to be discussing. I welcome my colleague, Senator Heinrich. I have been to Bandelier. I know it well. It is an extraordinary place—

Senator HEINRICH. It is in your book.

Senator KING. It is in my book. That is right. Thank you for—you mean the book—never mind. I was skating close to the ethics rules there for a moment, but I do appreciate the work of this Committee and look forward to the hearing. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Senator DAINES. We will now proceed to the witness testimony. At the end of the testimony, we will begin questions. Mr. Bengé, your full written testimony will be made part of the official hearing record. Mr. Bengé, you may proceed, welcome.

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGÉ, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
OPERATIONS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR**

Mr. BENGÉ. Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on 14 of the bills on today's agenda. I would like to submit our full statements for the record and summarize the Department's views.

The Department supports the following four bills: S. 1910 and H.R. 1472, which would redesignate the Homestead National Monument of America; S. 3098, which would redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site; and S. 3265, which would redesignate the Weir Farm National Historical Site. These three sites would become National Historical Parks. We would like to work with the Committee on technical amendments for S. 3265, the Weir Farm bill. We also support S. 3121, to redesignate Chiricahua National Monument to call it a National Park. The Department believes that these redesignations are appropriate for all four units.

S. 1969 would authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work to honor the sacrifices made by journalists working as guardians of democracy and for a free and independent press. The Department would support the bill if amended to clarify the purpose and focus of the commemorative work.

H.R. 182 and S. 508 would reauthorize the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission. The Department does not support this legislation, but if the Committee takes action on it, we would recommend amending the original legislation to remove a specific authority for the Commission.

S. 1863 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald schools. The Department recognizes that this subject represents an important story, but we do not support S. 1863 at this time. There are more than 5,000 Rosenwald schools in 12 states. If the Committee acts on the legislation, we would like to work with the Committee to refine the scope of the study.

S. 2340 would authorize the establishment of Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park. The Department recognizes the important contribution to the American story that this site represents. If the Committee acts on the bill, the Department would recommend amending S. 2340 to authorize a special resource study limited to the three sites recommended for further study by the National Park Service's recently completed reconnaissance survey.

S. 2827 would establish the U.S. African American Burial Ground Network. The Department recognizes the important contribution to the American story that this represents led by African American burial grounds; however, we do not support S. 2827 at this time. If the Committee acts on this legislation, we would recommend providing a study rather than establishing this new program.

S. 2924 would redesignate Bandelier National Monument as Bandelier National Park and Preserve. Hunting would be allowed within the National Preserve. Among several new authorities provided in this legislation, S. 2924 would establish a tribal commission to provide guidance and recommendations to implement management plans and policy. The Department supports S. 2924 but would like to work with the Committee to address concerns that we have about the bill.

S. 3119 would authorize boundary modifications to Casa Grande National Monument to further protect key archaeological resources associated with the site, and the Department supports this bill.

S. 3331 would authorize the addition of an important track of land to Rocky Mountain National Park and also resolve a longstanding ownership issue within the Park. The Department supports this bill.

Finally, as noted in several of our written statements, the Department is continuing to focus resources on reducing the National Park Service's deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical infrastructure needs of our current park assets. Chairman Daines, this concludes my statement and I would be pleased to answer your questions.

[The prepared statements of Mr. Bengé follows:]

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 1863, TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF THE
INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF THE SITES
ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NOTED AMERICAN
PHILANTHROPIST AND BUSINESS EXECUTIVE JULIUS ROSEWALD, WITH A
SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE ROSEWALD SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

March 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1863, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of noted American philanthropist and business executive Julius Rosenwald, with a special focus on the Rosenwald Schools, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes that Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools represent an important story in American history. However, we do not support enactment of S. 1863 at this time, as resources are needed to reduce the National Park Service's deferred maintenance backlog and address other critical infrastructure needs. The Department urges Congress to pass legislation addressing the deferred maintenance needs of its bureaus.

Julius Rosenwald left a remarkable legacy, including his significant philanthropic contributions to the construction of schools for African-American children under the direction of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The school program was created in partnership with Booker T. Washington and funded through donations from Julius Rosenwald and local African-American communities, resulting in the construction of over 5,000 schools and associated buildings in 15 states. The Rosenwald School system was instrumental in the effort to bring educational parity to African-American children living in the segregated South.

The NPS supports the preservation of Rosenwald Schools and the legacy of Julius Rosenwald through programs we administer directly, as well as in partnership with other organizations. Nearly 70 Rosenwald Schools located across 12 states are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Eight State Historic Preservation Offices have developed National Register procedures to facilitate the identification and nomination of these important historic resources. The NPS has provided over \$600,000 in grants that supported the restoration of Rosenwald Schools, the architectural survey and nomination of school sites, the development of education and outreach materials, and the preservation and digitization of the Rosenwald School archives housed at Fisk University. We also note the tremendous work being achieved by the National Trust for Historic Preservation through their Rosenwald Schools Initiative including extensive research of the sites, providing grant funding to the properties, hosting workshops, and creating publications on how to preserve Rosenwald Schools.

S. 1863 calls for the study of “sites associated with the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald, with special emphasis on the Rosenwald Schools”. The Department has concerns about the breadth of subject matter that phrase might cover. If the Committee decides to move forward with this legislation, we would appreciate the opportunity to work with the Committee to refine the scope of the study.

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

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 1910 AND H.R. 1472, BILLS TO RENAME THE
HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA NEAR BEATRICE,
NEBRASKA, AS THE HOMESTEAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

MARCH 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1910 and H.R. 1472, bills to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park.

The Department supports S. 1910 and H.R. 1472, as we believe that the name "Homestead National Historical Park" is an appropriate designation for this unit of the National Park System.

The Homestead National Monument of America was authorized by Congress in 1936, after acquisition of the site of the Daniel Freeman homestead, as a lasting memorial to the settlers who built the American West. The Freeman homestead was one of the first sites successfully claimed under the Homestead Act, which was enacted in 1862 to encourage the settlement of Western lands by offering ownership of 160 acres of land to heads of households who agreed to live on and farm the land for five years.

In 1971, legislation was passed to add the Freeman School, an original one-room prairie schoolhouse. Today, the park also includes the Homestead Heritage Center with interactive displays and 100 acres of restored tallgrass prairie.

The National Park Service encourages Congress to designate units of the National Park System in accordance with a standard pattern of nomenclature. Homestead National Monument of America, with the addition "of America" to the title "national monument" has made it an anomaly. Redesignating the unit as a national historical park would give the park a name that is one of the National Park Service's standard designations, and one that is appropriate for a unit that is large and has a complexity of physical resources. This renaming would not have a significant financial impact as the park would update maps and signage as a part of routine maintenance and reordering of interpretive materials.

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

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 1969, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE FALLEN
JOURNALISTS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE
WORK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

March 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1969, to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

The Department would support S. 1969 if amended to clarify the purpose and focus of the commemorative work.

S. 1969 would authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in Washington, D.C. designated as “Area I” or “Area II” in the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 89) (CWA) to commemorate the sacrifices made by journalists working as guardians of democracy and for a free and independent press. The work would not be permitted to be located in the area designated by Congress as the “Reserve,” which consists of the National Mall and areas to the north and south of the White House. The bill requires compliance with the CWA and prohibits Federal funds from being used to establish the memorial.

The National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) held a meeting on September 24, 2019, and received testimony and letters of support for S. 1969 and its companion bill, H.R. 3465. In its letter to Congress following the meeting, the Commission noted that while the title of Section 3 suggests that the memorial would “commemorate the commitment of the United States to a free press by honoring journalists who have sacrificed their lives in service to that cause,” the bill authorizes the commemorative work to commemorate, more generally, “the sacrifices made by journalists...” The Department agrees with the Commission that the bill should be clear that the purpose of the commemorative is to honor journalists who have made the ultimate sacrifice of life in service to the cause of a free press.

The Department also agrees with the Commission that the focus of the commemorative work should be on America’s commitment to a free press, rather than on individual fallen journalists. A memorial solely to the lives lost or to specific individuals would be contrary to Section 8903(c) of the CWA, which holds that a work commemorating a group of individuals may not be authorized until after the 25th anniversary of the death of the last surviving member of the group. The loss of the lives of journalists who put themselves in harm’s way to inform the public has occurred throughout history and continues to the present day. In this regard, the Fallen

Journalists Memorial Foundation testified to the Commission that it does not intend to commemorate specific individuals or to list names on the memorial.

We note that it is unclear whether the commemoration is intended to honor only American journalists, or all journalists around the world who have perished in service. Testimony provided to the Commission emphasized the global nature of the commemoration, yet the Department notes that the bill text references “the commitment of the United States to a free press.”

We strongly support the bill’s prohibition on Federal funds being used to establish the memorial, which ensures that the cost of establishing this memorial will not be borne by the National Park Service. However, the Committee should be aware that once constructed, the National Park Service would need to use funding for the maintenance of the memorial that could otherwise be used to help reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance in national parks and address other critical infrastructure needs.

Finally, the bill contains a provision we strongly support including in all legislation authorizing memorials under the CWA--the requirement that unspent funds for the construction of the memorial be provided to the National Park Foundation for deposit in an interest-bearing account, as stated in 40 U.S.C. Section 8906(b)(3).

We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee on amendments that address the matters identified in this statement.

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

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 2340, A BILL TO ESTABLISH
THE CAHOKIA MOUNDS MISSISSIPPIAN CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PARK IN COLLINSVILLE, ILLINOIS, MONROE, MADISON, AND ST. CLAIR
COUNTIES, ILLINOIS, AND ST. LOUIS CITY COUNTY, MISSOURI, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.**

MARCH 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2340, a bill to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in Collinsville, Illinois, Monroe, Madison, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, and St. Louis City County, Missouri, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes the important contribution to America's story that is represented by the resources related to Cahokia Mounds and other Mississippian mound sites in the greater St. Louis Area. If the Committee chooses to act on this bill, we would recommend amending S. 2340 to authorize a special resource study limited to Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, as well as Emerald, and Pulcher mounds, as recommended by the National Park Service's recently completed reconnaissance survey of the site. If the Committee moves forward on designating the site, we would recommend replacing the map referenced in the bill.

Establishing a unit of the National Park System could be one way to preserve and interpret the resources and related stories of Cahokia Mounds, but it may not be the most appropriate or feasible way to do so. In addition, at a time when the Department needs to devote resources to reducing the National Park Service's deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical infrastructure needs, it would be difficult to prioritize a new park unit without having a better understanding of how it would relate to other National Park Service resources and needs. The Department urges Congress to pass legislation addressing the deferred maintenance needs of its bureaus.

S. 2340 would authorize the establishment of the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park. The bill would authorize a boundary for the National Historical Park as depicted on the legislative map referenced in the bill. However, it is unclear what areas would be included in the National Historical Park as the map referenced does not depict any proposed boundary. The bill further authorizes the Secretary to acquire any land within the legislative boundary of the park by acquisition, donation, or exchange, with the exception that State owned lands could only be acquired through donation. S. 2340 also authorizes the Secretary to enter in agreements with the State and other entities to interpret and restore resources within the boundaries of the park, and directs the Secretary to prepare a management plan for the park in consultation with the State, Indian Tribes, and other entities.

The mounds at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site were a regional ceremonial and civic center for the Mississippian people, the name given by archeologists to the societies that lived in the Southeastern and Midwestern United States after about AD 1000. In addition to the core area of the mounds preserved by the state park, there were many related settlements and outlying sites. Earthen monuments, mounds, and the remnants of cities, towns, and villages built by the Mississippians are found across the southeastern and midwestern United States. The most significant of these places is Cahokia Mounds. Cahokia is the centerpiece of one of the most densely settled regions in ancient North America, located at the confluence of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois rivers.

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is administered by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency. It was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1964 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site includes 51 extant mounds, the most prominent of which is Monks Mound. Monks Mound and the central part of the site were purchased by the state of Illinois in 1923 and have been administered by the state ever since. The site gradually grew from the initial 144 acres to 2,200 acres. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site now includes mounds, public areas, and non-public residential areas.

The State of Illinois can acquire ownership of property within the boundaries of the Cahokia Mounds National Historic Landmark. Slightly more than half of the acreage within the National Historic Landmark boundaries is owned by the State Historic Site; the balance is held by nonprofit and private owners. Approximately 7,000-10,000 people live within the boundary of the National Historic Landmark.

In 2014, Senator Richard Durbin sent a letter to the National Park Service requesting a reconnaissance survey of the Cahokia Mounds and associated Mississippian mound groups in the greater St. Louis metro region. A reconnaissance survey provides a preliminary assessment of the national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for National Park Service management of an area or site proposed for inclusion in the National Park System. If a reconnaissance survey finds that a study area is likely to meet these criteria, a special resource study may be recommended.

The completed reconnaissance survey, transmitted to Congress in July 2019, found that Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site would likely meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Park System if further evaluated in a subsequent study, and identified two additional sites – Emerald and Pulcher Mounds – as warranting further study to make definitive findings. The reconnaissance survey recommended that a special resource study be authorized for these three sites to further evaluate criteria for inclusion, invite public involvement in the study process, and develop potential management alternatives. The remainder of the sites considered in the survey – including the St. Louis Mound Group, East St. Louis Mounds, Mitchell Mounds, and Sugar Loaf Mounds – were determined to be unlikely to meet the criteria for inclusion and were not recommended for additional study.

For these reasons, if the Committee chose to act on this bill, we would recommend amending the bill to provide for a special resource study limited to the three sites noted in the reconnaissance

survey, rather than the establishment of a new unit of the National Park System. We would be happy to provide suggested language for such an amendment.

Finally, the map referenced in the bill was not developed by the National Park Service and does not conform to the standard conventions for NPS legislative maps. The current map, cited in the bill as “Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park, Boundary, numbered CMMC-NHP-107, and dated 05-31-2019” does not provide sufficient detail or clarity regarding the legislative boundary. Without a clear map, we cannot determine what areas would be included in the National Historical Park. For this reason, should designation legislation move forward, we strongly recommend substituting a legislative map developed by the National Park Service for the current map referenced in S. 2340. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the bill sponsor to develop a suitable map.

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

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 2827, A BILL TO AMEND TITLE 54, UNITED
STATES CODE, TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE THE
U.S. AFRICAN-AMERICAN BURIAL GROUNDS NETWORK, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

March 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2827, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes the important contribution to America's story that is represented by African-American burial grounds; however, we do not support S. 2827 at this time. Establishing an African-American Burial Ground Network could be one way to increase public awareness of these overlooked and forgotten sites, but it may not be the most appropriate or feasible way to do so. In addition, at a time when the Department is focusing resources on reducing the National Park Service's deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical infrastructure needs, it would be difficult to prioritize a new program without having a better understanding of how it would relate to other National Park Service resources and needs. If the Committee acts on this legislation, we recommend amending the bill to provide for a study rather than establishment of a new program.

S. 2827 would establish the African-American Burial Grounds Network (Network) to include burial grounds that relate to the historic African-American experience. The Network would identify, document, preserve, research, evaluate, and interpret these burial grounds. Unmarked and unrecorded African-American burial grounds would be documented with the information publicly available if privacy and safety of the burial ground allow.

S. 2827 would also allow the Secretary to issue public grants and/or enter into cooperative agreements with governmental, educational, and non-profit organizations to help identify, preserve, interpret, and research sites in the Network.

The National Park Service would want a program like this one to be successful and sees the great challenge in managing something of this scale and magnitude without the appropriate administrative funding. The potential number of African-American burial grounds from the 17th Century to the 20th Century is enormous; locating and protecting these sites while also developing the Network in all the ways the bill describes would be incredibly challenging and costly.

In addition, many African-American burial grounds were deliberately unmarked to facilitate a final resting place, particularly during the period of U.S. enslavement. The National Park

Service would want to ensure that any effort to protect these sites from disturbance is appropriate, and will not ultimately cause the damage and disturbance this bill hopes to avoid. Great care and consideration should be given to whether the sites should be marked at all, and to keep in mind that sites could become open to looting, damage, or vandalism if their locations were publicly known.

We also note that the National Park Service currently administers two existing networks (the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and the African American Civil Rights Network) and are working to set-up two new networks that were recently established under P.L. 116-9 (Reconstruction Era National Historic Network and a program to commemorate and interpret the Transcontinental Railroad after first conducting a study of alternatives for the program).

For these reasons, if the Committee chooses to act on this bill, we recommend amending S. 2827 to provide for a study to determine the most appropriate way to recognize historic African-American burial grounds in lieu of establishing a Network. We would welcome the opportunity to provide suggested language for such an amendment.

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

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 2924, A BILL TO ESTABLISH BANDELIER
NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.**

MARCH 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2924, a bill to establish Bandelier National Park and Preserve in the State of New Mexico.

The Department supports enactment of S. 2924 but would like to work with the sponsor and the Committee to address concerns we have with the bill.

S. 2924 would establish the 29,656-acre Bandelier National Park and the 4,011-acre Bandelier National Preserve. Hunting would be allowed within the National Preserve. The legislation would allow the Superintendent of Valles Caldera National Preserve to manage hunting within the proposed preserve, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior.

S. 2924 would ensure access to traditional cultural and religious sites within the Bandelier National Park and Preserve by members of Indian tribes. The legislation would also allow temporary closures of these sites to the general public to protect traditional cultural and customary uses of these sites by members of the Indian tribe. S. 2924 would allow members that have a cultural affiliation with the land within Bandelier National Park and Preserve or Valles Caldera National Preserve to collect plants and mineral resources within these units for noncommercial traditional and cultural uses.

In addition, S. 2924 would establish a tribal commission that would provide guidance and recommendations to Bandelier National Park and Preserve to develop and implement management plans and policies, and it would require the Department to provide written notice to the tribal commission for any of its recommendations that the Department decides not to implement. S. 2924 would also authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to adjust the boundary between the Valles Caldera National Preserve and the Santa Fe National Forest. Finally, the legislation would authorize limited use of unmanned aircraft for scientific study, search and rescue, fire operations and law enforcement.

When President Woodrow Wilson established the Bandelier National Monument in 1916 by presidential proclamation under the authority of the 1906 Antiquities Act, he cited the ethnographic, scientific and educational features of the area dating back more than 11,000 years. Bandelier National Monument continues to protect more than 33,000 acres of rugged, beautiful canyons and mesas in northwestern New Mexico. The ethnographic, scientific and educational features remain central to the mission of the monument as well as a draw for the nearly 200,000 annual park visitors who contribute \$12.5 million to the local economy.

Redesignating Bandelier National Monument as Bandelier National Park is consistent with the nomenclature patterns of the National Park System. Units designated as national parks generally contain a variety of resources and encompass a large land or water area to help provide adequate protection of the resources. With its wealth of both natural and cultural resources over a large land mass, we believe it is appropriate to designate this unit as a national park.

It is also consistent with National Park Service nomenclature to designate an area that allows hunting as a national preserve, and we appreciate that S. 2924 follows that tradition by naming the area where hunting would be allowed “Bandelier National Preserve.”

Regarding our concerns about S. 2924:

Section 4(b), Traditional Cultural and Religious Sites, states that the Secretary, in consultation with Indian tribes, shall ensure the protection of traditional cultural and religious sites in the Bandelier National Park and Preserve. The Department notes that the National Park Service, under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, is currently directed to protect known traditional cultural and religious sites and to consult with Indian Tribes regarding these sites. We are unclear about the reason for including park-specific language for this purpose.

Section 4(b) also states that the Secretary, in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, may temporarily close an area, or areas, to the general public upon recommendation from an Indian tribe to protect traditional cultural and customary uses by its members. The Department is concerned that the bill’s use of the term “temporary closure” could cause confusion with existing policies. Also, this provision is different from other existing statutes that address similar situations (16 USC § 460uu-47, 16 U.S.C. § 410aaa-75, and 43 U.S.C. § 1786) that use the limiting language which states that “any such closure shall be made so as to affect the smallest practicable area for the minimum period necessary for such purposes.”

Section 4(c), “Collection of Plants and Mineral Resources by Members of Culturally-Affiliated Indian Tribes”, also raises concerns. Since Congress first authorized certain Pueblos to gather plant and mineral resources in Bandelier National Monument in 2000, the National Park Service has implemented servicewide regulations, under which any superintendent may enter into agreements with Indian tribes traditionally associated with a park for the non-commercial collection of plants and plant parts. This bill does not define the term “mineral resources” or specify permissible methods of mineral resource extraction, which may create uncertainty as to how this provision should be implemented. The term “Culturally Affiliated Indian Tribes” is used differently than in related Federal laws, which may also create uncertainty about implementation.

Section 4(d) would require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a tribal commission for Bandelier National Park and Preserve to provide guidance and recommendations to implement management plans and policies. The commission would consist of one representative from “each Indian tribe with a historical association” with Bandelier National Park and Preserve. Currently,

the National Park Service consults with approximately six Federally recognized tribes at Bandelier National Monument regarding undertakings in the monument. However, the State of New Mexico has identified 23 tribes that may have a historical association to an area within the boundaries of the monument, and that number does not include tribes outside the state with a historical association to the monument. This would mean there could be an unknown number of members. In addition, the requirement that the Secretary provide the commission with a written explanation for a decision not to incorporate a recommendation made by the commission would give the commission an unusual amount of authority for a non-Federal commission that is advisory in nature.

The Department supports the authority in Section 4(f) to enable the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to resolve a land management issue by adjusting the boundary between Valles Caldera National Preserve and Santa Fe National Forest. We also support the goal in Section 4(f) authorizing the use of unmanned aircraft at Bandelier National Park and Preserve for certain needs, but we note that it is unnecessary given the National Park Service's servicewide policy on unmanned aircraft in units of the National Park System.

The Department would appreciate the opportunity to work with the sponsor and the Committee to address our concerns with S. 2924.

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

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 3098, A BILL TO REDESIGNATE THE JIMMY
CARTER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AS THE “JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK”.**

MARCH 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior’s views on S. 3098, a bill to redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site as the “Jimmy Carter National Historical Park”.

The Department supports S. 3098, as we believe that the name “Jimmy Carter National Historical Park” is an appropriate designation for this unit of the National Park System.

Legislation authorizing the establishment of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and Preservation District was enacted in 1987 to preserve the key sites and structures associated with President Jimmy Carter during his life, provide for the interpretation of the life and presidency of Jimmy Carter, and present the history of a small rural southern town. The historic site consists of President Carter’s boyhood home in the community of Archery; Plains High School, now used for a visitor center and headquarters for the historic site; the Plains depot, which was used as a headquarters for Jimmy Carter’s presidential campaign; and the Carter compound, where President and Mrs. Carter have resided since 1981.

The National Park Service encourages Congress to designate units of the National Park System in accordance with a standard pattern of nomenclature. National historical parks are typically areas of greater physical extent and complexity than national historic sites. Often they contain multiple discontinuous sites. The Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, with resources at several sites in and around the town of Plains, has the characteristics that make the designation of “national historical park” a more appropriate title than “national historic site.”

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

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 3119, A BILL TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARY
OF THE CASA GRANDE RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

March 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 3119, a bill to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 3119, as a way to protect key archeological resources associated with Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. However, while the Department supports the targeted land acquisition described in S. 3119, we remain primarily focused on reducing the National Park Service's deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical infrastructure needs.

S. 3119 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire from willing sellers approximately 406 acres of land for addition to Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. Approximately 146 of those acres are owned by private landowners along the monument's western boundary and include a prehistoric canal and other archaeological sites identified by affiliated tribes. An additional 60 acres, to the east of the monument, are owned by the Archeological Conservancy.

The remaining 200 acres are non-contiguous State of Arizona trust lands that contain above-ground prehistoric standing ruins as well as a prehistoric ball court. Given the excellent preservation of archaeological resources, the state site is an ideal location for visitor use and interpretation. As an alternative to acquiring the State lands, the Secretary would be authorized to enter into an agreement with the State to cooperatively manage the State land.

In addition, S. 3119 would transfer approximately 7.41 acres of land from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and approximately 3.8 acres of land from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service. This transfer would provide broader opportunities to interpret the significant resources. And, 3.5 acres of land along the monument's southern boundary would be transferred from the National Park Service to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which would allow the Bureau of Indian Affairs to widen and pave part of the Pima Lateral Canal.

Lands transferred to the monument by this legislation and any lands acquired pursuant to this legislation would be administered as part of the monument, and the boundary of the monument would be adjusted accordingly.

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, located in Coolidge, Arizona, was set aside as the first Federal archaeological reservation in the United States on June 22, 1892, by President Benjamin

Harrison, and was established as a national monument on August 3, 1918, by President Woodrow Wilson by presidential proclamation under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. It consists of approximately 473 acres of land that contain numerous resources closely associated with the Hohokam culture, including the remnants of the Casa Grande, the great house, constructed in the 14th Century.

If the Committee advances this legislation, the Department also has a few technical amendments and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee on these amendments.

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

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 3121, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE
CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA AS A UNIT OF THE
NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

MARCH 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 3121, to establish the Chiricahua National Park in the State of Arizona as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 3121, as we believe that the name “Chiricahua National Park” is an appropriate designation for this unit of the National Park System.

Chiricahua National Monument was established on April 18, 1924, by President Calvin Coolidge by presidential proclamation under the authority of the law commonly referred to as the Antiquities Act of 1906. The monument is located in Cochise County, approximately 37 miles southeast of Willcox, Arizona. It is located at the intersection of the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts, the southern Rocky Mountains, and the northern Sierra Madre.

Chiricahua National Monument is known as a “Wonderland of Rocks” because of its distinctive pinnacle formations. These formations are the result of powerful volcanic events combined with geologic erosive forces over time creating the rhyolitic rock formations in the monument. The Madrean Sky Island ecosystem of the Monument protects a great diversity of flora and fauna as well as critical habitat for threatened, endangered and endemic species.

Chiricahua National Monument also preserves evidence of diverse human history spanning thousands of years, including prehistoric indigenous peoples, Chiricahua Apaches, Buffalo Soldiers, European American pioneers and ranchers, and the 1930’s Civilian Conservation Corps. The monument’s Faraway Ranch Historic District includes structures, resources and landscapes associated with the former pioneer homestead and working cattle ranch. Stories and evidence of struggle, perseverance, stewardship and connection to the land unite the experiences of each of these groups which left a lasting legacy on the land and our country.

Redesignating the monument as Chiricahua National Park is consistent with the nomenclature patterns of the National Park System. Units designated as national parks generally contain a variety of resources and encompass a large land or water area to help provide adequate protection of the resources. With its wealth of both natural and cultural resources over a large land mass, it is appropriate to designate this unit as a national park.

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

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 3265, TO REDESIGNATE WEIR FARM
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AS THE “WEIR
FARM NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

MARCH 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior’s views on S. 3265, a bill to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the “Weir Farm National Historical Park.”

The Department supports S. 3265, as we believe that the name “Weir Farm National Historical Park” is an appropriate designation for this unit of the National Park System.

Established in 1990, Weir Farm National Historic Site preserves the house, studio, farm buildings, and rural Connecticut landscape that inspired Julian Alden Weir’s transition into American impressionism and the artistic expression of generations of artists that continues to inspire and educate visitors. Weir Farm was home to three generations of American artists. Julian Alden Weir (1852-1919), a leading figure in American art and the development of American impressionism, acquired the farm in 1882. After Weir, the artistic legacy was continued by his daughter, painter Dorothy Weir Young and her husband, the major American sculptor Mahonri M. Young, followed by New England landscape painters Sperry and Doris Andrews.

The park currently encompasses a 60-acre cultural landscape consisting of 15 historic structures as well as historic gardens, orchards, terraces, fields, stone walls, the Weir Pond, and hundreds of historic painting sites. There are 3 miles of trail on park property and more than 7 miles of trail in two bordering open spaces—the 110-acre Weir Preserve to the southwest (including 37 acres donated by Cora Weir Burlingham), and the 29-acre Nod Hill Refuge to the northeast. The Weir Preserve is owned by the Weir Farm Art Alliance, a private partner of the park, and managed by the Weir Preserve Stewardship Committee. Additionally, the park maintains a museum collection of more than 200,000 archives and objects including original paintings, prints, sculptures, decorative arts, and furnishings associated with the site, the history of the Weir, Young, and Andrews families and American impressionism.

Generally, National Park System units designated as “national historical parks” have a greater diversity of historical resources and interpretive themes than those designated as “historic sites” and may be spread out over non-contiguous lands. In 2014, the National Park Service completed a comprehensive rehabilitation and restoration of over 80 percent of the historic resources and landscapes at the historic site, greatly expanding the scope of the visitor experience and of public access. Additionally, the National Park Service works in collaboration with the adjacent partners described above who offer complementary natural and cultural resource opportunities for

visitors. The deeper and broader experience for visitors supports the basis for redesignation of this park as a national historical park.

Before the Committee moves forward with this bill, the Department would welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsor and the committee on some technical corrections to update the legislative map and more accurately describe existing park resources.

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

**STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 3331, A BILL TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARY
OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

MARCH 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3331, a bill to modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 3331, which would authorize the addition of an important tract of land to Rocky Mountain National Park and also resolve a longstanding ownership issue within the park.

S. 3331 would authorize the Secretary of Interior to accept a donation of a 40-acre parcel of non-Federal land located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the park. The addition of this land would enhance recreational access and connectivity through a scenic, natural buffer between private lands and three popular trails: Estes Cone, Storm Pass, and Eugenia Mine Trails. These three trails connect to, and are part of, a large trail network offering more than 350 miles of trails to the park's 4.6 million annual visitors.

The addition of the 40-acre parcel would also add protection for the park's Alpine Tundra Ecosystem. Alpine tundra, which makes up more than one third of the park, is a unique ecosystem that supports more than 300 plants and animals from bighorn sheep to butterflies that live in high elevations. Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the highest elevation national parks in the nation, with elevations ranging from 7,860 feet to 14,259 feet above sea level.

S. 3331 would also authorize the Secretary of the Interior to exchange a 0.18-acre parcel of park land for the same amount of private land in order to resolve a land ownership issue within the boundary of the park. In the 1970s, the National Park Service purchased land surrounding a private inholding. An error in the bank's legal description incorrectly located a 0.18-acre parcel in that purchase. As a result, the parcel the National Park Service acquired included a family cabin, and the private owner acquired a vacant lot, not the cabin site.

Since the error was discovered, the National Park Service has been working with the owner to correct the legal ownership and exchange the parcels. However, this exchange cannot be done within agency policy since the two properties are of unequal value. In the interim, the family continues to use the cabin through a Special Use Permit. This proposed legislation would permanently resolve this issue and ensure the intent of the original purchase is met.

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

STATEMENT OF SHAWN BENGE, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS REGARDING S. 508 AND H.R. 182, BILLS TO EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

March 4, 2020

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 508 and H.R. 182, bills to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission (Commission).

The Department does not support this legislation. Both S. 508 and H.R. 182 would reauthorize the Commission until September 26, 2028, retroactive to September 26, 2018, the date that the Commission's authority to operate terminated.

The retroactive extension included in the bill would enable the Commission to function with the same charter and membership it had previously. The Commission was originally authorized in 1961 as a part of Public Law 87-126, the Cape Cod National Seashore's enabling legislation, and began operation in 1966. It has been reauthorized by Congress several times even though the enabling legislation called for the Commission to be terminated ten years after the Seashore was established.

The Department does not see a compelling reason to extend the authorization of the Commission, especially at a time when we are focusing resources on reducing the National Park Service's deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical infrastructure needs.

However, if the Subcommittee takes action on this bill, the Department recommends one change to the Commission's statutory role. Currently, the law that established the Commission [16 U.S.C. 459b-7(g)] states that no permit for the commercial or industrial use of property located within the seashore shall be issued, nor shall any public use area for recreational activity be established within the seashore, without the advice of the Commission, if such advice is submitted within a reasonable time after it is sought. We recommend this provision be deleted as it is unprecedented for an advisory commission to have this kind of statutory role in park management decisions.

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

Senator DAINES. Mr. Bengé, thank you, and thanks again for being here today. I think the proposals before the Subcommittee are really well intentioned. Some aim to preserve a piece of history that may not be well known while others want to be put on the map in order to increase its visitation and local economic development. I held a field hearing in Montana last summer at the Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site, which of course when you think about our National Parks in Montana, we have Yellowstone, we have Glacier, and we have Custer Battlefield. But some of these really amazing crown jewels are little sleepers that don't always get the visitation they should receive. We held that field hearing of this Committee there for that reason to bring more awareness to it. As you know though, many on Capitol Hill are concerned about the Park Service's ability to manage the existing 419 units, especially with a growing maintenance backlog, which as Senator King mentioned earlier, we are making some great progress there with the Administration to get a bill through to deal with a major chunk of that.

My question is this, how does the National Park Service plan for continued maintenance of new or redesignated units?

Mr. BENGE. Thank you, Senator. It is true that we don't have unlimited resources, and it is true the National Park Service priority is improving existing assets and not adding new responsibilities. We also understand our role in the legislative process is advisory and remain committed to implementing any law enacted by Congress.

Senator DAINES. So to follow up, if the bills like the Chiricahua, if I said that properly, or the Weir Farm are passed and the redesignations lead to increased visitation, does the National Park Service have the capacity to manage more visitors and care for the cultural or the natural resources?

Mr. BENGE. Senator, we do the best we can. We don't have unlimited resources, but if enacted, we would continue to welcome the visiting public in those parks.

Senator DAINES. The Bandelier National Park and Preserve, another bill before the Subcommittee, would redesignate about 26,700 acres of the Bandelier National Monument as a National Park, and the remaining 4,000 acres as a National Preserve.

I understand there are some concerns from local stakeholders, including whether or not additional tribal consultation may be needed. Can you explain how tribal consultation is currently managed at Bandelier and how is it different from other National Park units?

Mr. BENGE. Senator, I am not aware that consultation that is accomplished at Bandelier is different than the way we approach consultation, tribal consultation, in any other park, which is to me our statutory requirements under a number of statutes, including NRPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Senator DAINES. Along that line, does the Department believe that there is a need for more consultation at Bandelier than what is being done now or are you satisfied?

Mr. BENGE. I think the tools that we utilize in order to accomplish consultation are in place, sir.

Senator DAINES. So is more needed or are you satisfied?

Mr. BENGE. We are satisfied.

Senator DAINES. Okay.

Would the Department need additional resources to manage Bandelier if it is designated as a National Park and Preserve, and if so, do you have any idea how much additional funding might be needed?

Mr. BENGE. I do not believe there would be a significant financial burden, but I don't have the specifics of the additional operational costs and I could get that for you and get back to you.

Senator DAINES. Okay. That would be helpful. Thank you.

I am going to switch gears and talk about advisory commissions. Two of the bills before the Subcommittee are H.R. 182 and S. 508. These bills would reauthorize the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission for 10 years. The Commission was established in 1961, and Congress originally intended it to sunset 10 years later once the park was up and running.

My question is this, generally what is the purpose of advisory commissions and does the Department believe that the Cape Cod Advisory Commission is still needed nearly 60 years after the establishment of the National Seashore?

Mr. BENGE. Senator, the Department believes that the advisory committee has fulfilled its purpose and is no longer needed.

Senator DAINES. Thank you.

I am going to respect my colleagues' time here, and I have one more question, but I am going to turn it over now to the Ranking Member, Senator King.

Senator KING. First, I noticed your prior position was with facilities. I take it you believe that the Restore Our Parks Act would be a positive step toward dealing with the maintenance backlog?

Mr. BENGE. Senator, I think it would be historic.

Senator KING. That is a good answer. I will take that.

Senator DAINES. You said the same thing, right? Didn't you?

Senator KING. I think I did. No, I appreciate that. And you know well, probably better than anyone, the condition that we have and this is a responsibility that we have to the next generation to maintain those parks.

On Bandelier, there is a provision as I understand, that part of the preserve would allow hunting and this is property that it isn't—hunting isn't allowed presently under the present designation. What is the status of hunting on National Parks and Preserves? Is this a unique proposal or is this consistent with other Parks—other units in the Park System?

Mr. BENGE. Senator, hunting is prohibited by regulation unless it is specifically authorized through the enabling legislation of a Park.

Senator KING. But there are parks where it is specifically authorized, are there not?

Mr. BENGE. Yes.

Senator KING. So this is not a departure, this would not be unique among National Parks?

Mr. BENGE. It would not be unique, and the hunting would be allowed within the National Park System.

Senator KING. Okay. Let's see, Casa Grande. The Casa Grande bill has a provision that I have not seen before that says the Sec-

retary can convey, "any other federal asset of equal value located in the state," as a kind of a swap, and that is pretty broad authority. Is that typical? Have you seen authority that broad before or is this a unique proposal?

Mr. BERGE. Could you repeat the question? I am not sure I understood.

Senator KING. My understanding—the Casa Grande bill has a provision that says in order to establish, put the land together, the Secretary can convey, "any other federal asset of equal value located in the state." That is anywhere in the state. Usually these swaps are adjacent parcels or within the vicinity and I am just—this is not a hostile question, I am just wondering if that is a typical provision or if that is a broader authority and is unusual in these circumstances.

Mr. BERGE. Senator, the somewhat uniqueness is in this particular case. The State of Arizona does not donate public trust lands, they only sell or trade lands hence this legislation would provide for the purchase of such lands.

Senator KING. And the purchase—but the purchase could be by swap, by other assets of equal value?

Mr. BERGE. We do have the ability to exchange lands, that is true, of equal value.

Senator KING. You mentioned the advisory committees. Does the Department have a general view on advisory committees or is this particular, the opposition to the advisory committee at Cape Cod, is that particular to that park or is this a more generalized resistance to advisory committees?

Mr. BERGE. Senator, in general the Department has been trying to reduce the number of advisory committees to save money and staff time that these committees require. Generally, these types of committees or commissions have been established in the infancy of a park, when a park is first established in order to be able to advise as the park is being stood up. And as the park matures, the need and purpose of the advisory committee diminishes.

Senator KING. So generally, as you say, you are skeptical, I think, of advisory committees, but we, for example, have one at Acadia National Park that is very active and important in the life of the park. So I hope you will forget you ever heard about that one, and we will keep it going.

Final question, several of these bills talked about moving units from a National Monument or one status to National Park status. As a practical matter, what does that mean to the Park Service? Does it raise the level of staffing or costs or maintenance or is it simply the change in the name?

Mr. BERGE. Senator, it is simply the change in the name. There are no additional costs. Minor costs to change the sign, letterhead, those kinds of things. We still encourage Congress to follow the traditional patterns of nomenclature. The naming patterns are only customary, but we think there is some value in keeping similar type units similarly named.

Senator KING. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DAINES. Thanks, Senator King. Senator Heinrich.

Senator HEINRICH. Welcome. It is kind of a fortuitous day to be here. I think we are all pretty excited about the developments of

the last few days. One of my favorite organizations, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, has a hashtag. It is #wwtrd, and it stands for "What Would Teddy Roosevelt Do?" I think we have done all right in the last 48 hours by that standard. I just want to ask you one quick question and it relates to the question that Chairman Daines brought up with regard to tribal consultation which I think is incredibly important.

I want to start by saying that I think the Park Superintendent, Bandelier's Superintendent Jason Lott, has done a remarkable job really cementing relationships with the Pueblos. And the Pueblos have—this is their homeland, this is where their ancestors lived and it is a living cultural landscape. That said, one of the goals of this legislation is to go beyond consultation and to create a tribal commission to make recommendations on management and policy decisions, and to incorporate traditional knowledge into that management.

And I just want to ask, would that be, in this case, a unique level of involvement for tribes in the management of a National Park Service unit?

Mr. BENGE. Thank you, Senator. The National Park Service engages in tribal consultation as a matter of practice, but to our knowledge, the commission established in this legislation would certainly be unique.

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you. Thank you, Chairman.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Senator Heinrich. I just have one follow-up question for the second round. This is regarding these special resource studies. Two of the bills before us are designating new units of the National Park System while another one directs the Department to conduct a special resources study to determine the feasibility and need for establishing new units. We have a few questions regarding that process. First, why are special resource studies important?

Mr. BENGE. Senator, special resource studies are important in order to be able to understand the significance of the resource, the suitability for inclusion in the National Park Service, and the feasibility for inclusion in the National Park Service.

Senator DAINES. What information can the Department learn from the studies, and then, how can that help Congress when we might be debating a new designation?

Mr. BENGE. Senator, it really is providing information to Congress on four fronts. One is the level of significance, how significant the resource is, whether it is worthy of protection and at what level, at the national level, regional level. The feasibility and then the suitability, and then management options associated with the proposed site.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Bengé, I am kind of digging in the weeds a little bit here. Could you talk a bit more about the scope of the study for the Rosenwald schools?

Mr. BENGE. Senator, the scope of the proposed study is overly broad. To study every resource that reflects Julius Rosenwald's life and legacy would be a huge undertaking. If the Committee decides to move forward with the legislation, we would like to work to refine the scope of the study, work with the Committee to refine the scope of the study.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, that is helpful. And along the lines of these special resource studies, how could a special resource study help refine the purpose and the boundaries of the proposed Cahokia Mounds site?

Mr. BENGE. In this particular case, Senator, we have completed a reconnaissance survey, which is a cursory survey, which we can only spend by statute \$25,000 in order to accomplish, but it is very cursory. And the outcome of a survey is really to determine whether there is value in moving forward with the full study or whether there is no value in moving forward. In this particular case, the results of the reconnaissance survey recommended moving forward with a full study to better understand significance in three sites.

Senator DAINES. Last question, the special resource studies. In general, does the Department support establishing new units of the National Park System without a special resource study being conducted?

Mr. BENGE. As a matter of practice, we support the concept of a special resource study.

Senator DAINES. As a precondition—

Mr. BENGE. As a precondition.

Senator DAINES. —to establish new units?

Mr. BENGE. Yes, Senator.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Mr. Bengé.

Senator Heinrich, you are recognized.

Senator HEINRICH. I actually don't have any additional questions. I do have a statement but whenever that is convenient—

Senator DAINES. You are most welcome to make a statement, and then we will wrap up the hearing.

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Ranking Member for holding this hearing. When I talk to people about what makes the State of New Mexico unique, it typically comes back to our breathtaking landscapes, our deep and complex history, and our unique cultures. Bandelier National Monument really encapsulates each of those in unrivaled ways.

That is why I am so proud to work with communities in Northern New Mexico to introduce legislation to make Bandelier our nation's newest National Park. Bandelier's mesas and canyons have a human history that dates back more than 10,000 years. Nearly 1,000 years ago, the ancestral Pueblo people built homes along cliff faces, dug ceremonial kivas, and planted crops on mesa top fields. What these people left behind are a living cultural landscape and sites with ongoing spiritual and religious significance for their descendants.

More than a century ago, some of these same sites were desecrated, destroyed by looters seeking to profit from a growing illicit market for Native American artifacts and even bones. Those deplorable actions inspired a fervent campaign at the start of the last century to permanently protect the area's treasures by creating a National Park. That proposal got caught up in bureaucratic, and yes Congressional, gridlock prompting President Woodrow Wilson to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to create Bandelier National Monument in 1916. Only Congress can create a National Park and provide the highest level of both attention and protection for cultural resources.

In addition, only Congress can ensure that a current or future President can't undo those protections. I believe that it is long past time that we recognize that Bandelier's unique historical and natural resources are more than worthy of this same treatment. We also need to build upon the strong relationship that already exists between the Park Service and the Pueblos whose history and culture lies in Bandelier. This is, after all, a living cultural landscape.

That is why my legislation will put into law the current access and protections that are afforded to these Pueblos. It would also establish a Tribal Advisory Commission which would provide guidance for park management that reflects traditional and historical knowledge and values.

I believe that creating this new National Park is the best way to ensure that Bandelier's cultural treasures receive the recognition and the protection that they have long, really always, deserved. I look forward to working with all New Mexicans as well as my colleagues and the Administration to establish Bandelier as our newest and Northern New Mexico's first National Park.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Senator Heinrich. If there are no more questions for today, members may also submit follow-up written questions for the record. I think I can speak for the three of us here today, we are still coming down from our high today that is truly a historic moment for conservation in Washington, DC, to see Democrats and Republicans, to see, I think as Senator Heinrich said, it is not years of work, but decades of work that came together to move something forward here. It is not often that it all aligns.

But to address really two major conservation issues that this Committee uniquely has been working on in terms of dealing with this maintenance backlog of \$12.5 billion, and, of course, the full and mandatory funding of \$900 million a year for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This is a good day for conservation. Senator King, you look like you have some additional wisdom to share here.

Senator KING. No, it is not really wisdom, it is just, I want to join you in recognizing the significance. I was thinking as we were talking over in the Capitol, I started working on land conservation issues in Maine in 1987 when we created something called the Land for Maine's Future Program, which has set aside I think about 600,000 acres of priceless properties in the State of Maine for future generations. To be able to carry that work on here is the legacy of a lifetime.

I deeply appreciate the work that my colleagues have done and we feel like we are on the 5-yard line and hopefully in the next couple of weeks we can cross the goal line.

Thank you very much, Mr. Benge, for your testimony and for your career and work on behalf of the American people at the Park Service. Thank you, sir.

Senator DAINES. The last sentence, and then I will have some official verbiage to close out the hearing, but I think about if we just had a map of the United States on the wall behind us—Maine, Montana, New Mexico—we just about pinned the corners here. We have the Southern border. We have our Northern border, East, West, Southwest as it should be.

I want to thank Mr. Bengé for his time and his testimony today. As I mentioned, the hearing record will remain open for two more weeks.

This hearing is now adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:43 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX MATERIAL SUBMITTED

Questions for the Record
Legislative Hearing Held on March 4, 2020

Witness: Shawn Bengé
Acting Deputy Director, Operations, National Park Service

Subcommittee on National Parks
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Questions from Ranking Member Angus S. King, Jr.

- 1. Senator McSally's Casa Grande bill (S. 3119) contains a provision enabling the Secretary to convey "any Federal land, any interest in Federal land, or any other Federal asset of equal value located in the State." This seems to be a much broader authority than is typical for boundary adjustment or land acquisition legislation.**

- a. Have there been other Park Service land acquisitions or exchanges with similar language?**

Response: We are not aware of any other legislation providing for National Park Service land acquisition or land exchanges that allows the Secretary of the Interior to convey "any other asset of equal value" located in the relevant state.

- b. What would be eligible for exchange as "any interest in Federal land" clause? Would this include subsurface rights, mineral estates, or other energy and mining interests?**

Response: The term "any interest in Federal land" would include subsurface rights, water rights, mineral estates, other recorded mineral interests, and development rights.

- c. What would be eligible for exchange as "any other Federal asset of equal value" clause? Would this include vehicles, equipment, or other Federal assets?**

Response: In the context of a bill providing for changes in land ownership for one or more Federal land management agencies, as is the case with S. 3119, the term "any other Federal asset of equal value" would likely be interpreted by the agencies to mean Federal real estate assets. However amending the bill to remove the phrase "any other Federal asset" would provide clarification.

- d. Are there any particular aspects of Casa Grande that make this unique asset transfer provision necessary?**

Response: We are unaware of the reason for including the term "any other Federal asset" in S. 3119.

2. In your testimony, you stated that the Park Service is currently focusing resources on reducing the National Parks Service's deferred maintenance backlog and does not see a compelling reason to extend the authorization of the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission.

- a. How much did the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission cost on a yearly basis?

Response: The direct financial cost for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission averaged approximately \$4,676 over the last five years. The indirect costs include National Park Service staff time required for working with the Commission.

- b. What percentage of the National Park Maintenance backlog is due to the Commission's costs?

Response: The direct financial cost for the Commission is equivalent to a very small fraction of the National Park Service's maintenance backlog. However, any National Park Service resources that are used for purposes other than operations and maintenance divert funds that could potentially otherwise be used to support reducing the maintenance backlog.

3. In your testimony, you recommended removing the Commission's statutory role to advise the superintendent on permits for the commercial or industrial use of property located within the seashore.

- a. Does the Cape Cod National Advisory Commission have the statutory authority to supersede any decision made by the Superintendent on these permits?

Response: No, the Commission does not have the statutory authority to supersede the park superintendent's decisions.

- b. If not, why would the National Park Service want to limit public input that only advises the Superintendent?

Response: The provision referred to in the question states, "No permit for the commercial or industrial use of property located within the seashore shall be issued, nor shall any public use area for recreational activity be established within the seashore, without the advice of the Commission, if such advice is submitted within a reasonable time after it is sought." This is very unusual statutory authority for an advisory panel. Our concern is that has it potential to delay management decisions, while waiting for the Commission to meet and agree on a recommendation. It is also a requirement that is open to disagreement, since the term "reasonable time" is disputable.

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
OF
WILLIAM M. MATZ
SECRETARY
AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION
BEFORE
THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE
MARCH 4, 2020**

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer written testimony regarding S.2206, which expresses the Sense of the Congress regarding agreement between the American Battle Monuments Commission and the Government of Belgium, by which the Commission would acquire, restore, operate, and maintain the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium,

The Battle of the Bulge is the second largest battle fought by the United States Army, behind only the Meuse-Argonne Campaign of World War I, which is commemorated at the Commission's Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and the Montfaucon Monument in France. As expressed in S.2206, the Battle of the Bulge is one of the legendary battles in the history of the United States Army, with innumerable examples of incredible courage and unwavering dedication to duty. Many of those buried and memorialized at the Commission's Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium and Luxembourg American Cemetery lost their lives in the Bulge.

The Commission has no objection to the purpose or language of S.2206. Our Monument Maintenance and Monument Trust Fund programs were developed for just such private memorial challenges as those faced at the Mardasson Memorial, for the Commission has no authority to expend its appropriations to maintain or restore private memorials. Our appropriations are used to maintain and operate the 26 overseas American cemeteries and 30 federal memorials, monuments and markers we administer on behalf of the American people.

Under the Monument Maintenance Program, ABMC assists organizations in maintaining their monuments on a pay-as-you-go basis, but the sponsor retains all its interest in the memorial, as well as the responsibility for maintenance, project and budget decisions. The monument maintenance plan can be used to hire a caretaker for the monument, complete renovations or repairs, institute a regular program of cleaning and routine maintenance work, carry out safety inspections or lightning arrester certifications, or many other tasks related to monument care.

Through the Monument Trust Fund Program, ABMC assumes both the sponsor's legal interests in the monument and responsibility for its maintenance. To be accepted in the Monument Trust Fund Program, an organization must develop an acceptable maintenance plan and transfer enough money to ABMC to fully fund that plan for 30 years. Prior to acceptance into the program the sponsor must perform deferred maintenance necessary to bring the monument up to a mutually agreeable standard. At that time, ABMC assumes the sponsoring organization's interest in the property and responsibility for all maintenance and other decisions concerning the monument. The sponsoring organization or others interested in the monument may add to the trust fund at any time to ensure that adequate funds remain available. ABMC maintains the monument for as long as the trust funds permit. There are eight nonfederal monuments in the program currently, none of the scale of the Mardasson Memorial.

Under the auspices of the Monument Maintenance Program, we used private funds (\$402K) to complete a Phase I cleaning and repair of the Mardasson Memorial for the December 2019 commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. We will complete a full Phase II restoration of the memorial under the Monument Maintenance Program once sponsors raise enough funds to cover the cost of the restoration (currently estimated at \$1.5M). We also have expressed willingness to accept ownership of the Mardasson Memorial under the auspices of the Monument Trust Fund Program, if all requirements of that program are met (currently estimated at an additional \$3.75M). All of which is in accord with S.2206.



II

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2206

To express the sense of Congress regarding restoration and maintenance
of the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2019

Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress regarding restoration and
maintenance of the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne,
Belgium.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING AGREEMENT**
2 **BETWEEN THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONU-**
3 **MENTS COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT**
4 **OF BELGIUM BY WHICH THE COMMISSION**
5 **WOULD ACQUIRE, RESTORE, OPERATE, AND**
6 **MAINTAIN THE MARDASSON MEMORIAL IN**
7 **BASTOGNE, BELGIUM.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress make the following find-
9 ings:

10 (1) The Battle of the Bulge was one of the
11 largest land battles fought by the United States dur-
12 ing World War II, yielded more than 75,000 Amer-
13 ican casualties over the winter of 1944–1945, and
14 stopped the last major German offensive on the
15 Western Front.

16 (2) The Battle of the Bulge is a legendary bat-
17 tle in the history of the United States Army.

18 (3) Following the war, Belgian groups raised
19 funds to construct the Mardasson Memorial in Bas-
20 togne, Belgium, to honor Americans killed, wounded,
21 and missing in action during the Battle of the
22 Bulge.

23 (4) The Mardasson Memorial, inaugurated in
24 1950, is a five-pointed American star with the his-
25 tory of the battle, the names of the units that

1 fought, and the names of the States engraved in
2 gold letters throughout.

3 (5) The Mardasson Memorial, owned and main-
4 tained by the Government of Belgium, is in need of
5 extensive repair to restore it to a condition commen-
6 surate to the service and sacrifice it honors.

7 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress to support an agreement between the American Bat-
9 tle Monument Commission (hereinafter referred to as
10 “ABMC”) and the Government of Belgium—

11 (1) under the monument maintenance program
12 of the ABMC, and subject to the requirements of
13 such program, by which the ABMC would use its ex-
14 pertise and presence in Europe to oversee restora-
15 tion of the Mardasson Memorial in preparation for
16 the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge; and

17 (2) under the monument trust fund program of
18 the ABMC, and subject to the requirements of such
19 program, by which the ABMC assumes ownership
20 and responsibility for the Mardasson Memorial, en-
21 suring that the Memorial stands for decades to
22 come, honoring American service and sacrifice, and
23 inspiring future generations.

○

Statement of Cheryl L. Andrews, DMD

S. 508

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

March 4, 2020

My name is Cheryl Andrews. I am a life-long resident of Cape Cod. I served 14 years on the Provincetown Board of Selectmen and serve currently as our Town's representative to the Cape Cod Commission. As a frequent bicyclist, I spend a lot of time on the biking trails of the Cape Cod National Seashore and as a student of history, I have enjoyed reading how our National Park came into being and the promises that were made to the local residents at the time. I urge your support for S.508, a bill that would re-authorize the work of the Advisory Commission for an additional 10 years.

This bill has profound importance for the future management of CCNS and its critical partnership and relationships with the six towns within its boundary. Over its almost 60 years of operation, the Commission has provided the key forum for coordination and communication between the local communities and the NPS management and has been an outstanding example of a partnership in cooperative land stewardship in the National Park System.

The CCNS Advisory Commission was authorized in 1961, as part of the Seashore's enabling legislation. As stated in Section 8, its purpose is "to provide a means of ongoing consultation and liaison with private, local, and community interests that were expected to remain within the seashore." Membership consists of one representative from each of the six Lower Cape Towns, two appointed the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, one from Barnstable County, and one selected by the Secretary of the Interior.

Cape Cod National Seashore was established with a pattern of land ownership and management that is most unusual in the National Park System. The boundaries of Cape Cod National Seashore incorporated significant portions of the six lower Cape towns. However, the towns retained ownership of numerous parcels within the Seashore including ponds, beaches, parking lots and roads and over 600 parcels inside the Cape Cod National Seashore are privately owned. Activities on all these lands can have potentially profound effects on protected resources, and vice versa.

Consequently, there was intense political debate about and considerable local opposition to the original proposal to create CCNS. The need for a forum for open, constructive dialogue where

the towns and private sector had a voice was solved by the establishment of the CCNS Advisory Commission; and that need continues today as new issues emerge and others reappear. It is fair to say that the establishment of the CCNS Advisory Commission was one of the keys to the successful creation of Cape Cod National Seashore.

The cost of operating the Advisory Commission is negligible and again misunderstood by Department of Interior representatives. All members serve voluntarily and take no expense reimbursement. The CCNS costs include listing meetings in the Federal Register, court reporter, GPO publication of meeting minutes and staff support for 6 or 7 meetings / year. It is abundantly clear that modest, approximate \$50,000 cost for the annual operation of the Advisory Commission pays invaluable dividends and assures the smooth operation of the CCNS.

I send my regards and add my name and voice to those of my neighbours and friends. I ask that you approve S. 508 and support its prompt passage.

Thank you very much,

Cheryl L Andrews, DMD

Former Chairman & member, Provincetown Board of Selectmen

Current Provincetown Representative to the Cape Cod Commission

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Provincetown, MA 02657
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dr.cheryl.andrews@gmail.com

Dear National Parks Subcommittee Chairman Daines and Ranking Member King,

It is my understanding that HR 182 is to be heard tomorrow before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. This bill, if passed, would reauthorize the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission for 10 years, retroactive to 2018 when the previous charter expired.

As you know, this is the oldest advisory commission in the nation with representatives from each of the six towns with the Seashore. As such, it provides a vital link between the federal government and the citizens of the communities in which it is located.

In December 2018, Dan Smith of the National Park Service, testified before the Subcommittee and misrepresented the role of the Advisory Commission. He stated that the Commission is unnecessary in order to reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance and other critical Park needs. He also recommended that commercial uses within the Seashore be eliminated.

What deferred maintenance has to do with the role of the Advisory Commission being advisory only is beyond me. As a member of the Advisory Commission for nearly 13 years, maintenance issues have always been the purview of the Superintendent. Members are advised by the Superintendent of such matters, but never, EVER, have we voted to prevent the Superintendent of doing his job. Nor did the Commission ever vote to restrict the Superintendent in the exercise of his managerial responsibilities.

Further, Smith's recommendation to eliminate the commercial uses within the Seashore would cause great economic harm to our tourist based economy. The food stand at the Seashore in Provincetown existed when the property was owned by the Commonwealth, prior to 1961 when the enabling legislation creating the Seashore was adopted. My sister and several friends had summer jobs there when we were in high school. The food stand is essential to the operation of the Seashore beaches and to the community at large. Removing it would be folly.

In closing, I would like to re-emphasize that the Advisory Commission is advisory only. The primary responsibility of the Commission is to keep the Seashore informed of its impact on the various communities the Seashore serves. And nowhere was this more evident than in 1998 when the Park Service worked closely with all six towns in producing the document "Forging a Collaborative Future," an environmental impact statement for the Seashore's General Management Plan. Please vote to reinstate the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission.

Yours truly,
Mary-Jo Avellar
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Provincetown, MA 02657
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March 3, 2020

Chairwomen Lisa Murkowski
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairwomen Lisa Murkowski:

I am writing to express Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce and Gage County Tourism's support of S.1910 and H.R. 1472, which requests changing the name of Homestead National Monument of America to Homestead National Historical Park.

The concept of changing the name to Homestead National Historical Park is one that has been in development for a number of years. In 2011, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry introduced legislation (H.R. 274) to change the name and during the 111th Congress Session II, United States Senator Ben Nelson had introduced S. 3562 calling for the Monument to be renamed. These Bills were widely reported on in the news media with wide support.

The support of the name change from our organization stems from a foreseeable beneficial economic impact on our community. As you are aware, Tourism is the number three industry in Nebraska, and is quite substantial specifically in Beatrice and Gage County, in large part due to the location Homestead National Monument of America. The Monument is a multi-faceted park that commemorates one of our Nation's most significant laws – the Homestead Act of 1862 – and has many features including the Heritage and Education Centers, historic buildings (including the Palmar-Epard Cabin and historic Freeman School), hiking trails through the second oldest restored tallgrass prairie in the National Park Service, and serves as a place for recreation and learning for tens of thousands of citizens annually. These visitors represent large amounts of outside dollars being spent in our local restaurants, shops, convenience stores, and lodging industry, which have a positive impact on our economy.

A 2009 visitor use study that was conducted at Homestead National Monument of America indicated that 89% of first-time visitors to the Monument are confused by the name and come to the Park expecting to find a statue, block of granite, or marker. With a name change to Homestead National Historical Park, it is expected that our attraction should expect to see more visitors, which will positively impact our community with greater economic spending. (Congressional Research Services white paper titled: "National Park System: What Do the Different Park Titles Signify" confirms that there is strong possibility for this type of growth or benefit.)

A name change from Homestead National Monument of America to Homestead National Historic Park offers much potential for growth of our local Tourism industry, which will positively impact the future development of our community, and we look forward to celebrating when this change is voted in support of by our Country's leaders!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angie Bruna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Angie" and last name "Bruna" clearly distinguishable.

Angie Bruna
Executive Director

cc: Senator Myron Dorn, District 30
cc: Mark Engler, Homestead National Monument of America
cc: Don Ferneding, Friends of Homestead National Monument of America



March 3, 2020

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
% Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Homestead National Monument Name Change S. 1910 and H.R. 1472

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski:

I am writing to you in support of S. 1910 and H.R. 1472 and your efforts to change the name of Homestead National Monument of America to Homestead National Historical Park.

From my office in a renovated 1903 Carnegie Library in Beatrice, Nebraska where I work to improve the economic climate in our area, I reflect on all the obstacles and successes that Gage County has seen since 1854. Despite the struggles that other rural communities are enduring, Beatrice has a strong manufacturing base and is beginning to see a resurgence of young professionals moving home to work and raise their families. The culmination of increased family activity, economic development, and tourism continues to drive the need for secondary and tertiary businesses. Changing the name of Homestead National Monument will increase tourism traffic and visitors, which will also drive demand for more amenities and services. To support this activity, I recently commissioned a hotel feasibility study which identified a significant need for more hotel space to support local businesses, events, and tourism. The study led to the recruitment of a developer that will construct a new multimillion-dollar hotel.

Like the updates and renovations that occurred with the Carnegie building, changing the name of Homestead National Monument will allow our community to preserve its historic roots while working in a global economy and being more visible in the tourism industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Chadwick".

Erin Chadwick
Interim Executive Director
Gage Area Growth Enterprise



**Statement for the Record
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on National Parks
March 4, 2020 Legislative Hearing**

Dear Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the Coalition for American Heritage's opinion on S. 2827, the African-American Burial Grounds Act and S. 1863, the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Study Act.

The Coalition for American Heritage

The Coalition for American Heritage ("the Coalition") is an organization comprised of heritage professionals, scholars, small businesses, non-profits and history-lovers across the country. Our 350,000 members work together to promote our nation's commitment to historic preservation. Preserving historic resources helps stabilize neighborhoods, attract investment, create jobs, generate tax revenues, support small businesses, and power America's heritage tourism industry.

S. 2827, The African-American Burial Grounds Network Act

We strongly support S. 2827, the bipartisan African-American Burial Grounds Network Act. If enacted, this important legislation would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to establish a voluntary, nationwide network of African-American burial grounds. The legislation would also create an NPS program, in coordination with governmental, private, and non-profit partners, to assist communities across our country in identifying, preserving, and restoring these historic and cultural sites. H.R. 1179 is modeled after the two other successful voluntary networks NPS currently manages, "We Shall Overcome: Historic Places of the Civil Rights Movement" and "The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program."

In the course of our work, we have encountered historic African-American burial grounds that have been forgotten, inaccessible, and unidentified. Beginning with slavery and continuing through the Jim Crow era, African-Americans were restricted in where they could bury their dead. Local laws segregated burial grounds by race. These sites were often confined to remote areas or marginal property, and they frequently were not provided the same sort of state or local support or assistance as predominantly white cemeteries. As a result, many jurisdictions are unaware of the existence of these historic sites; even when their location is known, the task of restoring, preserving, and maintaining these burial grounds can be expensive, difficult, and require technical expertise.

Our organizations believe that federal action is needed to protect and preserve these important historic and cultural landmarks. By creating a national network, the African-American Burial Grounds Network Act would help to re-discover the existence of burial grounds ahead of commercial development, helping to avoid disturbances which create distress and heartache in communities. It would also ensure that family members and descendants of those interred are able to visit these sites to honor and remember their ancestors. Preserving and protecting these sacred sites, and the stories they tell, is an integral part of our American heritage. We ask you to pass

S. 2827 in the most expeditious manner possible.

S. 1863, Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Study Act

We also support S. 1863, the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Study Act, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study of sites associated with the life and legacy of philanthropist and businessman Julius Rosenwald, with a particular focus on Rosenwald Schools.

Julius Rosenwald, the son of Jewish immigrants who fled persecution in Europe, leveraged his business success as president and part-owner of Sears, Roebuck, and Company into a second career as founder of Rosenwald Fund and great American philanthropist. While segregation was legal in our nation, he transformed educational opportunities for African American.

Rosenwald teamed up with Booker T. Washington and African American communities across the South between to help fund construction of schoolhouses, YMCA's, and related buildings for African-American children who otherwise faced poor access to educational and recreational opportunities. During segregation, Rosenwald schools educated one-third of all African-American children in the South.

We view Julius Rosenwald's legacy, and the schools he sponsored, as critically important to telling the full American story. It would be especially significant to establish a National Park Service site in his honor because he would be the first Jewish-American so recognized. We urge Congress to pass S. 1863 this year.

Sincerely,

Marion Werkheiser
Policy Director
The Coalition for American Heritage

My Final Statement For The Record for March 4, 2020 Hearing at 2pm Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee On National Parks/ Reauthorization of the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission HR 182/S 508

March 2, 2020
By Gail Cohen
For The Record

Dan Smith former Acting Director of the National Park Service Testimony on December 12, 2018 to your Committee on National Parks was totally false. He is currently under investigation by the Inspector General. Dan Smith is the exact same person who almost stopped the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission in 1986. It has always been renewed since it's inception.

The Cape Cod Advisory Commission was the first one formed as the Citizen's of Cape Cod insisted it be included in the 1961 Legislation creating the Cape Cod National Seashore. This was the first area that the National Park Service went into that had a large population. It was included in the Legislation as Insurance that the Federal Government would not abuse it's power and it was not suppose to be just for ten years which angered the Citizen's when they saw that was how it was included.

Dan Smith totally misrepresented the Advisory Commission in his Testimony. It has no authority at all and strictly only advises. The cost is very minimal and has nothing to do with the NPS focusing resources on the maintenance backlog.

The National Park Service has wanted to get rid of the Advisory Commission for years, but only because the Superintendent must answer their questions. Even Brian Carlstrom the current CCNS Superintendent admits that Dan Smith's Testimony was false. The Advisory Commission has No Authority at all except to Advise. Just today Brian Carlstrom told me that without the Advisory Commission his job communicating will be much more difficult.

Yet Dan Smith insisted that the clause be deleted in the Charter that states that no permit for the commercial use of property within the Seashore shall be issued, nor should any public use area for recreational activity be established without the ADVISE of the Commission. In fact there was a conflict of interest with a concession permit granted that former Superintendent George Price ignored.

The National Park Service owns the majority of the land on Cape Cod. The Towns and their Representatives in Congress must work with them.

The NPS has ignored the 1961 Legislation for years, and instead applies the National mandates which was not suppose to happen to the Cape Cod National Seashore. They stopped Special Use Permits leaving one of the Towns with no place to put it's trash even though that site is guaranteed in the legislation. The point is that the Advisory Commission is a vital part of Cape Cod, and it's purpose is to make sure that the residents have a voice in what is done with the land. They alone saved and championed the area from being developed to Preserve the WAY OF LIFE on Cape Cod which was the intent of President Kennedy and Congress.

Dan Smith testified and I am sure that Shawn Bengel will testify that it is unusual for an advisory commission to have this kind of statutory role in park management decisions.

The Advisory Commission has NO statutory role at all. It only allows the People of Cape Cod to ask and advise on what is being done, and about plans for the future. Not one of you on the Committee would expect less if the Federal Government was in your neighborhood.

On March 6, 2018 Alma Ripps's Office of Policy at the National Park Service put out a memo that ALL Advisory Commissions were authorized to start meeting and continue meeting. That was not correct even though Scott Hodell Secretary Zinke's Chief Of Staff also was assured that would happen. Someone ordered Alma Ripps to immediately have her office put out another memo stating that the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission along with Gettysburg (that does not have a charter), and Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Commissions were NOT AUTHORIZED. The reason given by Alma Ripps was that their Reviews were not completed.

No one has ever seen The Review or who conducted it and signed it. The CCNS does not have a copy of it. In fact after March 6, 2018 the Review was never mentioned again. The Charter for the Advisory Commission expired September 26, 2018. The Cape Cod Representatives in Congress and the Towns were never given a copy.

This is exactly why the Citizen's of Cape Cod insisted that an Advisory Commission be established. Next to the lack of affordable housing the Advisory Commission is the most important issue on Cape Cod.

The choice is that the People of the Towns bow to the Bureaucracy, or be allowed to speak up - and ask questions and discuss the issues that affect their lives and the life of the Towns that ARE Cape Cod.

I ask the Senators of the Committee to do what is right - and allow Bills HR 182 and S 508 to continue to the Senate Floor so that the Citizens of Cape Cod can continue to have their voices heard about our Federal Government. The Advisory Commission should not be silenced.

Gail Cohen
5530 7th Avenue N.
St. Petersburg, FL. 33710

gcinheritor@gmail.com

727-308-9552

Dear National Parks Subcommittee Chairman Daines and Ranking Member King,

Former Acting Director of the National Park Service Dan Smith's testimony on December 12, 2018 to the Senate Energy Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks was false. Mr. Smith misrepresented the role of the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission in his testimony. The Advisory Commission's authority does not supersede the park Superintendent's authority, the commission simply advises the Superintendent. There have been times when the superintendent has chosen not to follow the advice of the Commission. The Advisory committee's cost is also very minimal and is barely a drop in the bucket of the National Parks Service's maintenance backlog. Local park officials have said that without the Advisory Commission, communicating with the public is much more difficult.

The 1961 law that established the Cape Cod National Seashore created the advisory commission to make sure that residents have a voice in what is done with the land. Year-round residents of Cape Cod face a variety of challenges, including the lack of affordable housing, and need an official avenue to be able to speak up, ask questions and discuss the issues that affect their lives and the life of their Towns. The National Park Service's review of Advisory Commissions was also not fair to the Cape Cod National Seashore. No one got to see the review.

I ask the Senators of the Committee to do what is right - and allow H.R. 182/ S. 508 to continue to the Senate Floor so that the Citizens of Cape Cod can continue to have their voices heard about our Federal Government. The Advisory Commission should not be silenced.

Thank you,

Gail Cohen
5530 7th Avenue N.
St. Petersburg, FL. 33710
gcinheritor@gmail.com
727-308-9552

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR MYRON DORN

District 30
 State Capitol
 PO Box 94604
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
 (402) 471-2620
 mdorn@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Appropriations

March 3, 2020

Chairwomen Lisa Murkowski
 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
 304 Dirksen Senate Building
 Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairwomen Murkowski:

RE: S.1910 and H.R.1472, Homestead National Monument of America name change.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the Homestead National Monument and the proposed name change. I am in full support of the new suggested title of Homestead National Historical Park.

The site is an important memorial to our national history and sets Nebraska apart as a vital piece of this narrative. The interpretive facility, grounds and special exhibits educate visitors from all over the world about Daniel Freeman and all following homesteaders.

However, it is not a monument in the traditional sense. It is, in fact, much more!

Since the cost of changing signage and promotional materials will be minimal and done as existing supplies are exhausted, the focus can be shifted to the benefits the name change will bring. Improved clarity about the location will draw travelers to the site. Added tourism revenue is important for any state and will be welcomed by our part of Nebraska.

By changing the name to Homestead National Historical Park, I know visitors will come with appropriate expectations and am confident they will not be disappointed. The citizens of Gage County and all of Legislative District 30 are justifiably proud and will appreciate the opportunity to showcase this wonderful resource.

Myron Dorn
 District 30

Friends of Homestead National Monument of America



March 2, 2020

Chairman Lisa Murkowski
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Dear Chairman Murkowski,

The Friends of Homestead is writing in support of S. 1910 and H.R. 1472 to change the name of Homestead National Monument of America to Homestead National Historical Park.

We believe the name change will enable citizens of this country as well as around the world to better understand the depth and breadth of information that is available in learning about the Homestead Act of 1862 -- legislation that truly changed the course of America.

The current name is confusing and does not accurately reflect the site's role in the National Park Service. Homestead is an interpretive park -- not a physical monument, and changing the name would more accurately reflect the site's mission and amenities.

The name -- Homestead National Historical Park -- would better represent the Park site since this National Park Unit has multiple features including the Homestead Heritage Center/Museum, Homestead Education Center, and historic buildings that include the Palmer-Epard Cabin and Freeman School. Also, within the monument is the nation's second oldest restored tallgrass prairie, a bur oak forest, Cub Creek, farming demonstration areas, hiking trails, picnic areas and the historic Osage Orange Hedge Row.

The Homestead is working with genealogical agencies to make the Homestead land records available electronically for any and all to research their homesteading heritage.

The power of a name cannot be overestimated on how it would economically benefit the National Park Site and the neighboring community and region as well. While growth in visitation would help the Park to share its story with more people in the United States and around the world, it also allows the local community and region to attract visitors to other tourism sites in the area and to favorably impact the economy in a variety of ways through gas, lodging, retail shopping and more.

Through a 2009 visitor use study that was conducted at Homestead National Monument, the National Park Service learned that 89 percent of first-time visitors are confused by the Monument's name, and come to the park expecting to find a statue, block of granite or marker. With a name change to Homestead National Historical Park, the site should expect to see more visitors and with people visiting the Park, neighboring communities would benefit from greater economic spending. The Congressional Research Services shared in a February 2013 white paper titled "National Park System: What Do the Different Park Titles Signify" that there is a strong possibility for this type of growth or benefit.

We know that other National Park Sites have benefited from name changes, such as: Pinnacles National Park, which changed its name in 2012 and has seen annual visitation grow by 3.95 percent or 0.8 percent per year, and Great Sand Dunes National Park which changed its name in 2004 and has seen annual visitation grow by 82 percent or 6.3 percent per year. Congaree National Park and Saguaro National Park have also seen visitation growth following a name change. In St. Louis, the Gateway Arch National Park has realized about a 10 percent annual increase since its name change in 2017.

Homestead National Monument was authorized by the 75th Congress – Session II on March 19, 1936, and was signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt.

Since that time this National Park Site has taken seriously and passionately its role in telling the homesteading story – an epic story that covers 270 million acres, is tied to 93 million Americans, spans 123 years and is directly linked to the development of the largest agricultural superpower in the history of the world.

The name change would be a powerful step in furthering our mission and efforts in sharing this epic story.

Sincerely,



*Diane Vicars
Immediate Past President
On Behalf of the
Friends of Homestead Board of Directors*

*Vicky Cowan
Don Ferneding
Spencer Hagemeier
Rich Hovendick
Doug Neemann
Laureen Riedesel
Don Schuller
Tammy Weers*

RESOLUTION NUMBER 6293

WHEREAS, Homestead National Monument of America was authorized by the 74th Congress, Session II, March 19, 1936, and signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, the monument has evolved into a multi-faceted park that commemorates one of our nation's most significant laws -- the Homestead Act of 1862; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service site has many features including the Homestead Heritage and Education centers, historic buildings (including the Palmer-Epard Cabin and historic Freeman School), hiking trails through the second oldest restored tallgrass prairie in the National Park Service, and serves as a place for recreation and learning for tens of thousands of citizens annually; and

WHEREAS, surveys completed by visitors to the Homestead National Monument have indicated that many visitors find the name of the park's current name confusing; and

WHEREAS, other units of the National Park Service that have had a name change have seen increased visitation benefitting their respective gateway communities; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Homestead National Monument of America wish to change the name of the park to Homestead National Historical Park; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Beatrice desire to show support for the proposed name change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEATRICE, NEBRASKA:

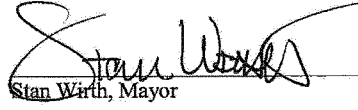
SECTION 1. That the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to officially declare that the City of Beatrice supports changing the name of Homestead National Monument of America to Homestead National Historical Park.

SECTION 2. That all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of November, 2018

Attest:


Erin Saathoff, CMC, City Clerk


Stan Wirth, Mayor

Resolution for Homestead National Monument Name Change #19-01

WHEREAS, Homestead National Monument of America was authorized by the 74th Congress, Session II, March 19, 1936, and signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, the monument has evolved into a multi-faceted park that commemorates one of our nation's most significant laws – the Homestead Act of 1862; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service site has many features including the Homestead Heritage and Education centers, historic buildings (including the Palmer-Epard Cabin and historic Freeman School), hiking trails through the second oldest restored tallgrass prairie in the National Park Service, and serves as a place for recreation and learning for tens of thousands of citizens annually; and

WHEREAS, surveys completed by visitors to the Homestead National Monument have indicated that many visitors find the name of the park's current name confusing; and

WHEREAS, other units of the National Park Service that have had a name change have seen increased visitation benefitting their respective gateway communities; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Homestead National Monument of America wish to change the name of the park to Homestead National Historical Park, and

WHEREAS, the Gage County Board of Supervisors desire to show support for the proposed name change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA:

Section 1: That the Gage County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to officially declare that the Gage County Board of Supervisors supports changing the name of Homestead National Monument of America to Homestead National Historical Park.

Section 2. That all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd day of January, 2019.

Attest: *Naomi Heil*
Gage County Clerk

Myron Rom
Board of Supervisors, Chairman



March 3, 2020

Chairwomen Lisa Murkowski
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairwomen Lisa Murkowski:

I am writing to express Gage County Tourism's support of S. 1910 and H.R. 1472, which requests changing the name of Homestead National Monument of America to Homestead National Historical Park.

As you are aware, the goal to change the name of our local, National attraction is one that has been in the works for a number of years. In 2011, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry introduced legislation (H.R. 274) to change the name and during the 111th Congress Session II, United States Senator Ben Nelson had introduced S. 3562 calling for the Monument to be renamed. These Bills were widely reported on in the news media with wide support.

Tourism is the number three industry in Nebraska and has a large economic impact in Beatrice and Gage County, in large part due to the location Homestead National Monument of America. The Monument is a multi-faceted park that commemorates one of our Nation's most significant laws – the Homestead Act of 1862 – and has many features including the Heritage and Education Centers, historic buildings (including the Palmer-Epard Cabin and historic Freeman School), hiking trails through the second oldest restored tallgrass prairie in the National Park Service, and serves as a place for recreation and learning for tens of thousands of citizens annually. These visitors represent large amounts of outside dollars being spent in our local restaurants, shops, convenience stores, and lodging industry, which have a positive impact on our economy.

A 2009 visitor use study that was conducted at Homestead National Monument of America indicated that 89% of first-time visitors to the Monument are confused by the name and come to the Park expecting to find a statue, block of granite, or marker. With a name change to Homestead National Historical Park, it is expected that our attraction should expect to see more visitors, which will positively impact our community with greater economic spending. (Congressional Research Services white paper titled: "National Park System: What Do the Different Park Titles Signify" confirms that there is strong possibility for this type of growth or benefit.)

A name change from Homestead National Monument of America to Homestead National Historic Park offers much potential for growth of our local Tourism industry and our community, and we look forward to celebrating when this change is voted in support of by our Country's leaders!

Sincerely,


Kristin Jensen
Tourism Coordinator

cc: Senator Myron Dorn, District 30
cc: Mark Engler, Homestead National Monument of America
cc: Don Ferneding, Friends of Homestead National Monument of America

Gage County Tourism
218 N 5th Street, Beatrice, NE / 402-205-3292
www.VisitBeatrice.com / info@visitbeatrice.com

Dear National Parks Subcommittee Chairman Daines and Ranking Member King:

I am in favor of passing HR 182.

It is my understanding that HR 182 is to be heard before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. This bill, if passed, would reauthorize the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) Advisory Commission for 10 years, retroactive to 2018 when the previous charter expired.

As you know, this is the oldest advisory commission in the nation with representatives from each of the six towns where the National Seashore exists. As such, it provides a vital link between the federal government and the citizens of the communities in which it is located. This National Seashore is an unusual situation in that CCNS was established when towns were already in existence and it is not separate from but a part of each of the six towns where it is located. There are a number of important issues facing this region where the Advisory Commission could really help.

In December 2018, Dan Smith of the National Park Service, testified before the Subcommittee and misrepresented the role of the Advisory Commission. He stated that the Commission is unnecessary in order to reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance and other critical Park needs. He also recommended that commercial uses within the Seashore be eliminated.

As a member of the Advisory Commission for a number of years, maintenance issues have always been the purview of the Superintendent. Members are advised by the Superintendent of such matters, but never have we voted to prevent the Superintendent of doing his job. Nor did the Commission ever vote to restrict the Superintendent in the exercise of his managerial responsibilities.

Further, Smith's recommendation to eliminate the commercial uses within the Seashore would cause great economic harm to our tourist based economy. As an example, the Beachcomber in Wellfleet was built by the Lifesaving Service, a precursor to the US Coast Guard Service and certainly well prior to 1961 when the enabling legislation creating the Seashore was adopted. The establishment is important to the operation of the beach and to the community at large. Removing it would be a loss.

In closing, I would like to re-emphasize that the Advisory Commission is advisory. The primary responsibility of the Commission is to keep the Seashore informed of its impact on the various communities the Seashore serves. A number of times the Advisory Commission has helped to collaborate with the towns within the National Seashore to find solutions to difficult issues. Now is the time for the Advisory Commission to be reinstated because there are important topics regarding the environment and the National Seashore being debated and decided.

Please vote to reinstate the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission.

Sincerely,

Lilli-Ann Green
160 Old County Rd.
S. Wellfleet, MA 02663
508-801-6211

CC: Senator Angus King
Senator Edward Markey
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Representative William Keating



March 3, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski:

RE: S.1910 and H.R.1472, Homestead National Monument of America name change

I am writing in support of your efforts to change the name of Homestead National Monument of America to Homestead National Historical Park. As the state's historical society, History Nebraska works frequently in partnership with National Park Service staff and we know what an asset the current National Monument is to both Nebraskans and the nation as a whole. However, the current name is confusing and does not accurately reflect the site's role in the National Park Service System. Homestead is an interpretive park – not a physical monument, and changing the name would more accurately reflect the site's mission and amenities. We value Homestead and its staff's stellar work in interpreting the history of the homestead movement in the United States and we wholeheartedly support this effort to improve their work and service to the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Jones', is written over a faint, larger signature.

Trevor Jones Director & CEO History Nebraska

1500 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1651
P: 402.471.3270
P: 800.833.6747
F: 402.471.3100
history.nebraska.gov



March 2, 2020

Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S.1910 and H.R.1472, Homestead National Monument of America name change.

Main Street Beatrice is writing in support of S. 1910 and H.R. 1472 an effort to re-designate Homestead National Monument of America as Homestead National Historical Park. We are fortunate to have an amazing National Park site within such proximity to our rural community. Homestead as a site protects and shares a story of American spirit and ingenuity, a spirit to accomplish great things. This site is not just a monument to past history - it tells an amazing historical story, one that we are still writing as a nation today. Simply put the title "monument" does not do this park justice; it is truly a first rate National Historical Park.

As a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, Main Street Beatrice is charged with revitalizing Beatrice through downtown design, economic vitality, promotions, organization, and community involvement. Homestead National Monument and their Friends organization have contributed to our community growth strategies by providing a high quality tourism draw, providing great cultural and recreational resources for our community, and by helping us take pride in our history and in what we can accomplish going forward. They are a key partner in helping us find success in seeing a stronger community and a stronger downtown.

We feel it is important to highlight the economic, cultural, and sense of place benefits Homestead National Monument brings not just to our downtown, but the entire community and region at large. They welcome tens of thousands of visitors through their doors annually. Those visitors in turn, drive consumer spending which ensures business success in our Main Street district and beyond. **That success could be much greater. Simply put, the name "Monument" does not give prospective visitors and area residents a real sense of the objects, stories, and activities taking place at this national treasure. A name change is in order for the park, which will allow our region to flourish and take advantage of the investments our nation has made in this great park.**

Main Street could not find a better asset for our community. Homestead is making a difference. Their positive impacts on our community need to be strengthened. We whole heartedly encourage you to join us in supporting the efforts to re-designate the park as Homestead National Historical Park.

Sincerely,

Michael Sothan
Executive Director



205 N. 4TH STREET ♦ P.O. BOX 125 ♦ BEATRICE, NE 68310
Phone (402)223-3244 ♦ info@mainstreetbeatrice.org ♦ www.mainstreetbeatrice.org



**SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS
366 DIRKSEN SENATE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
LEGISLATIVE HEARING
MARCH 4, 2020
COMMENTS OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to share the National Trust for Historic Preservation's perspectives on three bills under consideration by the subcommittee: the Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools Study Act of 2019 (S. 1863 / H.R. 3250); the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network Act (S. 2827 / H.R. 1179); the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument Boundary Modification Act of 2019 (S. 3119 / H.R. 4840); and the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act (S. 2340 / H.R. 3824). The National Trust enthusiastically endorses these bills and looks forward to their enactment in this Congress.

Interests of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded charitable, educational, and nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949 to "facilitate public participation in historic preservation" and to further the purposes of federal historic preservation laws. The intent of Congress was for the National Trust "to mobilize and coordinate public interest, participation, and resources in the preservation and interpretation of sites and buildings." With headquarters in Washington, D.C., eight field offices, 27 historic sites, more than one million members and supporters, and a national network of partners in states, territories, and the District of Columbia, the National Trust works to save America's historic places and advocates for historic preservation as a fundamental value in programs and policies at all levels of government.

S. 1863, Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools Study Act of 2019

We appreciate the leadership of Senator Dick Durbin and Representatives Danny Davis and Steve Cohen (H.R. 3250) on this bipartisan and bicameral legislation. The bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study of sites associated with the life and legacy of philanthropist and businessman Julius Rosenwald, with a particular focus on Rosenwald Schools.

Julius Rosenwald was a nationally significant philanthropist who helped transformed educational opportunities for African American children during the years of segregation. The son of Jewish immigrants who fled persecution in Europe, he transformed Sears, Roebuck and Company into a retail powerhouse and acquired great wealth during his successful career that he subsequently used for his visionary philanthropy.

Rosenwald partnered with Booker T. Washington and African American communities across the South between 1913 and 1932 to provide partial funding for schoolhouses and related buildings—most often known as Rosenwald Schools—serving children who otherwise would have had extremely limited access to public education. His offer to contribute \$25,000 after communities provided a \$75,000 matching share facilitated the construction of YMCAs for African Americans in 24 cities, which were necessary due to Jim Crow segregation policies. Starting in 1928, the Rosenwald Fund supported early NAACP legal cases that eventually led to the Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka case and funded fellowships awarded to promising African American artists, scholars, writers, and scientists—many of whom went on to play critical roles in the civil rights movement.

The more than 5,000 Rosenwald Schools, located in mostly rural areas in 15 states, were predominantly one or two-room structures and state-of-the-art for the period. They educated one-third of all African American children in the South during the years of segregation, producing markedly improved educational outcomes for their students and bringing a sense of hope and civic engagement to their communities. In 2002, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Rosenwald Schools to its 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list after research estimated that only 10-12 percent of the structures survive. The dwindling numbers of Rosenwald Schools make it all the more important that we act to preserve these historic places and their stories for future generations.

The National Trust is working in partnership with the Rosenwald Park Campaign and the National Parks Conservation Association to support this critical first step to establishing the first National Park Service site to honor a Jewish American, while also preserving a selection of iconic Rosenwald Schools. The National Trust has supported the preservation of Rosenwald Schools for many years, and our expertise and involvement includes providing workshops, conferences, and technical assistance – including our publication: the *Grassroots Guide to Preserving Rosenwald Schools*. Since 2002, the National Trust has provided over \$2.5 million in matching grants to advance Rosenwald School preservation, including planning, engineering studies, architectural plans, archaeology, research, and rehabilitation.

We hope you support this important initiative that would commemorate a vital piece of our nation's history, and we look forward to enactment of S. 1863 during this Congress.

S. 2827, U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network Act

We appreciate the leadership of Senators Sherrod Brown and Lamar Alexander and Representatives Alma Adams and A. Donald McEachin (H.R. 1179) on this bipartisan and bicameral legislation. The bill would direct the Department of the Interior to establish the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network within the National Park Service (NPS).

Cemeteries are solemn places of memory and also provide a connection to the past. Unfortunately, many African-American burial grounds are inaccessible and in need of preservation after years of restrictions on where African Americans could bury their dead. Local laws that segregated burial grounds by race combined with siting in remote areas and limited state and local support for maintenance have left many burial grounds in a state of disarray and others in unknown locations. This legislation creates an NPS program modeled after other successful voluntary networks managed by NPS, such as the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, and provides for coordination between government, private and nonprofit partners to identify, preserve, and restore these historic sites.

We urge your support for this bill that would ensure the descendants of those interred can visit these historic places, honor and remember their ancestors, and preserve a vital piece of our nation's heritage.

S. 3119, Casa Grande Ruins National Monument Boundary Modification Act of 2019

The National Trust supports the bipartisan Casa Grande Ruins National Monument Boundary Modification Act introduced by Senator Martha McSally and cosponsored by Senator Kyrsten Sinema. Casa Grande Ruin Reservation was proclaimed as the nation's first archaeological preserve and cultural site in 1892 before being re-designated as Casa Grande National Monument in 1918. The four-story adobe "Great House" at the center of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument is a remarkable architectural example of 14th Century Hohokam culture and one of the largest known ancient structures built in North America. The current legislation provides for a land exchange and expansion of the monument that will help provide context about the extensive, prehistoric irrigation community along the Gila River in the Sonoran Desert, protect irreplaceable cultural resources, and preserve a landscape with profound significance to descendent Native American tribes. We urge your support for this legislation.

S. 2340, Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act

The National Trust supports the bipartisan and bicameral Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act introduced by Senator Dick Durbin and Representatives Mike Bost (H.R. 3824). Cahokia Mounds is the largest prehistoric Indian site north of Mexico and at one point included 120 mounds across 4000 acres in western Illinois across from modern St. Louis, Missouri. Cahokia Mounds is currently administered by the State of Illinois and protects 72 of the remaining 80 mounds. Named a National Historic Landmark in 1965 and designated a World Heritage Site in 1982, this cultural landscape is recognized for its significance to the prehistory of North America and is Illinois' most visited historic site.

This legislation would establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System and provides an opportunity for the NPS to preserve and protect historic and cultural resources of the Mississippian Culture. We urge your support for this legislation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Bowman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pam Bowman
Director of Public Lands Policy

Charles D. Naranjo
Governor



Michael J. Pecos
Lt. Governor

P.O. Box 255
255 Cochiti Street
Cochiti Pueblo, NM 87072-0255
PH# (505) 465-2244 FAX# (505) 465-1135

Pueblo de Cochiti Opposition to Bandelier National Park and Preserve Proposal

A Threat to Tribal Sovereignty, Threat to Continuance of Religious and Cultural Practices, and Threat to a National Treasure

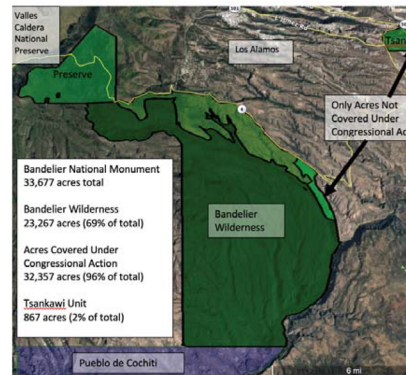
- On March 20, 2019, Senator Martin Heinrich publicly proposed legislation to re-designate Bandelier National Monument as Bandelier National Park & Preserve.
- On its face, this proposal claims it will protect public lands from reduction by the Executive Branch, bolster the local economy, and safeguard the interest of Pueblos and Tribes.
- This proposal a short-sighted boost for a short term profit which will ultimately endanger natural resources, endanger cultural resources, and disrespect Tribal sovereignty.
- At its heart, the proposal to make Bandelier a National Park significantly changes the mission and purpose of the area from historical and archaeological protection to a monetary and tourist-driven focus.
- This monetary and tourist-driven focus of the rebranding disregards its negative effects on New Mexico's Pueblos and Tribes perspective of stewardship, protection and ongoing cultural use of the Bandelier National Monument Areas.

Cochiti Pueblo strongly opposes this proposal, and we must emphasize the critical need for these areas to be protected, preserved, and stewarded as our ancestors, grandparents and our current leaderships deem respectful and appropriate:

1. Sen. Heinrich's briefing on this proposal¹ promotes this legislation primarily as an economic development effort that will result in less than \$1.9-\$2.3 in new spending and the creation of only 26-33 new jobs.

These meager economic benefits—very few (if any) of which might trickle down to Pueblo communities—would come at an **unbearable cost to New Mexico's Pueblos and Indian Tribes**. Increased tourist traffic will endanger Pueblo cultural and religious sites on National Park Service (NPS) land, and drive more tourists to trespass into lands of Cochiti Pueblo and other surrounding Pueblo's lands. NPS has already proven to be ineffective at safeguarding cultural sites in the National Monument against unsustainable (current) tourist visit levels, disrespectful use of the sites, inappropriate labeling and picture taking of the sites, disturbance at the sites, removal of items from the sites, graffiti on the sites. In addition, the Pueblos of Cochiti is currently bearing the cost of increasing patrols and monitoring its lands and rights of way access points from trespassers, vandals and pot-hunters.

2. The proposal claims to protect "Bandelier from extractive industries by specifically removing fracking, mineral and geothermal leases within the boundaries of Bandelier National Park and Preserve." The proposal also raises the specter of geothermal development in the Santa Fe National Forest.



¹ "Proposal to Promote Bandelier NM to National Park & Preserve" <https://www.heinrich.senate.gov/download/bandelier-two-pager>

The proposal ignores that **nearly 70 percent of Bandelier National Monument is already protected as wilderness**, which was established by Congress in 1976. This is the highest level of protection available to public lands, and it cannot be altered by Presidential Executive Order; these lands are permanently protected from resource development and leasing. Furthermore, it ignores that **nearly 95% of the monument is already protected under Congress** by laws passed in 1976 and 1998.

3. *The proposal claims to expand protections for “affiliated pueblos” through reiteration of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and the creation of a Tribal Commission to provide non-binding input on park management.*

Any codified access to the National Park and Preserve afforded by the proposal is dwarfed by the threat of unsustainable and unmanageable levels of tourist visits. The proposal, and **the minimal tribal consultation** leading up to its release, only included six “affiliated pueblos” in the proposed Tribal Commission, even though Bandelier National Monument’s own Foundation Document lists 24 Pueblos and Indian Tribes with traditional association to the Monument. The increased visibility and tourism this proposal will bring are simply incompatible with traditional cultural practices in the Monument; increased tourism will prove more destructive—to natural resources and the survival of Pueblo culture—than any imagined mining, oil and gas development threat ever could.

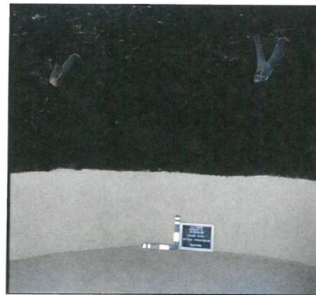
Cochiti proposes to: 1) keep the Bandelier a National Monument; 2) Change the name to “Tyuonyi and Tsankawi National Monument”; and 3) Pueblo de Cochiti co-management of Tyuonyi (32,851 acres) through self-governance Multi-year Funding Agreement.



Tourist skinny dipping near springs and significant water features in Bandelier. Source: <http://creagrass.home.montereybay.com/parks07.html>



In this 2005 photo provided by the National Park Service, conservator Angelyn Bass Rivera inpaints soil fills to obscure graffiti carved into the walls of a cave in Frijoles Canyon at Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico.



Damage documented at Bandelier National Monument in December 2019. Source: US Department of Interior letter dated December 02, 2019





Select Board

Town Hall, 260 Commercial Street
Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657
Telephone (508) 487-7003
Facsimile (508) 487-9560

March 10, 2020

State Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Chairman Lisa Murkowski

304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 508

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

On behalf of the Provincetown Select Board I am writing in support of S.508 to extend the authorization of the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission.

We believe that S.508 is essential and by extending the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission's authority until September 26, 2028. It will help to maintain a working relationship between the Cape Cod National Seashore and the towns within its boundaries.

Thank you for your consideration in support of S.508. We encourage the Committee to act favorably and swiftly on this important legislation.

Yours truly,

David Abramson
Chair, Provincetown Select Board

CC:
National Subcommittee Chairman Senator Steve Daines
Ranking Senator Angus King
Senator Edward Markey
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Representative William Keating



March 3, 2020

Chairwomen Lisa Murkowski
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwomen Murkowski:

RE: S.1910 and H.R.1472, Homestead National Monument of America name change.

I am writing to you today in support of the appeal to rename Homestead National Park to Homestead National Historical Park.

As the executive director of the Nebraska Tourism Commission, I am devoted to spreading and increasing awareness of Nebraska's unique story and the special opportunities that it has to offer. The Homestead Monument commemorates an impactful period in Westward Expansion when every man and woman was granted a "fair chance" to claim land by the Homestead Act of 1862. This monument is a wonderful example of freedom and equality, meant to educate its visitors on the impactful events that took place nearly 157 years ago.

I fully support the efforts of "Friends of Homestead National Monument" and its partners in Gage County in the renaming of Homestead National Park to Homestead National Historical Park to display its significance and importance. This change will help establish a better understanding of the past this monument signifies, and be a great way to encourage tourists to learn more about our state's rich history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Ricks".

John Ricks
Nebraska Tourism Commission Executive Director

Nebraska Tourism Commission • 301 Centennial Mall South • 1st Floor Nebraska State Office Building

PO Box 98907 • Lincoln, NE 68509-8907 • www.visitnebraska.com • 1.800.228.4307

**Statement for the Record from Senator Ben Sasse
March 4, 2020
Subcommittee on National Parks Legislative Hearing**

Madam Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin, Subcommittee Chairman Daines, Subcommittee Ranking Member King and members of the committee. It is an honor to submit a statement for the record on behalf of S. 1910, a bill to rename the Homestead National Monument of American to the Homestead National Historical Park.

The Homestead Act was signed into law by President Lincoln in 1862 in order to develop land in the west. He offered 160 acres to individuals willing to live on and cultivate the land. Many saw this as a great opportunity and packed up for a better life in the west.

Established in 1936, Homestead National Monument near Beatrice, Nebraska, is a tribute to the hardships of pioneer life and the grit and resolve of our people. The cabin, schoolhouse, tall prairie grasses, and trails allow visitors to step back in time and experience life as an early pioneer over 150 years ago.

In 2017, my family and I had the opportunity to join a whole bunch of Nebraskans in watching the solar eclipse travel across the continental United States at Homestead National Monument. This event set a visitor record for the site and offered families the opportunity to watch the total solar eclipse and teach their families about life on the prairie. It is a memory that my family and many others across the state won't soon forget, as these educational opportunities are vital in teaching the next generation.

I appreciate the Committee hearing S. 1910 today and the opportunity to express how important this site is for preserving our history.

This important name change more accurately represents the experience visitors have when coming to see the story of our homesteaders. The park contains many important avenues for educating our children and grandchildren. Not only can they tour the main cabin, but they can experience the grounds as they were during the early settlement days and walk through the winding trails the park provides. Here, folks can learn about the life of homesteaders: from droughts, storms, prairie fires, and grasshopper infestations, our ancestors persevered with hard work and grit, traits Nebraskans still hold in their hearts today. We need to teach that history to the next generation of Americans and Nebraskans.

The bill's intent is to change only the name of the site, not how it is managed, and the language of S. 1910 reflects that goal.

S.1910 has the support of the local community, the Beatrice City Council, Gage County Commissioners and Friends of Homestead National Monument, the Superintendent of Homestead National Monument and the National Park Service.

I request unanimous consent to enter into the record letters from many organizations expressing their support for the name change. These groups include the State Representatives, Southeast Community College, Nebraska Tourism Commission, and others.

Madam Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin, Subcommittee Chairman Daines, Subcommittee Ranking Member King and members of the committee, thank you again for holding this hearing today and I would appreciate your support in passing S. 1910 to rename the Homestead National Monument of American to the Homestead National Historical Park. I welcome you all to the Great State of Nebraska and look forward to hosting you at Homestead to celebrate the rich history of Nebraska and our ancestors.

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR JULIE SLAMA

District 1
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2733
jslama@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Chairperson - Enrollment and Review
Agriculture
Business and Labor
Judiciary
Midwestern Higher Education Commission

March 3, 2020

Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski

RE: S. 1910 and H.R. 1472, Homestead National Monument of America name change

I would like to submit my letter of support in the effort to rename Homestead National Monument of America in Beatrice, Nebraska. Homestead National Monument of America gives the impression to tourists who visit our State that they will find a monument, statue or marker in the Park when in fact there is no such thing. The Park includes the site of the Homestead Heritage Center, which contains exhibits on the Homestead Act of 1862 and its influence on immigration, agriculture, native tribes, among other things. The Park also includes other historical buildings, the tallgrass prairie, which was restored to a similar ecosystem as was present in 1862, hiking trails, and ample opportunities for visitors and students to learn about America's pioneer history. As you can see, including the word "Monument" in the name of the Park is misleading to tourists, and I believe with a name change to Homestead National Historical Park, will better reflect what Homestead National Monument of American has to offer.

It is my hope that you will give serious consideration to a name change for Homestead National Monument of America. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Nebraska State Senator Julie Slama
District 1



Area Office 201 S. 68th St. Place Lincoln, NE 68510-2649 402-323-3400/800-642-4075 FAX: 402-323-3620
 Beatrice Campus 4771 W. Scott Rd. Beatrice, NE 68310-7042 402-228-3468/800-233-5027 FAX: 402-228-8935
 Lincoln Campus 8800 O St. Lincoln, NE 68520-1299 402-471-3333/800-642-4075 FAX: 402-437-2402
 Milford Campus 600 State St. Milford, NE 68405-8498 402-761-2131/800-933-7223 FAX: 402-761-2324
 Learning Centers in Falls City, Hebron, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, Wahoo, and York
 Deaf TDD 402-437-2702
www.southeast.edu

March 3, 2020

RE: Renaming Homestead National Monument of America S. 1910 and H.R. 1472

To Whom it My Concern:

Southeast Community college is blessed to have Homestead National Monument in our service area. SCC Beatrice and the Homestead have had a long running partnership for events such as the Genealogical conference which brings in conference goers from across the nation to access the college and the Homestead Education Center showcasing much more than a national monument.

As a part of the community we value all that Homestead has to offer including:

- Homestead Heritage Center and Museum
- Homestead Education Center
- Historic buildings including the Plamer-Epard Cabin and Historic Freeman school
- The Tallgrass prairie, bur oak forest, Cub Creek, farming demonstration areas hiking trails and picnic areas and the historic Osage Orange Hedge Row.

As you can see Homestead National Monument of America is much much more. It truly is a park. That said we strongly support the name change of the Homestead National Monument of America to Homestead National Historical Park.

Sincerely

Robert Morgan
 Vice President of Program Development/Beatrice Campus Director 4771
 West Scott Road
 Beatrice Nebraska 68310



Town of Chatham
Office of the Selectmen
Town Manager
549 Main Street
Chatham, MA 02633



Jill R. Goldsmith
TOWN MANAGER
jgoldsmith@chatham-ma.gov

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March 10, 2020

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

The Honorable Steve Daines, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King, Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin, Ranking Member King, and
National Parks Subcommittee Chairman Daines,

As Town Manager of Chatham, and on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and citizens of the Town, I respectfully request your support for S.508. This bill, if passed, would reauthorize the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) Advisory Commission for 10 years, retroactive to 2018 when the previous charter expired. The Advisory Commission is the oldest in the nation with representatives from each of the six towns in which the National Seashore resides.

This bill has profound importance for the future management of CCNS and its critical partnership and relationships with the six local towns within its boundary. There is tremendous support for the Advisory Commission from the Select Board and citizens of our town.

For almost 60 years of operation the Advisory Commission provided the key forum for coordination and communication between local communities and the National Park Service management and has been an outstanding example of a partnership in cooperative land stewardship in the National Park System.

The CCNS Advisory Commission was authorized in 1961 as part of the National Seashore's enabling legislation. As stated in Section 8, its purpose is "*to provide a means of ongoing consultation and liaison with private, local, and community interests that were expected to remain within the seashore.*"

CCNS was established with a pattern of land ownership and management that is most unusual in the National Park System. Most national parks are many miles away from any town. The boundaries of

Cape Cod National Seashore incorporated significant portions of the six Lower Cape towns. The towns, however, retained ownership of numerous parcels within the National Seashore including ponds, beaches, parking lots and roads; and over 600 parcels within the bounds of Cape Cod National Seashore are privately owned. Activities on all these lands can have potentially profound effects on protected resources, and vice versa.

Consequently, there was intense political debate about and considerable local opposition to the original proposal to create CCNS. The need for a forum for open, constructive dialogue where the towns and private sector had a voice was solved by establishment of the CCNS Advisory Commission and that need continues today as new issues emerge and others reappear. It is fair to say that the CCNS Advisory Commission was one of the keys to the successful establishment of Cape Cod National Seashore.

It is imperative the CCNS Advisory Commission resume operations at this time as the six local communities and National Park Service must address and coordinate on many critical public safety issues including: proliferation of great white sharks in waters adjacent to National Seashore and town beaches; potential complications from the coronavirus situation; and, the many facility and infrastructure projects that have bearing on CCNS and the towns.

According to testimony of Department of Interior representatives, there is a fundamental misunderstanding of several important functions of the Advisory Commission.

1. One major concern for local communities at the outset of the National Seashore proposal prior to 1961 was how and to what degree commercial ventures would be allowed within CCNS boundaries. There are only 8 pre-existing commercial permits allowed within CCNS. These permits are reviewed by the Advisory Commission every 5 or 10 years with advisory comments offered to the National Seashore Superintendent. This provision, described in S.8 (g) of the Authorizing Legislation, has been misinterpreted by some representatives of the Department of Interior as a "local veto" over commercial operations. This section does require the Advisory Commission to review and advise the Superintendent on the renewal of commercial permits but like other actions of the Advisory Commission, Commission input is purely advisory, and the Superintendent makes all final decisions.

2. Advisory Commission costs are blamed for a maintenance backlog. In fact, the maintenance backlog is explained by the National Seashore Superintendent at the Advisory Commission meetings. Members of the Advisory Commission and the public are made aware of the Superintendent's priorities and the shortfall of monies provided by the Federal Government. Furthermore, local fund-raising efforts have been supported effectively through the publicity of the meeting and subsequent articles in the local press highlighting these issues. Advisory Commission members serve as advocates and supporters for CCNS maintenance projects.

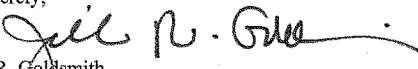
The cost of operating the Advisory Commission is negligible. Members serve voluntarily and are not reimbursed for expenses. The CCNS costs include listing meetings in the Federal Register, a court reporter, GPO publication of meeting minutes, and staff support for 6 or 7 meetings a year. It is abundantly clear that the modest cost for annual operation of the Advisory Commission pays invaluable dividends and assures smooth operation of CCNS.

The Advisory Commission has the full support of all six towns, Governor Baker's administration, and all sectors of the community including private businesses and home owners.

It is, therefore, urged that you approve S. 508 and support its prompt passage.

If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please contact me at jgoldsmith@chatham-ma.gov or 508-945-5105.

Sincerely,


Jill R. Goldsmith
Town Manager

cc: Senator Edward Markey
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Representative William Keating



TOWN OF EASTHAM

2500 State Highway, Eastham, MA 02642-2544
 All departments 508-240-5900 • Fax 508-240-1291
www.eastham-ma.gov

Dear Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Senator Lisa Murkowski,
 Ranking Member Senator Joe Manchin,
 National Parks Subcommittee Chairman Senator Steve Daines and
 Ranking Member Senator Angus King:

I am writing on behalf of the town of Eastham one of the Towns within the Cape Cod National Seashore. We respectfully request that you support S.508. This bill, if passed, would reauthorize the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) Advisory Commission for 10 years, retroactive to 2018 when the previous charter expired. The Advisory Commission is the oldest in the nation with representatives from each of the six towns where the National Seashore exists.

This bill has profound importance for the future management of CCNS and its critical partnership and relationships with the six local towns within its boundary. There has been tremendous support for the Advisory Commission from the Select Board and citizens of our town.

For over almost 60 years of operation, the Advisory Commission has provided the key forum for coordination and communication between the local communities and the National Park Service management and has been an outstanding example of a partnership in cooperative land stewardship in the National Park System.

The CCNS Advisory Commission was authorized in 1961, as part of the National Seashore's enabling legislation. As stated in Section 8, its purpose is "to provide a means of ongoing consultation and liaison with private, local, and community interests that were expected to remain within the seashore."

CCNS was established with a pattern of land ownership and management that is most unusual in the National Park System. Most national parks are many miles away from any town. *The boundaries of Cape Cod National Seashore incorporated significant portions of the six Lower Cape towns. The towns, however, retained ownership of numerous parcels within the National Seashore including ponds, beaches, parking lots and roads; and over 600 parcels within the bounds of Cape Cod National Seashore are privately owned. Activities on all these lands can have potentially profound effects on protected resources, and vice versa.*

Consequently, there was intense political debate about and considerable local opposition to the original proposal to create CCNS. The need for a forum for open, constructive dialogue where the towns and private sector had a voice was solved by the establishment of the CCNS Advisory Commission; and that need continues today as new issues emerge and others reappear. It is fair to say that the CCNS Advisory Commission was one of the keys to the successful establishment of Cape Cod National Seashore.

It is imperative that the CCNS Advisory Commission resume its operations at this time as the six local communities and the National Park Service must now address and coordinate on many critical public safety issues including the proliferation of great white sharks in waters adjacent to National Seashore and town beaches; the potential complications from the coronavirus situation; and many facilities and infrastructure projects that have bearing on CCNS and the towns.

According to testimony of Department of Interior representatives, there is a misunderstanding of several important functions of the Advisory Commission.

1. One major concern for local communities at the outset of the National Seashore prior to 1961 was how and to what degree commercial ventures would be allowed within the CCNS boundaries. There are only 8 pre-existing commercial permits allowed within CCNS. These permits are reviewed by the Advisory Commission every 5 or 10 years with advisory comments offered to the National Seashore Superintendent. This provision as described in S.8 (g) of the Authorizing Legislation has been misinterpreted by some representatives of the Department of Interior as a "local veto" over commercial operations. This section does require the Advisory Commission to review and advise the Superintendent on the renewal of commercial permits but like other actions of the Advisory Commission, it is purely advisory and the Superintendent makes all final decisions.

2. The Advisory Commission cost is blamed for a maintenance backlog. In fact, the maintenance backlog is explained by the National Seashore Superintendent at the Advisory Commission meetings. The members of the Advisory Commission and the public are made aware of the Superintendent's priorities and the shortfall of monies provided by the Federal Government. Furthermore, local fund raising efforts have been supported effectively through the publicity of the meeting and subsequent articles in the local press highlight these issues. The Advisory Commission members have served as advocates and even supporters for CCNS maintenance projects.

The cost of operating the Advisory Commission is negligible. All members serve voluntarily and are not reimbursed for expenses. The CCNS costs include listing meetings in the Federal Register, a court reporter, GPO publication of meeting minutes and staff support for 6 or 7 meetings a year. It is abundantly clear that modest cost for the annual operation of the Advisory Commission pays invaluable dividends and assures the smooth operation of CCNS.

The Advisory Commission has the full support of all six towns, the Governor Baker administration and all sectors of the community including private businesses and home owners. It is therefore urged that you approve S. 508 and support its prompt passage.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline W. Beebe
Town Administrator
Town of Eastham

2500 State Highway
Eastham, MA 02642
774-801-3211

CC:
Senator Edward Markey
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Representative William Keating

Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senator Joe Manchin, Ranking Member
Senator Steve Daines, Chair, National Parks Subcommittee
Senator Angus King, Ranking Member

Dear Senators Murkowski, Manchin, Daines and King:

As Town Administrator of Orleans, Massachusetts, and on behalf of the town of Orleans, I urge your support for S.508. This bill would reauthorize the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) Advisory Commission for 10 years, retroactive to 2018 when the previous charter expired. The Advisory Commission is the oldest in the nation with representatives from each of the six towns where the National Seashore exists.

The Advisory Commission was authorized in 1961, as part of the Seashore's enabling legislation, "to provide a means of ongoing consultation and liaison with private, local, and community interests that were expected to remain within the seashore." It has been an excellent example of a highly successful partnership in cooperative land stewardship in the National Park System.

Resumption of the CCNS Advisory Commission's operations is critical so the six local communities and the National Park Service can coordinate their responses to pressing public safety issues such as the proliferation of great white sharks in our waters, potential complications from the coronavirus situation, and necessary infrastructure projects affecting both the National Seashore and the towns. Any action of the commission by statute is advisory only, the cost of the commission is negligible, and the commission has supported any maintenance need of the Seashore and any private maintenance funding.

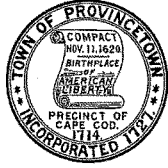
The Advisory Commission has the full support of all six towns, the Governor Baker administration and all sectors of the community including private businesses and home owners.

I urge you to approve S. 508 and support its prompt passage. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely:

John Kelly
Town Administrator
Orleans, Massachusetts

CC:
Senator Edward Markey
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Representative William Keating



Massachusetts PROVINCETOWN

Robin L. Craver, Town Manager
Office: 508.487.7002
rcraver@provincetown-ma.gov

Town of Provincetown
260 Commercial Street
Provincetown, MA 02657

March 9, 2020

Dear Honorable Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Senator Lisa Murkowski; Ranking Member Senator Joe Manchin; National Parks Subcommittee Chairman Senator Steve Daines and Ranking Member Senator Angus King:

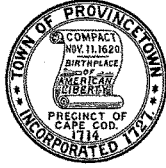
As Town Manager of Provincetown and on behalf of the Town of Provincetown, your support is urged for S.508. This bill, if passed, would reauthorize the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) Advisory Commission for 10 years, retroactive to 2018 when the previous charter expired. The Advisory Commission is the oldest in the nation with representatives from each of the six towns where the National Seashore exists.

This bill has profound importance for the future management of CCNS and its critical partnership and relationships with the six local towns within its boundary. There has been tremendous support for the Advisory Commission from the Select Board and citizens of our town.

For over almost 60 years of operation, the Advisory Commission has provided the key forum for coordination and communication between the local communities and the National Park Service management and has been an outstanding example of a partnership in cooperative land stewardship in the National Park System.

The CCNS Advisory Commission was authorized in 1961, as part of the National Seashore's enabling legislation. As stated in Section 8, its purpose is "to provide a means of ongoing consultation and liaison with private, local, and community interests that were expected to remain within the seashore."

CCNS was established with a pattern of land ownership and management that is most unusual in the National Park System. Most national parks are many miles away from any town. The boundaries of Cape Cod National Seashore incorporated significant portions of the six Lower Cape towns. The towns, however, retained ownership of numerous parcels within the National Seashore including ponds, beaches, parking lots and roads; and over 600 parcels within the bounds of Cape Cod



Massachusetts PROVINCETOWN

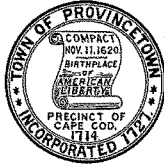
National Seashore are privately owned. Activities on all these lands can have potentially profound effects on protected resources, and vice versa.

Consequently, there was intense political debate about and considerable local opposition to the original proposal to create CCNS. The need for a forum for open, constructive dialogue where the towns and private sector had a voice was solved by the establishment of the CCNS Advisory Commission; and that need continues today as new issues emerge and others reappear. It is fair to say that the CCNS Advisory Commission was one of the keys to the successful establishment of Cape Cod National Seashore.

It is imperative that the CCNS Advisory Commission resume its operations at this time as the six local communities and the National Park Service must now address and coordinate on many critical public safety issues including the proliferation of great white sharks in waters adjacent to National Seashore and town beaches; the potential complications from the coronavirus situation; and many facilities and infrastructure projects that have bearing on CCNS and the towns.

According to testimony of Department of Interior representatives, there is a misunderstanding of several important functions of the Advisory Commission.

1. One major concern for local communities at the outset of the National Seashore prior to 1961 was how and to what degree commercial ventures would be allowed within the CCNS boundaries. There are only 8 pre-existing commercial permits allowed within CCNS. These permits are reviewed by the Advisory Commission every 5 or 10 years with advisory comments offered to the National Seashore Superintendent. This provision as described in S.8 (g) of the Authorizing Legislation has been misinterpreted by some representatives of the Department of Interior as a "local veto" over commercial operations. This section does require the Advisory Commission to review and advise the Superintendent on the renewal of commercial permits but like other actions of the Advisory Commission, it is purely advisory and the Superintendent makes all final decisions.
2. The Advisory Commission cost is blamed for a maintenance backlog. In fact, the maintenance backlog is explained by the National Seashore Superintendent at the Advisory Commission meetings. The members of the Advisory Commission and the public are made aware of the Superintendent's priorities and the shortfall of monies provided by the Federal Government. Furthermore, local fund raising efforts have been supported effectively through the publicity of the meeting and subsequent articles in the local press highlight these issues.



Massachusetts PROVINCETOWN

The Advisory Commission members have served as advocates and even supporters for CCNS maintenance projects.

3. The cost of operating the Advisory Commission is negligible. All members serve voluntarily and are not reimbursed for expenses. The CCNS costs include listing meetings in the Federal Register, a court reporter, GPO publication of meeting minutes and staff support for 6 or 7 meetings a year. It is abundantly clear that modest cost for the annual operation of the Advisory Commission pays invaluable dividends and assures the smooth operation of CCNS.

The Advisory Commission has the full support of all six towns, the Governor Baker administration and all sectors of the community including private businesses and home owners. It is therefore urged that you approve S. 508 and support its prompt passage.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Craver, Town Manager

Town of Provincetown

260 Commercial Street

Provincetown, MA 02657

CC:

Senator Edward Markey

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Representative William Keating



TOWN OF TRURO

P.O. Box 2030, Truro, MA 02666
Tel: 508-349-7004, Extension: 110 or 124 Fax: 508-349-5505

Dear Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Senator Lisa Murkowski,
Ranking Member Senator Joe Manchin,
National Parks Subcommittee Chairman Senator Steve Daines and
Ranking Member Senator Angus King:

As Town Manager of Truro and on behalf of the town of Truro your support is urged for S.508. This bill, if passed, would reauthorize the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) Advisory Commission for 10 years, retroactive to 2018 when the previous charter expired. The Advisory Commission is the oldest in the nation with representatives from each of the six towns where the National Seashore exists.

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establishment of the CCNS Advisory Commission; and that need continues today as new issues emerge and others reappear. It is fair to say that the CCNS Advisory Commission was one of the keys to the successful establishment of Cape Cod National Seashore.

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The Advisory Commission has the full support of all six towns, the Governor Baker

administration and all sectors of the community including private businesses and homeowners. It is therefore urged that you approve S. 508 and support its prompt passage.

Sincerely,



Rae Ann Palmer
Town Manager
24 Town Hall Road, Truro, MA 02666
508-214-0201

CC:
Senator Edward Markey
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Representative William Keating



TOWN OF WELFLEET

300 MAIN STREET WELFLEET MASSACHUSETTS 02667
Tel (508) 349-0300 Fax (508) 349-0305
www.wellfleetma.org

March 16, 2020

Dear Senator Murkowski, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,
Senator Joe Manchin, Ranking Member,
Senator Angus King, Ranking Member and
Senator Steve Daines, Chairman, National Parks Subcommittee

As Town Administrator of Wellfleet and on behalf of the Town of Wellfleet, your support is urged for S.508. This bill, if passed, would reauthorize the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) Advisory Commission for 10 years, retroactive to 2018 when the previous charter expired. The Advisory Commission is the oldest in the nation with representatives from each of the six towns where the National Seashore exists.

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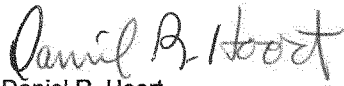
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The Advisory Commission has the full support of all six towns, the Governor Baker administration and all sectors of the community including private businesses and home owners. It is therefore urged that you approve S. 508 and support its prompt passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. Hoort". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" being the most prominent.

Daniel R. Hoort
Town Administrator
Town of Wellfleet

CC:
Senator Edward Markey
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Representative William Keating



March 3, 2020

The Honorable Steve Daines
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus King
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Parks
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Daines and Ranking Member King and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters, The Wilderness Society (TWS) writes to express views on the bills being heard before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks on March 4, 2020. We respectfully request that this letter be included in the hearing record.

S. 1863, Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools Act of 2019

TWS supports S. 1863, the Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools Act of 2019, sponsored by Senator Dick Durbin. S. 1863 would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study that could lead to the establishment of a National Historical Park - the first to honor a Jewish American.

The story of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald schools represents an important part of U.S. history, highlighting generosity and dedication to improving education and opportunities for underserved communities. As a businessman, humanitarian and philanthropist, Julius Rosenwald dedicated his life to enhancing the lives of African-Americans through acts such as supporting the construction of YMCA centers for African-Americans, giving to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and working with Booker T. Washington to build schools throughout the South. This bill would honor his legacy and some of the over 5,300 schools Julius Rosenwald established that educated $\frac{1}{3}$ of African-American children in the South from the 1920s through the 1940s. It is important that sites of national significance, such as Rosenwald schools, are used to recognize and celebrate influential initiatives and individuals that have changed the lives of many Americans. For this reason, TWS supports the special resource study that is called for by S. 1863 and urges all Members of the Committee to support this bill.

S. 2340, Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act

TWS supports S. 2340, Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act, sponsored by Senator Dick Durbin. By designating a National Historical Park, this bill would expand and emphasize the importance of the already established Illinois State Historic Site, UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Historic Landmark, to increase collaboration among local, state and federal government and elevate national awareness of one of the largest historic civilizations in what is now the United States.

The State Park, UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Historic Landmark sites currently encompass 2,200 acres and numerous significant archaeological sites. The designation as a National Historical Park would expand the current area to include mounds that are ancient remnants of a Native American Mississippian culture and city, including Sugarloaf Mound in St. Louis, Missouri. This park

would continue to mark, restore and provide interpretation for nationally significant historic, cultural and natural resources related to Mississippian culture. Adding Cahokia Mounds to the national park system exemplifies our country's dedication to preserving sites of significance that deepen understanding of past peoples and cultures for current and future generations. TWS recognizes the importance of preserving such a rich cultural resource and supports Senator Durbin's initiative to do so through S. 2340. TWS urges all Members of the Committee to support this bill.

S. 2827, African American Burial Grounds Network Act

TWS supports S. 2827, the African American Burial Grounds Network Act, sponsored by Senator Sherrod Brown. TWS strongly urges Congress to ensure that our national protected lands represent and preserve the history of all people and ensure that stories are told in the way that honors all communities who are connected to places. S. 2827 will provide the necessary support for proper identification, research and restoration of cemeteries that are sacred to communities and families that have not been able to care for their burial grounds as they wish.

In an era of rapid urbanization and increasing development of rural areas, the need for legislation that protects sacred places from being lost is critical. Unfortunately, descendant communities often have a limited voice in decision making and may not have accessible tools to defend important histories and the public lands those stories are associated with. There is a dire need for equitable land management decision-making processes, access opportunities to honor ancestors, acknowledgement of the full American history and the tools and resources to make these happen. Throughout our nation's history marginalized communities and, specifically, people of color were not necessarily allowed or easily able to perform their own honoring traditions around funerals and burial, including marking graves or delineating cemeteries. S. 2827 will serve as an avenue to correct this historic injustice and empower communities to record their histories and protect their cherished places.

Burial grounds are being recovered on both public and private lands. In addition to empowering families and descendant communities, there exists a unique opportunity for public lands to play an enhanced role in scholarship, research and historic preservation in building and funding this network of African American burial grounds. As advocates for equitable access to our public lands, as well as for assurance that our full diversity of values and connections to our lands is recognized and protected, we urge all Members of the Committee to support S. 2827.

S. 3331, Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification and Land Exchange Act

TWS supports S. 3331, the Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification and Land Exchange Act, sponsored by Senator Cory Gardner. S. 3331 would add 40 acres of non-Federal land to Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as provide for a land exchange to transfer 0.18 acres of erroneously donated land back to a local family. Rocky Mountain National Park protects important landscapes and offers significant recreation opportunities as one of the most visited National Parks in the country. Our National Parks are among our country's greatest treasures. This bill is in line with the overwhelming majority of Americans who would like to see our National Parks protected or expanded and TWS supports these efforts. TWS urges all Members of the Committee to support S. 3331.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Drew McConville
Senior Managing Director for Government Relations
The Wilderness Society