

**PENDING LEGISLATION**

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

SECOND SESSION

ON

**S. J. Res. 57    S. 4168**  
**S. 305        S. 4222**  
**S. 1211       S. 4371**  
**S. 3447       S. 4377/H.R. 4380**  
**S. 3579       S. 4464/H.R. 1908**  
**S. 3873       S. 4693**  
**S. 4122       S. 4784**

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SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

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The text for each of the bills addressed in this hearing can be found on the Committee's website at: <https://www.energy.senate.gov/hearings/2022/9/u-s-senate-committee-on-energy-and-natural-resources-subcommittee-on-national-parks-hearing-on-pending-legislation>



## PENDING LEGISLATION

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

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

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:36 a.m. in Room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Angus S. King, Jr., Chairman of the Subcommittee, presiding.

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

Senator KING. Good morning and welcome to today's legislative hearing to consider 14 bills related to a variety of national park issues. On today's agenda we will hear about bills to establish new units in the National Park System, including the Springfield Race Riot National Monument. We will also consider legislation to remove "Robert E. Lee Memorial" from the name of the Arlington House at Arlington National Cemetery. This legislation was introduced by Senator Tim Kaine and was partially inspired by a request from the descendants of General Lee and those who were enslaved at the Arlington House. We will also discuss the reauthorization and expansion of the National Park Foundation, an important partner of our national parks that leverages private funds to support the maintenance, restoration, and completion of signature projects at national parks across the country. I was proud to join Senators Portman and Daines to introduce this bill, and I look forward to hearing testimony on it today.

I was also proud to introduce the Senate companion to a House bill introduced by our colleague, Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett, of the U.S. Virgin Islands. This bill would establish the St. Croix National Heritage Area on the Island of St. Croix. I think it is important for us to work together to ensure the voices of our citizens in the territories are also heard. Finally, I am looking forward to hearing testimony on S. 4784, the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act, which I introduced last month with my colleague, Senator Collins. This bill will allow specific parcels to be added to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument from willing donors or sellers, improving access to the monument from the south and the Millinocket region. This new access will make it easier for visitors to enter the monument and will help towns like Millinocket and East Millinocket capture some of the economic opportunities from those visitors. Visitors will benefit because many services they are looking for—restaurants, hotels, re-

tail shops and more—already exist in the south and are not as readily available in the north, where you currently enter the monument.

A couple of things I would like to emphasize about this legislation—this bill expressly prohibits the use of eminent domain. I want to repeat that. The bill expressly prohibits the use of eminent domain. Nothing is taken away, only given. That means land will only be added to the monument if willing landowners sell or donate their land. Additionally, we have included language to explicitly protect the continued access for many important uses, including snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, and foraging for fiddleheads. I believe this is probably the first piece of federal legislation to mention fiddleheads. You probably don't even know what fiddleheads are, Mr. Daines.

Senator DAINES. I have never foraged for a fiddlehead.

[Laughter.]

Senator KING. Well, come to Maine and we will teach you.

Since I put out this bill, I have heard from groups that have additional concerns we want to address, specifically, the use of ATVs and logging. Local ATV clubs have been working for years to build a connector trail that crosses one of the parcels that is covered by the legislation. My intention is for this bill to maintain existing uses and access, and when we consider the bill in markup, I will make sure language is included to protect ATV access to this trail. I have also heard concerns about making sure that logging trucks can still travel safely and efficiently through these parcels. This is important because as we grow the recreation economy, we must also make sure—make sure—that the traditional forest product sector continues to function unimpeded and continue to promote a more diversified forest product sector in the region. Currently, logging trucks travel through the monument, and the Park Service has worked with stakeholders in the region to make sure there is appropriate signage, and on the website it says, “logging trucks always have the right of way.” I am confident we can make clarifications and amendments that will fully retain current access while improving safety and supporting the forest economy.

For today's hearing, I will first recognize Vice Chair Daines for his opening statement. Following his remarks, I will recognize members of the Committee who wish to make a statement about their bills on the agenda, followed by any members not on the Committee seeking to make a statement. After that, I will introduce our witnesses before we move to questions. Additionally, without objections, all members may submit letters of support or opposition or any additional materials regarding matters on today's agenda.

And now, Vice Chair Daines, you are recognized for your opening statement.

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

Senator DAINES. Chairman King, thank you.

Today's legislative hearing focuses on 14 bills, many of which are parochial and bipartisan, such as Senate bill 3447, to create the National Service Animals Memorial, and Senate bill 4377, to des-

ignate the El Paso Community Garden National Memorial. I look forward to hearing from my colleagues and the witnesses about each of these projects.

Some of the bills have a larger impact, such as Senate bill 4693, to designate the American Discovery Trail, which spans 16 states from Delaware to California and creates a new Discovery Trail designation administered by the Department of the Interior. We do look forward to hearing more about the local support behind this proposal and the challenges around the National Park Service's administering this new designation.

On today's agenda, we also have Senate bill 4168, the National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act. This is a very important bill. It has strong bipartisan support, including from the Chairman, as well as myself. Senate bill 4168 reauthorizes the National Park Foundation through Fiscal Year 2030 and increases the authorization from \$5 million to \$15 million per year. The National Park Foundation was created in 1967 to be the official non-profit partner of the National Park Service. The foundation exists to raise funds for the National Park Service and provide funding for programs and projects that otherwise may not be available. In fact, over the past few years, the foundation has exceeded its goals of raising over \$100 million per year for parks around the country. The foundation has used those funds to support projects across the United States. In fact, in Montana, the National Park Foundation invested one and a half million dollars at the Little Bighorn Battlefield to replace an aging visitor center. The foundation also invested \$2 million to modernize the north entrance of Yellowstone National Park, including a new entrance station and reconstruction of the road between the historic Roosevelt Arch. The investments made by the National Park Foundation have lasting impacts on the parks, the visitor experience, and the day-to-day lives of the employees. It is critical that we reauthorize the foundation so they can continue to carry out a very important mission to protect and enhance our national parks and gateway communities.

I would also like to briefly discuss what is happening in Yellowstone National Park and the local gateway communities because I believe it has a direct impact on both the mission of the National Park Foundation as well as the National Park Service. The tragic flooding that occurred on the Yellowstone River back in June has devastated the northern portion of the Park and cut off the Gardiner and Cooke City communities from the tourism and economic impact of the Park. I sincerely want to thank all of the outstanding work the Park Service and the National Park Foundation, what they have done over the last couple of months, but there is a lot of work to do in this recovery process from the flood. Superintendent Cam Sholly of Yellowstone National Park has been working around the clock to critically provide needed access and has been doing a phenomenal job—really, hats off to that team at Yellowstone National Park. We all need to work together to ensure the park can rebuild the necessary infrastructure and the gateway communities have the resources they need to continue serving visitors and local community members. I will tell you, after the devastation occurred, I had a chance to see that from the air a couple different times. I was taking videos and pictures from this camera.

I was actually texting them to Senator King so he could stay in the loop and could see the devastation that I was seeing firsthand from the air.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I turn it back over to you and I look forward to a robust discussion and testimony from our witnesses.

Senator KING. Thank you, Senator Daines.

I want to welcome Senator Padilla to the table. Senator, our plan is to have a statement from Senator Hirono, and then yourself, about the bill that you are supporting.

Senator Hirono.

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

Senator HIRONO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Daines.

Mr. Chairman, I believe you and I are the only two members on the Subcommittee who have lifetime passes to our national parks. So you and I very much know the importance of our national parks and the work of the National Park Service.

Senator KING. It is nice that you did not mention the word senior.

[Laughter.]

Senator HIRONO. I specifically left that out. We know how mature you and I are so we don't need to remind people. So thank you.

I would like to briefly discuss the importance of S.4464, the Kaena Point National Heritage Area Act. The National Park Service defines national heritage areas as places where historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to form cohesive, nationally important landscapes. Since 1984, there have been 55 national heritage areas established across the country, none of which are in Hawaii. This bill seeks to change that by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Kaena Point as a national heritage area. Kaena Point is located on the western most tip of Oahu and is considered by Native Hawaiians to be one of the most sacred landscapes on the island. It is home to numerous cultural, historical, and archeological sites as well as natural resources, making it one of the last remaining intact coastal ecosystem sites in Hawaii. Kaena Point is currently managed by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and includes the second most visited park on Oahu—Kaena Point State Park. The park offers numerous recreational opportunities for visitors: fishing, hiking, beachgoing, wildlife viewing, and picnicking. The state park also serves as a gateway to the Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve, which is also managed by the state. The 34-acre reserve was established over 30 years ago to help preserve one of the last intact dune ecosystems in Hawaii.

The coastal ecosystems and near-shore waters at Kaena Point offer critical habitat to numerous endemic and endangered species. Green sea turtles and Hawaiian monk seals are often spotted in the near-shore waters. Numerous endangered plant species, like Ohia or Kaena akoko spot the landscape, and endangered yellow-faced bees nest in the local driftwood. The unique vegetation at Kaena Point also offers prime nesting habitat for 17 different bird

species, such as the albatross—they are an endangered species—and wedge-tailed shearwater. There is no question that Kaena Point's many historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to make a nationally significant landscape, a landscape that offers one of the last glimpses of undisturbed coastline in Hawaii.

S. 4464 simply directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with state and local stakeholders, to study the possibility of designating Kaena Point as a national heritage area. The bill requires the studies to be completed within three years, and that upon completion, the Secretary submits a report to Congress on the findings. It is supported by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, which currently manages the area. The House companion bill, H.R. 1908, introduced by my colleague, Representative Case, passed the House earlier this year in March. A national heritage area designation would bring much-needed federal support to the management and educational opportunities at Kaena Point, including enhanced interpretation and resource protection.

I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing S. 4464 out of the Committee so that the Senate can pass the bill and allow the Secretary to get the study underway. The National Park Service knows that “through their resources, national heritage areas tell nationally important stories that celebrate our nation’s diverse heritage.” The historic, cultural, and the natural resources found at Kaena Point indeed tell a nationally significant story, a story told nowhere else in our country. This legislation will help ensure that story can continue to be told and appreciated for generations to come.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator KING. Thank you, Senator Hirono.

And we are honored to have with us Senator Alex Padilla of California to come before our Subcommittee.

Senator Padilla, the floor is yours.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ALEX PADILLA,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM CALIFORNIA**

Senator PADILLA. Thank you, Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines for inviting me to join you today to testify on a bill that I believe is necessary to help preserve and tell America’s full history and embrace further the rich mosaic that is the United States of America. And it is fitting that I am here today, that we are here today, during Hispanic Heritage Month to consider a measure on behalf of the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historic Park Act.

Now, this month, we remember the accomplishments and contributions made by Latino leaders in America throughout our nation’s history and we celebrate the people and the movements that have helped shape our nation and who have moved our country closer to living up to the ideals of democracy and equality that were established in our nation’s founding. What better way to do that during Hispanic Heritage Month than to honor the civil rights icon and labor leader, César E. Chávez, for future generations of Americans? As its name implies, my bill would establish a national historic park to preserve the nationally significant sites associated with César E. Chávez and the farmworker movement.

A little bit of legislative history: in 2008, in a bipartisan effort led by Senators John McCain and Barbara Boxer, as well as Representative Hilda Solis at the time, Congress directed the National Park Service to conduct a study of sites significant to the life of Chávez and the farm labor movement. The National Park Service determined several sites to be “nationally significant” and recommended that Congress establish a national historic park. While President Obama designated a UFW headquarters in Chávez’s home in La Paz, California as a national monument in 2012, this legislation would build on that foundation and allow the National Park Service to tell the complete story of the movement through the inclusion of additional significant sites. If the National Park Service is to continue to be America’s storyteller, this bill will help us honor and be more inclusive of the people who have moved our country forward.

And on a personal note, I know some of you may recall the day and the ceremony where President Obama first established the César E. Chávez National Monument in Keene, California. I remember it because I was there. My wife Angela and I pulled our oldest son, Roman, from school that day so that we could be part of history—history in the making. It was on that day in 2012 with Roman perched on my shoulders, that we watched as a Latino leader was honored in the National Park System. And if you think I am exaggerating, Mr. Chairman, here is a photo from that day. A new generation of Americans saw that our nation also celebrates those who challenge us to build a more inclusive America. And kids, like mine—we now have three boys—can grow up knowing that some of the most courageous and admirable Americans are activists and organizers. They, too, are heroes. They are farmworkers and laborers and yes, they are Latino. And that is what we have a chance to do today, to help expand the story of our nation to better reflect the communities who helped write it and to remind us of the continued fight for dignity, for respect, and for equal justice that still lies before us.

So I look forward to working with this Committee to advance this bill, and I thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to share a few words today. Thank you.

Senator KING. Senator Padilla, thank you so much for joining us. I remember César E. Chávez quite well during the period that he was leading the farmworkers and I appreciate you bringing this bill forward.

Now we will introduce our witnesses for today’s hearing.

First, Mr. Michael Caldwell, who is the Associate Director of Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands at the National Park Service. Mr. Caldwell is no stranger to this Committee, and we welcome him back. Thank you very much for being here today.

We also have Mr. Will Shafroth, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. Again, no stranger to this Committee, another familiar face and thank you for joining us.

We also have Mr. Steve Richardson, Vice President of the Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters. Mr. Richardson is the former CEO and now Chair of the Board of Katahdin Trust Company, who resides in Shin Pond, Maine. We are very glad to have

you here, Mr. Richardson. Thank you for taking the trip down to join us.

Mr. Caldwell, your testimony.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Mr. CALDWELL. Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on the 16 bills on today's agenda. I would like to submit our full statements on each of the bills for the record and summarize the Department's views.

Senator KING. Without objection.

Mr. CALDWELL. The Department supports the following eight bills.

S.J. Resolution 57, which would redesignate the memorial to Robert E. Lee in Arlington National Cemetery as the Arlington House National Historic Site.

S.3447, which would authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in Washington, DC, to commemorate service animals and their handlers.

S.3579, which would authorize the Embassy of France to establish a commemorative work in Washington, DC, to honor the contributions of Jean Monnet.

S.4122, which would designate specified segments of the Housatonic River in Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

S.4222, which would establish the St. Croix National Heritage Area in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

S.4464 and H.R.1908, which would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the designation of Honolulu County, Hawaii, as a national heritage area to be known as the Kaena Point National Heritage Area.

S.4784, which would add 43,000 acres to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and enable the National Park Service to provide a dedicated public route into the monument from the south, improving access from the communities of Millinocket, East Millinocket and Medway.

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

The Department appreciates the opportunity provided by S.305, the Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act, to increase public awareness and engagement with this painful, but important chapter in our nation's history. The bill would establish the Springfield Race Riot National Monument in Illinois as a unit of the National Park System to preserve and interpret the resources associated with the Springfield Race Riot of 1908 and its role in the formation of the NAACP. The National Park Service is currently in the process of completing a special resource study of the site, and if the Committee decides to move forward on this bill before the

study is completed, the Department would appreciate the opportunity to recommend technical amendments to the bill.

S. 1211 would authorize the establishment of the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park. The Department recognizes the importance of the story that is represented by the resources related to the Cahokia Mounds and other Mississippian mound sites in the greater St. Louis area, but recommends that the bill be amended to provide for a special resource study in place of a park designation at this time.

The Department does not object to S. 3873, which would recognize and honor former U.S. Congressman Rick Boucher by designating the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center in Galax, Virginia, as the "Rick Boucher Amphitheater."

Regarding S. 4168, which would increase the annual authorization of the appropriations to the National Park Foundation from \$5 million to \$15 million, and extend the authority for this funding through Fiscal Year 2030, the Department supports the extension of the authorization of appropriations and looks forward to working with Congress to ensure continued support for the National Park Service in alignment with the priorities set forth in the President's budget.

The Department appreciates the concept and vision of H.R. 4878, which would amend the National Trail System Act to include a new category of national discovery trails and designate the American Discovery Trail as the first trail in this new category, but does not support amending the National Trail System Act to include this new designation.

Finally, on S. 4377 and H.R. 4380, which would designate the Healing Garden in El Paso, Texas as the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Monument Memorial, the Department will be submitting a statement for the record following the hearing. The Department has previously testified that it does not have a position on H.R. 4380, as the memorial would be located at a site that is not under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and the bill does not provide for any management or funding by the National Park Service.

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

[The prepared statement of Mr. Caldwell follows:]

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. J. RES. 57, A JOINT RESOLUTION REDESIGNATING THE ROBERT E. LEE MEMORIAL IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY AS THE “ARLINGTON HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE”.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior’s views on S. J. Res. 57, a joint resolution redesignating the Robert E. Lee Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery as the “Arlington House National Historic Site”.

The Department supports this legislation with an amendment to the resolution’s title.

S. J. Res. 57 would redesignate Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial as “Arlington House National Historic Site”. In addition, the resolution would repeal the two laws which dedicated Arlington House (previously, the Custis-Lee Mansion) as a memorial to Robert E. Lee: Public Law 84-107, enacted in 1955, and Public Law 92-333, enacted in 1972.

Arlington House was constructed in stages between 1802 and 1818 by enslaved persons and hired craftsmen for George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of Martha Washington, who spent part of his childhood living at Mt. Vernon. Custis built the house as a shrine to George Washington. In 1831, Robert E. Lee married Custis’ daughter, Mary Anna Randolph Custis. Lee, his wife, and their seven children resided at the mansion until 1861, when Lee resigned from the U.S. Army after learning that Virginia had seceded from the Union. The Lees left Arlington in the spring of 1861, when Lee began his service as a leader of the Confederate Army, and never returned.

Following the Civil War, Arlington House, by then surrounded by the military cemetery, was under the administration of the United States Army. The government referred to it as the Custis-Lee Mansion or simply the Lee Mansion to differentiate it from the cemetery. The home became an office for the administration of the cemetery. In 1933, Arlington House was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service (NPS) to manage as a historic resource and to share its history with the American public.

In addition to telling the story of Robert E. Lee, the NPS has taken several steps to enrich the visitor experience by telling the stories of all the families who called the mansion their home – both free and enslaved. A multi-year restoration of the house and slave quarters, completed in 2020, included artifact conservation, facilities restoration, and installation of new interpretive exhibits. Visitors can learn about the individuals and families who lived in the mansion and in the slave quarters, both in person and virtually, through the NPS website. As the stewards of Arlington House, the NPS is committed to telling stories inclusive of multiple historical

perspectives and grounded in current research. The renaming of the site as a national historic site, as proposed by S. J. Res. 57, is consistent with NPS efforts to tell the full history of Arlington House and the people who built, maintained, and resided on the property.

The Department supports the text of the bill as introduced but suggests that the title of S. J. Res. 57 be amended to reflect the fact that Arlington House is not part of Arlington National Cemetery, but rather is a separate property managed as a unit of the National Park System. We recommend amending the title to read "Redesignating Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial as the 'Arlington House National Historic Site'."

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 305, A BILL TO ESTABLISH SPRINGFIELD RACE RIOT NATIONAL MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 305, a bill to establish the Springfield Race Riot National Monument in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

The Department appreciates the opportunity provided by S. 305 to increase public awareness and engagement with this painful but important chapter in our nation's history and looks forward to working with the sponsor and the Committee to make progress in providing the public a better understanding of these tragic events. The National Park Service is in the process of completing a special resource study on this site.

The Springfield Race Riot site contains the foundations of five homes that were destroyed during the violent, multi-day riot that engulfed the city in August of 1908. Two African American men were lynched. Many others were assaulted. Ultimately, dozens of homes and businesses were destroyed. The riot, trials, and aftermath of the events in Springfield drew national attention to racial violence and sparked direct action by many civil rights leaders.

The events had occurred in Abraham Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, a few months before the centennial of his birth, and highlighted the lack of progress on race relations in America. In February, 1909, the National Negro Committee was formed, which would later become the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Springfield Race Riot site is important for its association with the creation of the NAACP and contributes to our understanding of racial violence in America. The Department recognizes the important contribution to America's story that is represented by the resources related to the Springfield Race Riot of 1908.

As previous NPS studies and independent reports have noted, there are limited sites and resources specifically dedicated to preserving and interpreting themes of racial violence for public understanding. The NPS is committed to advancing racial equity and support for underserved stories and communities and will continue to support efforts to better tell the story of lynching and racial violence against Black communities.

The National Park Service (NPS) completed a reconnaissance survey of the site in September 2019. A reconnaissance survey provides a preliminary assessment of the national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management of an area or site proposed for inclusion in the National Park System.

Based on the findings in the reconnaissance survey, it was determined that further analysis through a Congressionally authorized special resource study was warranted. The Springfield Race Riot Study Act of 2020 (Public Law No: 116-139) directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study. That study is currently underway and was open for public comment through September 3, 2022. The study will consider whether the site meets the Congressionally established criteria for inclusion in the National Park System, including national significance, suitability, feasibility, and the need for NPS Management. If the Committee decides to move forward on this bill before the study is completed, the Department would appreciate the opportunity to provide technical amendments to the bill.

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 1211, 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 COUNTY, MISSOURI, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1211, 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 County, Missouri, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes the importance of the story that is represented by the resources related to Cahokia Mounds and other Mississippian mound sites in the greater St. Louis Area but recommends that the bill be amended to provide for a special resource study in place of a park designation at this time. If the Committee chooses to act on this bill as drafted, we would like to work with the committee on a number of revisions.

S. 1211 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. 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. 1211 also authorizes the Secretary to enter into agreements with States 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 after about AD 1000 in what is now the Southeastern and Midwestern United States. 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. Cahokia appears to be 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 in 1964 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site includes at least 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. 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.

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 3447, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL SERVICE ANIMALS MEMORIAL ACT.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3447, a bill to authorize the National Service Animals Memorial Act.

The Department supports this legislation.

S. 3447 would authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the Nation's Capital to commemorate the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and handlers of service animals in the United States. The bill requires compliance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. Chapter 89) (CWA), prohibits federal funds from being used to establish the memorial, and provides direction on the disposition of unspent funds.

Service animals have assisted, comforted, and protected American lives throughout our Nation's history. The bill's findings note that "service and working animals, such as dogs, horses, homing pigeons, donkeys, mules, dolphins, sea lions, and others, have worked alongside and supported humans throughout history and have created strong human-animal bonds."

On March 21, 2022, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) met to review S. 3447 and its companion bill, H.R. 6353. Under the CWA, Congress is required to solicit the views of the Commission when considering legislation authorizing commemorative works within the District of Columbia and its environs. The Commission heard from representatives of the National Service Animals Monument Corporation, the House and Senate bill sponsors, and approximately 30 members of the public in support of the bills. These speakers discussed a range of scenarios in which interaction with service animals has enhanced both human and animal quality of life. They spoke of animals who serve as first responders and therapy companions, assist in search and rescue operations, provide protection during war, carry messages, detect explosives, dangerous chemicals, and disease, and much more.

The Commission agreed that the array of ways service animals have enhanced human life was "a subject of lasting historical significance" to the United States. Commissioners noted that the various aspects of service by animals in key events in the Nation's history crosses over many themes and adds to the complexity of the subject matter. They observed that the legislation's commemorative subject is not service animals themselves, but the "heroic deeds and sacrifices" of service animals and their handlers. The CWA defines a commemorative work as "designed to perpetuate in a permanent manner the memory of an individual, group, event or other significant

element of American history.” The Commission concluded that the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and their handlers constituted a “significant element” of American history and unanimously supported the legislation. The Department concurs with the Commission’s observation and conclusions.

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 3579, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN WASHINGTON, DC, TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS TO HONOR THE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEAN MONNET TO RESTORING PEACE BETWEEN EUROPEAN NATIONS AND ESTABLISHING THE EUROPEAN UNION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 3579, a bill to authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union, and for other purposes.

The Department supports this legislation with amendments.

S. 3579 authorizes the Embassy of France in Washington, DC to establish a commemorative work to honor the work of Jean Monnet, a French political economist and diplomat, during the post-World War II period. The bill requires compliance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. Chapter 89) (CWA), which prohibits Federal funds from being used to establish the memorial, and provides direction on the disposition of unspent funds raised for the memorial.

Jean Monnet was a gifted diplomat and visionary who is remembered for his critical role in advocating for international collaboration to achieve economic prosperity and security. After the liberation of France at the end of World War II, Monnet formulated the Modernization and Re-equipment Plan, which was designed to spur economic recovery in France. Commonly referred to as the Monnet Plan, it inspired the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community, a forerunner to the European Union.

In 1963, Monnet was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction by President Lyndon Johnson. In 1976, as he neared the end of his life, Monnet was the first to be bestowed Honorary Citizen of Europe by the European Council of the European Union for extraordinary work to promote European cooperation.

Ideas for new memorials benefit greatly from the review they receive through the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission). Established by the CWA, the Commission is composed of government agency representatives who have a critical role or expertise in the location and design of monuments and memorials on Federal lands in the District of Columbia. A key role of the Commission is to provide advice to the House and Senate

committees with jurisdiction over the National Park Service on pending legislation that would authorize new commemorative works.

On July 27, 2022, the Commission met to review and receive testimony on S. 3579 (and its companion bill, H.R. 6611) to determine whether the bill's commemorative subject meets the requirements of the CWA. The Commission agreed that the remarkable contributions Jean Monnet made to the U.S. war effort and in facilitating U.S. financial assistance to post-war Europe rose to the level of "lasting historical significance," in accordance with the requirements of the CWA. The Commission also noted that Monnet's deep affection for Rock Creek Park reinforced the profound effect that the U.S. had on his thinking and on his ultimate achievements. The Commission, in letters to the Committee dated September 6, 2022, unanimously supported the legislation and recommended technical amendments to the legislation.

The Department concurs with the Commission's recommended amendments. First, we recommend that that the "Government of France" replace the "Embassy of France" as the bill's memorial sponsor. Similar past legislation for commemorative works sponsored by foreign entities has cited the foreign government as the sponsor, rather than its embassy in Washington. Second, because foreign governments, as memorial sponsors, typically pay for the establishment of a memorial and for ongoing maintenance needs, we recommend that the legislation be amended to expressly provide that "The United States Government shall not pay any expense for the establishment of the memorial or its maintenance."

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 3873, A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER AT THE BLUE RIDGE MUSIC CENTER IN GALAX, VIRGINIA, AS THE "RICK BOUCHER AMPHITHEATER".**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3873, a bill to designate the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center in Galax, Virginia, as the "Rick Boucher Amphitheater".

The Blue Ridge Music Center (Center) hosts an average of 27,000 visitors annually and another roughly 20,000 concert goers attend the Center's Roots of American Music concert series. The Center is owned by the National Park Service and operated through a partnership with Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation. It is situated on a 2,500-acre campus with multiple facilities for visitors and park neighbors to interact with and learn about the traditional music of the region.

Facilities at the Center include the outdoor amphitheater, a small indoor theater suited for lectures and smaller performances, an indoor visitor center and museum gallery which includes *The Roots of American Music* permanent exhibition. A covered breezeway accommodates daily Mid-Day Mountain Music concerts by local musicians that are free to the public.

Former United States Representative Rick Boucher, who represented Virginia's 9th District for almost 30 years, was an early supporter of the Center and remained so throughout his tenure in Congress. Congressman Boucher played an instrumental role in securing funding for the construction of the Center, and his efforts helped ensure that the vision of early proponents for the Center, including the late Joe Wilson, former Executive Director of the National Council for Traditional Arts, and former NPS Director Gary Everhardt, could be realized. The Department is grateful for Congressman Boucher's work to support the National Park Service.

S. 3873 would recognize and honor former Representative Boucher by designating the outdoor amphitheater at the Center as the "Rick Boucher Amphitheater." The NPS generally discourages the naming of park features except when there is a compelling justification and at least five years have elapsed since the death of the person. However, we recognize that Congress may also specifically authorize the placement of such recognition. In this instance, the Department defers to Congress and does not object to S. 3873.

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 4122, A BILL TO AMEND THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF THE HOUSATONIC RIVER IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AS COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 4122, a bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate current segments of the Housatonic River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 4122.

This bill would amend Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) to designate the following segments of the Housatonic River in the State of Connecticut, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior. The river segment designations include: the approximately 14.9 mile segment from the Massachusetts-Connecticut boundary to the covered bridge in West Cornwall as a scenic river; the approximately 4.1 mile segment from the covered bridge in West Cornwall to the Cornwall Bridge, as a recreational river; the approximately 9.1 mile segment from the Cornwall Bridge to the Route 341 bridge in Kent, as a scenic river; and the approximately 12.2 mile segment from the Route 341 bridge in Kent to the Boardman Bridge in New Milford, as a recreational river.

The bill mandates that the designated river segments shall not impact or alter the existing terms of permitting, licensing, or operation of the Falls Village Hydroelectric Generating Station located in Falls Village, Connecticut (FERC P-2576) or the Bulls Bridge Hydroelectric Generating Station located in New Milford, Connecticut (FERC P-2576). The designation shall not preclude the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from licensing, relicensing, or otherwise authorizing the operation or continued operation of these facilities.

The segments would be managed in accordance with the 2006 Housatonic River Management Plan and approved amendments with the Secretary coordinating administration and management with the Housatonic River Commission, a locally based management committee, as specified in the plan. The bill would authorize the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Connecticut, the seven adjoining communities, and appropriate local planning, environmental, and recreational organizations.

This proposal builds on the previous findings and recommendations of the 1979 Congressionally authorized Wild and Scenic River Study of the Housatonic River in Connecticut which found 41

miles of the river eligible but recommended designation under Section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In 2016, Connecticut Governor Daniel Malloy proposed to the Secretary of the Interior that the Housatonic River from the Massachusetts/ Connecticut border to Boardman Bridge in New Milford, Connecticut be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System under Section 2(a)(ii). Following that request, the National Park Service (NPS) completed the Housatonic River Wild and Scenic River Evaluation in 2021.

The evaluation concludes that the 40.3-mile section of the Housatonic River proposed by Governor Malloy meets eligibility and suitability requirements for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as either a 2(a)(ii) state-administered segment or a congressionally designated segment under the NPS' Partnership Wild and Scenic model. This section of the Housatonic River includes outstandingly remarkable values that warrant protection and enhancement, including scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, historic value, and wildlife and vegetation, consistent with the 1979 Study findings.

If S. 4122 is enacted, the designated segments of the Housatonic would be administered based on the Partnership Wild and Scenic River model, similar to several other designations in the northeast, including the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers in Massachusetts, and the Lamprey River in New Hampshire. While a federal Wild and Scenic River designation protects the free-flowing character of the river, this collaborative approach emphasizes local and state management solutions, oversight, and day-to-day cooperation with community partners and has proven effective as a means of protecting outstandingly remarkable natural, cultural, and recreational resource values without the need for direct federal management or land acquisition.

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK  
PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING  
S. 4168, A BILL TO AMEND TITLE 54, UNITED STATES CODE, TO REAUTHORIZE  
THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 4168, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Park Foundation.

The Department supports the extension of the authorization of appropriations to the National Park Foundation (NPF) and looks forward to working with Congress to ensure continued support for the National Park Service (NPS) in alignment with priorities set forth in the President's Budget.

S. 4168 would increase the annual authorization of appropriations to the NPF, enacted in 2016, from \$5,000,000 to \$15,000,000 and extend the authority for this funding from fiscal year 2024 through fiscal year 2030.

The NPF was established by Congress on December 18, 1967 (Public Law 90-209) as the official, nonprofit philanthropic partner of the NPS. Over the years, Congress has passed several bills expanding the authorities of the NPF. In 1998, Congress passed legislation directing the NPF to promote local fundraising support and in 2016, Congress passed the National Park Service Centennial Act (Public Law 114-289), which included several provisions related to the NPF. Among them, Section 402 authorized appropriations of \$5,000,000 a year, from fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2023, to match private contributions to the NPF, with the proviso that the funds not be used for administrative expenses or invested to earn interest. Congress has appropriated the full \$5,000,000 each year since 2020. The Administration continues to strongly support the NPF, and requested the full \$5,000,000 in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 in the President's Budget.

NPS philanthropic partners, including the NPF, provide ways for individuals, corporations and private foundations make contributions to help conserve and preserve the natural, cultural and historical values of the national parks for the enjoyment of future generations.

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK  
PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING  
S. 4222, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE ST. CROIX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 4222, a bill to establish the St. Croix National Heritage Area.

The Department supports S. 4222.

S. 4222 would establish the St. Croix National Heritage Area for the purpose of preserving, promoting, and interpreting an assemblage of authentic natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features that celebrate the heritage of the inhabitants of the island of St Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The text of S. 4222 is consistent with the standard language typically used in national heritage area establishment legislation.

St. Croix lies at a geographic crossroads, connecting the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean currents with the westerlies and easterly prevailing trade winds. This location, along with the fertility of the island and the productivity of its surrounding waters, has attracted and sustained people from around the world. St. Croix became a collage of cultures due to the long-standing exchange of traditions, customs, and beliefs between Amerindians, Africans, West Indians, South Americans, and Europeans. Today, the people of St. Croix embrace their unique cultural mix, coexisting in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation. If designated, this would be the first national heritage area in a U.S. territory.

The National Park Service conducted a feasibility study of the proposed national heritage area pursuant to P.L. 109-338, which was transmitted to Congress in 2011. The study found that the area met the National Park Service's criteria for establishment of a national heritage area.

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 4371, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ AND THE FARMWORKER MOVEMENT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK IN THE STATES OF CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S.4371, a bill to establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the states of California and Arizona, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 4371 with amendments.

S. 4371 would establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park, to include the existing César E. Chávez National Monument in Keene, California; The Forty Acres in Delano, California; and the Santa Rita Center in Phoenix, Arizona. It would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to add McDonnell Hall in San Jose, California to the national historical park upon agreement with the property owner, as well as other representative sites. S. 4371 would also establish the Farmworker Peregrinacion National Historic Trail to trace the route of the farmworkers' momentous 300-mile march from Delano to Sacramento, California in 1966.

César E. Chávez National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation 8884 on October 8, 2012, to preserve, interpret, and commemorate the collective struggles and achievements of the farm worker movement, associated historic resources, and the life and legacy of César E. Chávez. The site was also designated a National Historic Landmark in 2012.

The César E. Chávez National Monument is on the 116-acre property known as "La Paz," which served as headquarters, residence, and training center for the United Farm Workers (UFW) beginning in 1971. The site continues to serve as the headquarters of the UFW and the César Chávez Foundation. The site includes the home of César and Helen Chávez, a memorial garden where they are buried and martyrs to the farmworker movement are honored, and a visitor center in the former UFW administration building, which includes exhibits and César Chávez's office and original furnishings. In managing the César E. Chávez National Monument, the National Park Service (NPS) works closely with the National Chávez Center of the César Chávez Foundation.

The Forty Acres property was acquired by the Farmworkers Service Center in 1966. This organization and its successors proceeded to build a service station, multipurpose hall, health clinic, and retirement housing. César Chávez conducted his 1968 fast in the service station building, and his 1988 fast in the retirement village. The UFW Organizing Committee was

headquartered at The Forty Acres from 1969-71, and the contracts that ended the 1965-70 strike against Delano-area growers were signed here. Many public events and rallies were based at the Forty Acres. As a property purchased, built, and used by farm workers, The Forty Acres embodies the farm labor movement itself. The Forty Acres was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2008. Owned and managed by the César Chávez Foundation, it continues to function as a UFW field office and a site for special events.

The Santa Rita Center was built by the nearby Catholic parish around 1960 as a classroom and community hall. César Chávez's fast at the Santa Rita Center in 1972 focused national attention on farm workers and their organized protest against restrictive legislation, and it invigorated two social movements—the Chicano movement and the farm labor movement. Thousands of Arizona farm workers, and influential supporters such as Coretta Scott King, came to the Santa Rita Center to participate in rallies, celebrate nightly Masses, give voice to the movement's newly adopted slogan "Si Se Puede!" and pledge their support for La Causa. The building is owned by Chicanos Por La Causa, is now surrounded largely by vacant and industrial properties, and is occasionally used for special meetings and events.

McDonnell Hall is the parish hall associated with Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Jose, California, and is the primary site from which César Chávez, Father Donald McDonnell, and community organizer Fred Ross served, organized, and educated farmworkers, and conducted the work of the Community Services Organization in the 1950s. The site was used for farmworker organizing activities into the 1970s. It continues to be associated with the church and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2016.

In 2013, the NPS completed a special resource study to determine if sites significant in the life of César Chávez and the farm labor movement met the criteria for inclusion in the national park system. The selected alternative for the study included La Paz, The Forty Acres, the Santa Rita Center, and McDonnell Hall in the proposed national historical park concept, noting that most sites would remain in their existing ownership and management would occur through cooperative agreements and partnerships.

While the Department supports S. 4371, we recommend amending the bill in the following areas:

First, S. 4371 directs the Cesar E. Chavez National Monument to be administered as a distinct and identifiable unit of the NPS within the boundaries of the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park. The Department notes this would be unusual, poses operations challenges, and could be confusing to the visiting public. The Department recommends fully incorporating the existing monument within the proposed national historical park.

Second, S. 4371 directs the Secretary to prepare a general management plan for the park that includes a determination of whether there are additional sites that were reviewed in the 2013 study that should be added to the national historical park and authorizes the Secretary to incorporate those additional sites into the park with consent of the owner and publishing notice in the Federal Register. The Department believes that rather than providing the Secretary the

authority to add sites or areas to the park administratively, it would be more appropriate for Congress to add the sites after the NPS to submits its recommendations to Congress.

Finally, S. 4371 would establish the Farmworker Peregrinacion National Historic Trail. The march this trail represents was a milestone event in the history of the farm labor movement.

More than 100 men and women set out from Delano on March 17, 1966, and thousands of farm workers and their families joined in for short stretches along the way. The march route passed through 42 cities and towns of the San Joaquin Valley, as well as vast stretches of the agricultural landscape. By the time the marchers entered Sacramento on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1966, thousands of people had joined them, and the farm worker movement had secured a contract and attracted new waves of support from across the country.

In the 2013 study, the NPS only conducted a preliminary analysis of the march route's potential for designation as a national historic trail. The study found the march route to be nationally significant but noted there are other criteria to evaluate for national historic trails and specifically recommended that the feasibility of a national historic trail be further explored. We recommend the bill be amended to provide for a full trail study which would be submitted to Congress, rather than a designation, so that Congress would have the benefit of knowing whether the trail meets the statutory criteria for national historic trail designation before acting on this proposal.

The Department would like to work with the bill's sponsor and the Committee on recommended amendments as described in this statement.

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

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 4377 AND H.R. 4380, BILLS TO DESIGNATE THE EL PASO COMMUNITY HEALING GARDEN NATIONAL MEMORIAL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 4377 and H.R. 4380, bills to designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial, and for other purposes.

The Department does not have a position on S. 4377 and H.R. 4380, as the memorial would be located at a site that is not under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and this bill does not provide for any management or funding by the National Park Service. We would, however, ask the Subcommittee to note the consideration described below.

S. 4377 and H.R. 4380 would designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden at El Paso County's Ascarate Park as the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial. On August 3, 2019, the El Paso Community suffered a devastating tragedy at the Cielo Vista Walmart when 23 innocent lives were lost in a mass shooting event that was racially motivated. Many more were affected both physically and mentally.

The memorial was constructed in time for the second anniversary of the event and was dedicated on August 3, 2019, to provide a healing space for the community. Construction funding was provided by community donations and the County of El Paso. The site is currently maintained by County Parks and Recreation Department as part of Ascarate Park. The site was established as "a welcoming place for individuals and families to find comfort and an opportunity to embrace their individual healing process."

This legislation explicitly states that this Memorial is not a unit of the National Park System and that designation should not be construed to require Federal funds to be expended for it. However, the use of the title "National" creates a reasonable expectation among the general public that the memorial must have an affiliation with the Federal government. The Department respectfully encourages the Committee to be thoughtful and judicious about conferring the designation of "National" to any site that is not associated with a National or Federal entity.

Chairman King, this concludes our statement.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 4464 AND H.R. 1908, BILLS TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO ASSESS THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING CERTAIN LANDS AS THE KAENA POINT NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 4464 and H.R. 1908, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Kaena Point National Heritage Area.

The Department supports S. 4464 and H.R. 1908. However, we would like to note that there are 21 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new national heritage areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that have not yet been completed and transmitted to Congress.

S. 4464 and H.R. 1908 would authorize the National Park Service to conduct a study of the Kaena Point area to determine if it meets the criteria for designation as a national heritage area.

This study that would be authorized by this legislation would gather information to help determine whether this area of Hawai'i contains an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States; are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and would be best managed through partnerships among public and private entities. The study would include public engagement and be conducted in consultation with the various stakeholders in the area. The Department believes it is vitally important to assess whether the right conditions exist to form and implement a successful national heritage area before Congress acts to designate a proposed national heritage area.

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

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 4693, A BILL TO AMEND THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT TO INCLUDE NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS AND DESIGNATE THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's testimony regarding S. 4693, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to include National Discovery Trails and designate the American Discovery Trail, and for other purposes.

The Department appreciates the concept envisioned by the bill but does not support amending the National Trails System Act to include a new designation of National Discovery Trails.

S. 4693 amends the National Trails System Act (NTSA) by adding "National Discovery Trails" as a new category of trail that may be designated as part of the Act and would designate the American Discovery Trail as the first National Discovery Trail. The bill further amends the National Trails System Act by establishing the following criteria for National Discovery Trails: the trail must link one or more areas within the boundaries of a metropolitan area, and should connect to other trails; the trail must be supported by a competent trail-wide, volunteer-based organization and have extensive local and trail-wide support by the public, user groups, and by affected state and local governments; and the trail must pass through more than one state and be a continuous, walkable route. Further, the bill requires the appropriate Secretary to administer the trail in cooperation with a trail-wide volunteer-based organization, and to develop a comprehensive management plan for the trail.

When the National Park Service (NPS) completed a congressionally authorized study of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) route almost thirty years ago, the study determined that the route comprising the ADT would not be a good candidate for National Scenic Trail designation because the legislative criteria for National Scenic Trails specifically prohibit the use of motorized vehicles along the National Scenic Trail route, except in very limited circumstances.

The American Discovery Trail was envisioned as a continuous, cross-country hiking and biking trail route with significant portions of the route along road and highways that do not have an expressly designated trail. As a potential means of addressing this inconsistency between the legislative criteria of National Scenic Trails and the vision of the ADT to provide hiking and biking options along motorized roads, the NPS study noted that Congress could designate a new category of trails, National Discovery Trails; however, the definition and management direction was not well-defined.

Following the completion of the study, Congress did not take action to establish a new category of National Discovery Trails within the National Trails System Act or to designate the American Discovery Trail in any way. However, a non-profit organization was formed to promote the trail study route as a cross country hiking and biking route. The American Discovery Trail Society has provided support to local groups in their coordination with landowners and transportation agencies for over twenty years and the trail route has been utilized by many hikers and bikers since the time it was initially studied, but the ADT remains a non-Federally designated trail route

While the Department appreciates and supports expanding opportunities for recreation, including new types and modes of recreation that may reach audiences that have not utilized traditional hiking and biking routes, we believe that these goals would be better achieved without amending the NTSA to designate a new category of National Discovery Trails. Incorporating a new category of trail into the national trails system should only be done very carefully and with an eye towards the precedent that is being set.

Amending the NTSA could potentially complicate the American Discovery Trail Society's efforts to coordinate with state and local law enforcement and transportation agencies on non-Federal lands. The American Discovery Trail Society and its network of state coordinators are already able to engage in discussions with state and local law enforcement and transportation agencies about ADT route signage along roads and highways on non-Federal lands without the authority provided by this bill. The designation of the ADT route and its incorporation into the NTSA would therefore not provide any additional authorities in this regard. However, if the ADT were to be Federally designated as a component of the national trails system, any agreements would be subject to the applicable provisions of the National Trails System Act Federal laws and oversight.

The Department has concerns that the criteria and authorities for the proposed National Discovery Trails in S. 4693 may be overly broad, especially for a new category of trails that appears to diverge from the original focus of the National Trails System Act on avoiding motorized routes. Further, the legislation proposes to eliminate some of the authorities that are common to other trail categories, including existing national trails that this route overlaps with or connects to, and that have proven to be some of the most useful tools in working with landowners to achieve outcomes that protect the resources, users, and the rights of the landowner. Specifically, S. 4693 would exempt national discovery trails from sections of the National Trails System Act authorizing the acceptance of donations and collaboration through cooperative agreements and authorizing land exchanges to protect national trails, which may be necessary to promote the efficient management of certain trail segments. The question of which type of trail's authorities takes precedent when the trails overlap could be a source of potential confusion.

Finally, the potential safety risks inherent in encouraging greater recreational use of motorized roadways would be a challenge within the NTSA framework. There would be a greater risk to the user than with other trail designations, and the Federal agencies would assume greater responsibility for ensuring that users understood that all national trails would not necessarily afford them the same degree of protection. The new trail designation could potentially involve the Federal agencies charged with managing the trail in greater coordination with transportation

and law enforcement communities around laws and policies on pedestrian use of motorized roads and highways.

The Department appreciates the goals of this bill and believes that there may be other means of achieving its vision of enhanced recreational opportunities outside of protected lands. However, we believe that these goals would be better achieved without designating a new category of National Discovery Trails within the National Trails System. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Subcommittee and the bill sponsor on alternative means of achieving the goals of this bill.

Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S.4784, A BILL TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARY OF KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF MAINE, TO IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL MONUMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 4784, a bill to modify the boundary of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the State of Maine, to improve public access to the National Monument, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 4784 with amendments.

S. 4784 would add an additional 43,000 acres to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (Monument). Located to the west of the East Branch of the Penobscot River and stretching south of the present Monument boundary, the proposed addition would enable the National Park Service to provide a dedicated public route into the Monument from the south. The southward extension of the Monument boundary would also improve access from the gateway communities of Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Medway. The bill includes provisions addressing hunting, fishing, the gathering of fiddlehead ferns, and establishing administrative and visitor facilities outside of Monument boundaries.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument was established by Proclamation 9476 on August 24, 2016, by President Obama. The proclamation enshrined approximately 87,500 acres within a larger landscape already conserved by public and private efforts. The Monument contains extraordinary natural and cultural landscapes including the mountains, woods, and waters east of Baxter State Park, where the east branch of the Penobscot River and its tributaries run freely. The scenery, geology, flora, fauna, and night skies continue to attract people to this area. Native Americans still cherish these resources. Expanding access to this resource continues to fulfill the promise that public lands are for everyone.

Section 3(g) provides for the gathering by hand of fiddlehead ferns, authorizes the Superintendent of the National Monument to determine if the activity adversely affects resources, and to limit the gathering of fiddlehead ferns in accordance with existing regulations. We appreciate that gathering fiddlehead ferns is a long-standing local practice. We propose that this section be amended to clarify that this authorized use would be limited to non-commercial use and consumption. Implementation of this section will require that inventory and monitoring protocols be in place to ensure that resources are not adversely affected.

Section 4(a) authorizes the Secretary to expend donated or appropriated funds to acquire or lease essential facilities for the administration of the National Monument and visitor services outside the boundaries, but within the vicinity, of the National Monument. The Department supports this

provision as it will enable the National Park Service to develop essential facilities in proximity to the park without disturbing the Monument's fundamental resources, but recommends technical amendments for clarity in this section.

In addition, the Department believes that the definitions in the legislation should be clarified to ensure that all provisions apply both to the Monument and the land added to the Monument by the legislation, as appropriate. We would be happy to work with the Committee to develop these amendments.

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

Senator KING. Thank you very much, Mr. Caldwell, and thank you again for all your service. You are in friendly territory here. That brings me to Mr. Will Shafroth, testifying on behalf of the National Park Foundation.

Mr. Shafroth, welcome.

**STATEMENT OF WILL SHAFROTH, PRESIDENT AND CEO,  
NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Daines, thank you for the invitation to be here today. I am Will Shafroth, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors, and all who love our most treasured places in this country, I want to thank you, again, for holding this hearing and to consider S. 4168, the National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2022. An identical companion bill, H.R. 7693, has already passed the House on July 19th with strong bipartisan support.

Chartered by Congress in 1967, the National Park Foundation was founded on a legacy that began more than a century ago when private citizens from all walks of life acted to establish and protect our national parks. Today, the National Park Foundation carries on the tradition as the only national charitable non-profit whose sole mission is to directly support the National Park Service. Working together with the National Park Service and a dedicated community of park partners, the National Park Foundation strives to preserve what is best about our national parks and ensure that all people can connect with and enjoy them. The success of the National Park Foundation is tied to the financial support by the individuals, families, foundations, and corporate partners provide to it. In FY21, that support totaled more than \$128 million. As we close the books on FY22, we anticipate total revenue to exceed \$166 million with more than 73 percent of that directly impacting the parks.

One reason for the foundation's rapid growth in recent years is its ability to leverage federal dollars. Many donors who I work with want to know that their funds are being matched by federal investments. As authorized by the National Park Service Centennial Act of 2016, the foundation receives up to \$5 million in annual appropriations through FY23. The Act also requires the foundation to provide a minimum of a dollar-for-dollar private match for any programs or projects funded with federal appropriations. Since receiving its first appropriation in FY18, the foundation received a total of \$23 million in federal funds. The foundation selects projects and matches funds at a greater than one-to-one ratio in all cases. For example, the foundation received \$5 million in FY19 and matched that with \$6.5 million in private funds, creating a total impact of over \$11.5 million. In FY20, the \$5 million the foundation received was matched with \$11.4 million in private funds, creating an overall impact of more than \$15 million. So, of the \$18 million that the foundation received from the Treasury for FY18-FY21, the foundation has raised and allocated an additional \$23.8 million. So it is a good bang for the buck, we think, for Congress to provide these funds. The foundation continues the process of matching and allocating additional funds for the remainder of appropriation dollars

on an ongoing basis. It is a continual thing that we try to respond to parks and the Park Service, in general.

To date, the foundation has invested a combination of appropriated and private dollars on more than 100 projects in 32 states and two territories. Our goal over the next couple of years is to have funded projects in all 50 states and many more territories. The foundation staff works closely with both the Park Service as well as our local park partners to identify priority projects and programs where investing appropriated dollars can help leverage private dollars. Examples of these projects include rehabilitating trails, visitor centers, and other facilities; deploying service corps to build and maintain trails, eradicate invasive species and restore historic structures; engaging in educating youth; expanding sustainability efforts, including reducing waste and funding electric vehicle shuttle programs in parks; conserving wildlife in their habitat; and restoring and improving historic and cultural resources. These funds have proven critical in addressing the parks' deferred maintenance backlog, making our parks more resilient and sustainable and increasing access for current and future generations of park visitors.

With increased visitation to parks and a continued gap between need and available funding across the park system, the National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act could not come at a better time. S. 4168 would reauthorize the foundation's annual appropriation through 2030, as you have heard, and increase the authorized amount from \$5 to \$15 million. We will continue to be very confident that we can raise substantial private funds to more than double the federal investment in park programs and projects, and should this reauthorization happen, as proposed, the total impact on the parks on an annual basis will be greater than \$30 million. The foundation anticipates continued growth in its fundraising in the coming years, and we believe that the passage of the Reauthorization Act will only accelerate the growth and deliver critical impact to our parks and improve visitor experience. Literally, the legislation puts wind in our sails as we go out and are seeking additional funds for the parks.

Thank you again to Senator Portman, Chairman King, and Ranking Member Daines, for introducing legislation and for all those who have joined as co-sponsors since. I am happy to answer any questions you have.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Shafroth follows:]

TESTIMONY OF  
WILL SHAFROTH  
PRESIDENT & CEO, NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION  
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National  
Parks  
Legislative Hearing  
September 21, 2022

Good morning. My name is Will Shafroth, and I am the President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors, and all who love America's most treasured spaces, I would like to thank the Subcommittee for holding this hearing, and taking the time to consider S. 4168, the National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2022. An identical companion bill, H.R. 7693, passed the House on July 19 with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Chartered by Congress in 1967, the National Park Foundation was founded on a legacy that began more than a century ago, when private citizens from all walks of life acted to establish and protect our national parks. Today, the National Park Foundation carries on that tradition as the only national charitable nonprofit whose sole mission is to directly support the National Park Service. Working together with the National Park Service and a dedicated community of park partners, the National Park Foundation strives to preserve what's best about our national parks and ensure that all people can connect with and enjoy them.

The success of the National Park Foundation is tied to the financial support provided by individuals, families, foundations, and corporate partners. In fiscal year 2021 that support totaled more than \$128 million. As we close the books on fiscal year 2022, we anticipate a revenue of \$166 million, including cash, pledges, and in-kind donations, with more than 73% of that directly impacting the parks.

One reason for NPF's rapid growth in recent years is its ability to leverage federal dollars. Donors want to know that their funds are being matched by federal investments. As authorized in the National Park Service Centennial Act of 2016, the National Park Foundation receives up to \$5 million in annual appropriations through fiscal year 2023, and requires the Foundation to provide a minimum of a dollar-for-dollar private match for NPS projects and programs.

Since receiving its first appropriation in fiscal year 2018, the Foundation has received a total of \$23 million in federal funds. The Foundation selects projects and matches funds, often at a greater than one-to-one ratio. For example, the Foundation received \$5 million in FY19 funds, but matched this with \$6.53 million in private funds, creating an impact of \$11.53 million in our national parks. In FY20, the \$5 million the Foundation received was matched with \$11.38 million in private funds, creating an overall impact of \$15.38 million.

Once the funds are transferred from the Treasury, which typically happens in the spring, the Foundation begins the process of matching those funds with private dollars available for programs that align with the priorities of the National Park Service. Because our donors and partners are increasingly aware of the availability of these funds, there is more interest in the power to leverage the impact of their donations as well.

Of the \$18 million received from the Treasury since fiscal year 2018, the Foundation has raised and allocated an additional \$23.8 million in matching funds for these projects. The Foundation continues the process of matching and allocating additional funds for the remainder of appropriations dollars on an ongoing basis.

To date, the Foundation has invested a combination of appropriated and private dollars to fund more than 100 projects in 32 states and 2 territories. Within the next few years, the Foundation expects to have funded projects in all 50 states and additional territories.

The National Park Foundation staff works closely with both Park Service staff and local park partners to identify priority programs and projects where investing appropriated funds can help leverage private dollars.

Examples of these types of projects include:

- Rehabilitating trails, visitor centers, and other facilities;
- Deploying service corps to build and maintain trails, eradicate invasive species, and restore historic structures;
- Engaging and educating youth;
- Conserving wildlife and their habitat;
- Expanding sustainability efforts — including reducing waste and funding EV shuttle programs in parks; and
- Restoring and improving historic and cultural resources

These funds have proven critical in addressing the parks' deferred maintenance backlog, making our parks more resilient and sustainable, and increasing access for current and future generations of parks visitors.

With increased visitation to parks and a continued gap between need and available funding across the park system, the National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act could not come at a better time. S. 4168 would reauthorize the Foundation's annual appropriation through FY 2030 and increase the authorized amount from \$5 million to \$15 million.

The Foundation is very confident that it can continue to raise substantial private funds to more than double the federal investment in park programs and projects. Should this reauthorization happen as proposed, the total impact on the parks would exceed \$30 million annually.

The Foundation anticipates continued growth in its fundraising in the coming years. Passage of the National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act will only accelerate that growth and deliver critical impact to our

parks and improve the visitor experience. This legislation puts wind in the sails of the National Park Foundation work as we seek to make our great national parks become even better.

I want to thank Senator Portman, Chairman King, and Ranking Member Daines, and for introducing the National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act, as well as those who have joined as cosponsors since.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for having me here to testify today, and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Senator KING. Thank you, Mr. Shafroth. I only wish every witness before our Committee could promise us \$2 back for every dollar we put in. I think our job would be a lot easier.

Mr. SHAFROTH. Good, well, we hope to make it more than \$2.

Senator KING. Our next witness is Mr. Steven Richardson. He will introduce himself, but I have to say that my dad used to use the term “pillar of the community”—someone who is really essential to the support of any community—literally, a pillar, meaning someone who holds the place up. Steve Richardson is one of those people, from Patten, Maine. We are delighted you made the trip to join us today.

Steven Richardson.

**STATEMENT OF STEVEN RICHARDSON, VICE PRESIDENT,  
FRIENDS OF KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS**

Mr. RICHARDSON. Thank you very much, Senator King. Before I start, I would just encourage Ranking Member Daines to ask you to bring a one-pound bag of fiddleheads back to him. It is not the foraging of it that is so much fun, it is the eating.

[Laughter.]

Mr. RICHARDSON. Thank you both and the members of this distinguished Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks. I am honored and humbled to be with you today to discuss the critical legislation that you are considering for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. But before I start, I need to offer my sincere appreciation to Senator Angus King and Senator Susan Collins for their support and advocacy for Maine and Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, specifically. Since its creation in August of 2016, our Senators have worked diligently through the appropriations process to improve the monument, increase staffing, protect its resources, and make it more accessible to visitors. So thank you very much.

Senator King has introduced me, for the most part. I was born in Patten. I now live in Shin Pond, which is just ten miles away. I live in the northern part of the monument area. In addition to what you have heard about me, I also am a very silent partner with my son, Nathan, who successfully runs the family hardware, the lumber yard, greenhouse, et cetera in Patten. And I look forward today to providing testimony on S.4784, the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Act, which is sponsored by Chairman King and co-sponsored by Senator Collins. To me, this legislation is about the future. It is about making it possible for our kids to stay in the region and thus, in Maine.

Millinocket, a town south of the monument, was once home to the largest paper mill in the world. Families made their living in the woods and in the mills, and there were good jobs with benefits for anyone willing to work hard. But that changed, through no fault of the good men and women of the Katahdin region. Our communities have had to adapt to a new reality and take new approaches to our natural resources and our economy. The monument is an important part of that transition. It is a beacon of hope, drawing new people, more visitors, and increased investment to our communities, all the while protecting a very special place for the enjoyment of generations to come.

The legislation before you does three things: first, it allows the National Park Service to acquire land from willing sellers to improve access to the monument. Second, it allows the National Park Service to work collaboratively with local communities to secure space for headquarters, staff housing, visitor contact stations, and other important facilities in gateway communities. And third, it protects and preserves access for traditional activities, including hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and the gathering of those all-important fiddleheads.

When the monument was created, we all knew that the access from the south would benefit towns such as Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Medway, so that visitors there could enter the monument more easily and the economic benefits of visitation would be spread more evenly. Southern access is imperative to those gateway communities and for the monument's continued growth and development. Senators King and Collins have recognized a need and found a solution that is broadly supported in the region and statewide. When it was created, Katahdin Woods and Waters also came with a promise. Private philanthropy would ensure the monument would get off to a good start by investing private dollars into infrastructure. That promise, I am proud to say, has been kept. There is a \$3 million endowment, along with annual private funding to offset operational costs to the National Park Service. Over \$20 million has been raised from donors to construct a new visitor's contact center inside the monument and more than \$8 million philanthropic dollars have been invested to improve roads, bridges, trails, scenic views, and campsites. Katahdin Woods and Waters has built incredible momentum because of the unique and successful partnership between local communities, philanthropic partners, and the National Park Service. Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters has developed the Katahdin Learning Project, where staff leadership, local schools and educators, and the National Park Service have combined to provide 9,000 students the opportunity for outdoor learning, place-based and service-learning projects, and trail crew opportunities. To date, 1,600 young people, have visited the monument, connecting them with nature and the history of the area. This legislation you are considering is all about connecting all people with the monument.

The monument is paying off for the communities in the region. As a personal story, my son recognized that with the creation of the monument, our store had an opportunity to serve new types of customers. It was a risk, but he believed that once people learned about the beauty and the history of our region and about the monument, they would come. He began to stock kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, camping gear and the like. I am happy today to say that he was correct. The store has experienced minimum 20 percent year-over-year increases over the past six years. This is true for many businesses in the Katahdin region, as more people have come to take advantage of what is offered. And some visitors have luckily become full-time residents.

To summarize, there is a need in our region to improve access to Katahdin Woods and Waters. The legislation from Senators King and Collins protects traditional recreational uses, allows the National Park Service to work with willing sellers, promotes greater

investment in our region, and will help businesses and working people. I appreciate their support on this matter and ongoing support for the monument, and I hope the Senate will support this bill as well. I am happy to answer any questions you might have and thank you for the opportunity to tell the story of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and what it means to my community and beyond. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Richardson follows:]

**Steve Richardson**  
**Shin Pond Resident and Businessperson**  
**Testimony for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee**  
**on National Parks**  
**S. 4784: Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act**  
*9/21/22*

Good morning and thank you Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. I'm honored to be with you today and excited to talk with you about Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and the pragmatic, necessary and critical legislation that you are considering.

But before I start, I need to offer my sincere appreciation to Sen. Angus King and Sen. Susan Collins for their support and advocacy for Maine and for the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, specifically. Since its creation in August 2016, our Senators have worked diligently through the appropriations process to improve the monument, increase staffing, protect its resources and make it more accessible to visitors. Thank you, Senators.

My name is Steve Richardson. I was born and raised in Patten, Maine, which is in the Katahdin region, and I live in Shin Pond, not far from the northern areas of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. I'm the vice president of the Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, the former CEO of Katahdin Trust Co. and the current chair of the board of directors. I'm a very silent partner in my family's hardware store, which I'm proud to say is successfully run by my son.

I'm here today to provide testimony on S. 4784, The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act, which is sponsored by Chairman King and co-sponsored by Sen. Collins.

To me, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and this important legislation – is about the future. It's about making it possible for our kids to stay in the region and in Maine.

Millinocket, which is south of the monument was once home to the largest paper mill in the world. Families made their living in the woods and in the mills, and there were good jobs, with benefits for anyone willing to work hard. But that changed, through no fault of the good men and women of the Katahdin region. Our communities have had to adapt to a new reality, and take new approaches to our natural resources and to our economy.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is an important part of that transition. The monument is a beacon of hope – drawing new people, more visitors and increased investment to our communities while also protecting a very special place for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Our region's woods and waters have always been our competitive advantage. They brought the mills and the industry, and now as the economy has changed they are drawing the visitors that are helping our economy and businesses to grow.

The legislation before you does three things. First, it allows the National Park Service to acquire land from willing sellers to improve access to the monument. Second, it allows the National Park Service to work collaboratively with local communities to secure space for a monument headquarters, staff housing, visitor contact stations and other important facilities in gateway communities. And third, it protects and preserves access for traditional recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and the gathering of fiddleheads for personal consumption.

Just in case you aren't sure what a fiddlehead might be, it's a fern collected in the spring and a sought-after dish on many dinner tables in Maine and eastern Canada. Fiddleheads taste a bit like a cross between green beans, broccoli and asparagus although I'm not sure that really does them justice, and I'd be proud to share mine with any of you who might care to visit the Katahdin region next spring, see the monument and try some delicious fiddleheads.

When Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument was created, we knew our work wasn't complete. We needed to focus on creating road access from the south that would be closer to towns such as Millinocket, East Millinocket and Medway so that visitors from those communities could get into the monument more easily and that the economic benefits of monument visitation would be spread more evenly and through more communities.

Not so long ago, southern parts of the Katahdin region were part Maine's industrial heart. Patten, where I'm from, was more agricultural, and there was sometimes a not-so-healthy rivalry between our communities. I'm here to say today, that is in the past. For our region to be successful, to attract new people and new businesses and to enjoy the full potential of the national monument, we must work together. And we are. We know that we will rise or fall together.

Southern access into the national monument is imperative to those gateway communities, for visitors and for the monument's continued growth and development. Sens. King and Collins have recognized a need and found a solution that is broadly supported in the region and statewide. It will help the national monument to grow to its fullest potential.

When it was created, Katahdin Woods and Waters also came with a promise. Private philanthropy would ensure the monument got off to a good start by investing private dollars to stand up important infrastructure. I'm pleased to report to you: That promise has been kept.

Nearly \$20 million has been raised from donors, including nonprofits, businesses, community groups and individuals to construct a new visitor contact station inside the monument and to improve the visitor experience, and more than \$8 million philanthropic dollars have been invested to improve roads, bridges, trails, scenic views and campsites. And there is a privately

funded endowment along with annual donations that help to offset the operational costs to the National Park Service.

The National Park Service also has made significant investments to enhance visitor enjoyment in the Monument. Some include improvements to the Haskell and Big Spring Brook Huts used by backcountry skiers, hikers and mountain bikers; a new kiosk and signage in the north of the monument; restroom facilities; road and bridge improvements; improved viewpoints and trails.

All of this has happened in a relatively short period of time and with strong community support. Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is a unique and successful partnership between local communities, the private sector, philanthropic partners, and the National Park Service.

There's one other element of this collaboration that I have to mention. It's called the Katahdin Learning Project. Led by staff from the Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters and in cooperation with local schools and educators, and the National Park Service, about 9,000 students have had the opportunity for outdoor learning, place-based and service-learning projects, and trail crew opportunities. Seventy-seven groups of students, accounting for nearly 1,600 young people, have visited the monument to learn about the flora and fauna and the history of the area. The monument is helping kids in our region connect with nature, with their own history and with the woods and waters that surround them. It's fitting to mention this program, because this legislation is all about connecting more people to the monument and all it has to offer by improving access from the south.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has been recognized as the first International Dark Skies Sanctuary on the eastern seaboard, and it sits on the path of totality for the April 2024 total solar eclipse. We are also working closely with the Wabanaki people, the original stewards of this land, and particularly the Penobscot Nation, to make sure their voices and history are heard in connection to the land that is their ancestral home.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has built incredible momentum, and it's paying off for the communities in the region. As a personal story, my son recognized that with the creation of the monument, the hardware store had an opportunity to serve new types of customers. It was a risk, but he believed that once people learned about the beauty of our region and about the monument, they would come. He started stocking kayaks and canoes. We'd never sold anything like that before. I'm happy to say that he was correct. Every year, the store sells more than the year before, and we've added an upstairs section to sell additional outdoor sporting equipment.

It's not just my family's store, it's true for many businesses in the region that have seen their bottom lines grow as more people have come to take advantage of the incredible outdoor recreational resources we have to offer and recognize that our communities are open for business and a great place to live and work.

There's a need in our community to improve access to Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. The legislation from Sens. King and Collins protects traditional, recreational uses, allows the National Park Service to work with willing sellers, promotes greater investment in our region and will help businesses and working people.

I appreciate their support on this matter and ongoing support for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and hope the Senate will support this bill as well.

I'm happy to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you for the opportunity to tell the story of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and what it means to my community.

Senator KING. Thank you very much, Mr. Richardson.

Let me begin with some questions generally. Mr. Caldwell, I understand the importance that working forests have access and the ability to get their woods out. Can you talk about how the Park Service deals with this issue in other parts of the country to have the safe cohabitation, if you will, of visitors and the forest products industry?

Mr. CALDWELL. Sure. Well, certainly at Katahdin Woods—it is great to see you here, sir—we honor all the agreements that we have, and I think you alluded to that earlier when you identified even the signs and the website. But where authorized elsewhere in the country for commercial use, say in places, parts of the Foothills Parkway in the Smokies or Delaware Water Gap, for example, the Park Service has balanced those needs with those commercial uses versus the needs of the visitors on those roads. So it is something that we do elsewhere when we have those authorizations in places similar to Katahdin Woods.

Senator KING. Thank you. I look forward to working with you on that issue.

Mr. CALDWELL. Thank you.

Senator KING. Mr. Shafroth, you outlined this in your remarks, and I mentioned it in my response, but I think the important fact for us here is the matching that you do. Can you expand on that a little bit? What can we look forward to in terms of a return on this investment that is proposed in this bill?

Mr. SHAFROTH. Thank you for the question, Mr. Chairman.

Well, you know, I would say 60 or 70 percent of my job, Mr. Chairman, is fundraising. I am at the point of the spear with a lot of corporations and foundations, individuals, families, and I can tell you that the dynamic that exists when people are considering making a meaningful gift to the National Park Foundation has a lot to do with, “Well, who else is going to be in with me on this? Is the Federal Government a part of this transaction or this project? Do you have other donors that are lined up?” Very few people want to fund 100 percent of something. And so, when I can acknowledge in the course of those conversations that, yes, we are able to put a quarter of a million dollars of our federal appropriation dollars into this program or project, it just shifts the likelihood that we are going to get a grant.

And so, you know, this is the first time in our 55-year history—that last four years—that we have actually had financial resources from the Federal Government to spend. And so, part of this process for us has been figuring out the relationships with the Park Service and making sure that we are aligned with them, both nationally and the local community. I would say we are hitting our stride in a meaningful way, and I think even though we are somewhere at, like, for every dollar that we are provided we are at \$1.4 or something like that, in terms of the match. I think we can see an opportunity to grow that going forward. And I think there is a huge amount of demand out there, especially given the shortfall of other federal dollars available for parks.

Senator KING. I have a particularly vivid story about the power of matching. I used to work for public broadcasting in Maine, and you know, you have the pledge breaks and people look at the cam-

era and say “new members, if you match . . .”, and for some reason, it came into my head one night when I was looking at the camera, and I said “I will personally match all new members of a hundred dollars,” or whatever it was. It was the biggest night of calls they ever got. And it was so—and so, the head of the station the next day said “Angus, you don’t really have to do that.” I said “yes, I do. I made a promise.” But I would not tell you what it cost me, but it was significant.

[Laughter.]

Senator KING. All of my friends called in and picked my pocket that night.

[Laughter.]

Senator KING. Mr. Richardson, you have been in the region your whole life and you remember, as I do, that there was a lot of controversy at the time of the creation of the monument, and there was opposition, and people were concerned about the impacts in the community. Have attitudes changed? How has the existence of the monument affected the community’s acceptance of it?

Mr. RICHARDSON. Thank you.

I would say that attitudes have changed. I won’t say that everybody is in favor. I think we are now down to two remaining “no parks” signs in our communities, whereas before we had 20, 30, maybe more. Just an anecdote—there was one gentleman on the edge of the Swift Brook Road that is the entrance for the monument on the northern end. During the lead-up to the 2016 proclamation, he had mega signs on his doorway and his driveway, et cetera and he would go to meetings and protest, et cetera, et cetera.

Senator KING. I remember those meetings.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Yes and the other—not too long ago—it was this summer, there was an activity in the Sherman area and one of EFF’s people was down there.

Senator KING. Those are the people that were involved with the monument.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Correct—Elliotsville Foundation people.

This gentleman tapped on the lady’s shoulder and he said, “I have to say, I approve of the park.” He calls it a park, not a monument, but he called it a park. There are no signs on his lawn anymore. And I am not saying that is the same thing that happens all over the area, but there is general acceptance, even those that were vocally opposed, you don’t hear anything. They either don’t say anything or they are quietly approving.

Senator KING. You touched on this with regard to the personal experience of the store in Patten.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Yes.

Senator KING. Is there a general consensus in the business community that the monument has been a positive, in terms of the economy?

Mr. RICHARDSON. Yes, there is. The only thing that I would qualify that with is that I think a lot of the uptick in the business community has been because of COVID. We have a nation now that has turned to the outdoors rather than sitting home and looking at the screen, so to speak, and that has helped and that going to help the national parks all over this country. It has helped busi-

nesses because we have people every week. Last week I talked to a gentleman from West Virginia and another one from Texas that was in Northern Maine, and I am sure they would have never been there if it weren't for the fact that they now are outdoors, they are trying to find places to go and thank goodness they are picking our area.

Senator KING. One final question.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Yes.

Senator KING. This bill provides access to the south. This will have the effect, as I see it, of spreading the benefits in terms of the economy to those southern communities as well as up in your region.

Mr. RICHARDSON. That is correct.

If you were coming north and you were to get off in the Millinocket-East Millinocket-Medway area, and assume that you could access the park from there, you still have to drive back to the Interstate, come north 20 miles, and go into the monument or go up the local highway, again, another 20 miles to get there. So, yes, once those people know that they can access the monument from the southern district they will probably stay there for the most part and spend their money. So it just has to have a tremendous positive effect on those communities.

Senator KING. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Richardson.

Senator Daines.

Senator DAINES. Chairman King, thank you.

Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Shafroth, a heartfelt thanks to both of you for the work you have already done in Yellowstone National Park. This is a park that I literally grew up in the shadows of as a kid, way back in the 1960s. I grew up in the Gallatin Valley. Some of my earliest memories were visiting Yellowstone National Park. I wonder if you could provide an update on what the Park Service and the foundation is doing to address the economic and the infrastructure impacts from the recent flooding, and how can both of you work together with the local communities to get the park and the communities back to 100 percent?

Start with Mr. Caldwell.

Mr. CALDWELL. I always defer to Will first, but I will go first. First, I do want to sincerely thank you, Senator Daines, for your support during the flooding at Yellowstone. I think as you rightly noted in your introductory statement, the hard work of the team at the park, led by Superintendent Sholly and in collaboration with the staff from across the NPS and the Department and also with our Federal partners, like Federal highways, I mean, it has, we have been all in helping and we really, sincerely appreciate your help.

The NPS was able to reopen 50 percent of the park within only eight days, 93 percent of the park roads within 20 days, and 94 percent of the back country within 30 days of this 500-year flood event from this past June. This allowed for visitor access from Montana and Wyoming through three of the park's five entrances, just weeks after the flood. The park offered public access for hiking, fishing, and bicycling at the north and northeast entrances as quickly as possible and worked closely with commercial operators and guides to allow additional vehicles access through the north

entrance. The park conducted extensive outreach, as you have noted, to more than 1,400 community members and local businesses following the flood, and continues to communicate with local businesses regularly throughout the recovery. We look forward to continuing to provide updates to you as needed and certainly, it is an effort that will take the collaboration of folks like Will in the National Park Foundation, so, thanks again.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Shafroth.

Mr. SHAFROTH. Yes, Mr. Daines, thank you.

First of all, I want to affirm what Mike just said about Superintendent Sholly. I mean, of the 423 or four national park units that we have now, he is definitely one of the top performers and you know, as tragic as it was, I am really glad that Cam was there on the ground, given his capacity to manage the crisis that was unfolding in real time. Also, Senator, I want to acknowledge the great work of Yellowstone Forever, the local park partner that provides day-to-day support and assistance for Cam and his team throughout the park. You know, one of the things that we try to do is just listen to Cam and find out, what do you need, you know, in real time. And so, one of the things we were able to do is provide funding for the airport because they were mostly getting around, as you know, by airplane there, as the roads were all out. So there needed to be additional funding to support costs they had not anticipated in their budget to support additional flights, not only for surveying the damage, but also ongoing research projects that did not—you do not want to stop those things that have been happening for so many years related to wolves or—and then the other thing I would say is that we just try to work with Cam and his team to understand, kind of, what they need and how we can collectively solve the problem.

And so, one of the things he told us is that we really need to stay the course on some of these scientific research projects. We are looking at the possibility of taking a larger share of the burden on those so it frees up money for him to spend on some of the things that need to be done in the immediate. So, as I said, we are just kind of part of the team, and we are trying to do what we can do to support the work at Yellowstone where we can, just as we did at Gardiner Arch a few years back. Our dollars there really freed up Cam and Yellowstone Forever to do other things that needed to happen in the park.

Senator DAINES. Thanks, Mr. Shafroth. We are very thankful that Mr. Sholly happened to be at that position at that time, not only in terms of his experience and frankly, such a great mind to help us think through so many challenges that came at us all at once, but, kind of a native son of Gardiner, too, having gone to the Gardiner High School, which I think just adds a little more in terms of perspective as they were staring at what to do about that road between Gardiner and Mammoth. So, anyway, thank you. And again, heartfelt thanks for your continued partnership.

Mr. Shafroth, I want to switch now and talk about Senate bill 4168, the reauthorization of the foundation until 2030. It increases the annual authorization—triples it, from \$5 million to \$15 million. If this bill was signed into law, how will that enhance the work the foundation is already doing to support our parks?

Mr. SHAFROTH. Thank you, Mr. Daines.

Well, it just gives us an opportunity to scale the work that we have already been doing. You know, at the end of the day, the number of requests that we have for the funding that we have now far exceeds our ability to meet the demand. One of the things that is happening around the country is that the capacity of friends groups and local park partners is increasing, and you know, thankfully, because of the increase in visitation and the growing gap between funding availability and need, we are working with a broader diversity of organizations at the local level to help them to do work with their superintendents in the parks. And so, you know, 10 or 15 years ago, there were maybe eight or ten organizations that were raising, you know, more than a million or \$2 million a year. Now that number is dramatically higher. And so, frankly, we have more organizations with whom we can work to do good in parks all over the country.

I want to acknowledge that we have a very active role in Katahdin. We are the managers of the \$3 million endowment. And we are able to contribute to projects using our federal dollars now that—this organization did not exist six years ago. And so, there are lots of groups like this all over the country with whom we now have a partnership and are helping them build their capacity so they can be responsible partners to the Park Service and their local communities. And so, this is done at the right time. I mean, even five years ago, we probably couldn't have spent \$15 million a year that effectively, but now, we really could.

Senator DAINES. And with Chairman King's commitment to match that personally—

[Laughter.]

Mr. SHAFROTH. We are inviting you to our fundraiser, Mr. King.

Senator DAINES. Let the record stand, please. So, anyway, sorry.

So, you know, shifting gears and thinking about the smaller parks because, of course, you know, our big marquee parks get a lot of attention and rightfully so, but our smaller parks—think about the Little Bighorn Battlefield in Montana. How can the foundation continue to support our smaller and sometimes lesser-known parks?

Mr. SHAFROTH. Thank you for the question.

It is really critical, and I am sure Mike will want to weigh in on this as well, but you know, roughly half of the visitation of the national parks occurs on 25 or 30 national park sites. So, you know, roughly 160 or 165 million people go to 25 of the 425 parks. And that is just, kind of, unsustainable and it is actually increasing. I was in Acadia this summer with our board for four days and you know, everywhere it was crowded. It was late July, early August and you know, you couldn't find a parking space. It was—there were a lot of folks there. Part of what we are trying to do is to drive more visitation to some of the lesser-known parks. And one of the ways in which we think we can do that, by working with the Park Service, is around technology, is to give people, you know, kind of one-stop shopping on their phone, you know, an app that would give them information, not only about the park that they are in, but other places that are close by. I mean, I would never tell people not to go to Yellowstone, but I would say instead of staying

for five days, maybe stay for three days, go see Little Bighorn, go to Devils Tower, go to Teddy Roosevelt, you know, within a day's drive of where you are. And I think that if we had those kinds of tools to better do that, we could make that happen.

And the other part of it is to help those parks, those lesser-known parks, Senator Daines, to have more to show for themselves. The work that we have done, as you acknowledge, at Little Bighorn is critical to wanting people to go there and come back by improving the visitor experience of the visitor center. It is also a great example of where we can provide funding from a foundation and match those with the federal dollars that we receive from Congress.

Senator DAINES. Yes, I know, I think it is a great, great response and just providing visibility and awareness of some of these smaller parks that, you know, the big parks have the draw and then they don't realize that within a couple hours' drive are amazing hidden jewels there, that we could improve the visitor experience.

Lastly, I want to think about the future here for a moment. If the foundation is reauthorized until 2030, what are some projects you would like to see the foundation support, and how do you see the foundation adapting to what you just mentioned, and that is the increase in visitation we have seen? You mentioned technology as one. Any other thoughts come to mind?

Mr. SHAFROTH. Well, I think we need to—like you said, thinking about the future, and we are in regular contact with Mike and the leadership of the Park Service about some of the challenges they are facing around housing, for instance. Housing is not something that we were hearing a lot about five years ago, but now, it is all we hear about. Every time I talk to a superintendent, it is on their mind. And so, how can we help the Park Service address these long-term issues that are not going to go away? Housing, I think that visitor experience, I talked about the digital and technological experience there. I think, you know, certainly, our changing climate is going to affect a lot of different parks in different ways, and I think getting ahead of some of those issues with them, understanding how to be more resilient and more sustainable, are ways in which I think we can help the Park Service going forward.

Senator DAINES. Thank you.

And Chairman King, that is all I have, but just as a closing comment, we have discussed a number of times in front of this Committee, the challenge you just described there, Mr. Shafroth, that is these gateway communities that are landlocked, and how do we solve that problem. It relates to housing and the need just for additional real estate as we increase the visitation numbers, the staffing requirements, and housing, and good housing is an important part of employee morale. I know Cam has worked a lot on that in Yellowstone Park, but I know we face this in a number of gateway communities across our country. Chairman King and I have talked about it and I think it will be something in the next Congress we will have to address and take some action on.

Senator KING. In fact, one of the bills we approved at a previous Committee meeting involved a little parcel at Acadia to transfer to an adjacent town for housing. So that is the kind of thing that we have to be thinking about.

Mr. Caldwell, I want to send a message back. This is not directed at you, but at the Department. I have been disappointed in the maintenance budget. Senator Daines and I and many others moved heaven and earth to pass the Great American Outdoors Act to take a bite out of the maintenance backlog, which was successful, but we have to quit digging the hole. There are national standards about percentage of asset value that should be dedicated to maintenance—between two and four percent. We are not doing that. So I hope the message will go back to the Department that as they are working out budgets for future years, that they cannot rely on Congress bailing them out periodically. That has to be part of the mentality of—oh, okay, maintenance. That is base. Will you carry that message, please?

Mr. CALDWELL. Duly noted. I will carry that message. Thank you.

Senator KING. Thank you.

Well, I appreciate all the witnesses joining us. Is there anything any of the witnesses would like to share before we close the hearing?

Mr. Shafroth.

Mr. Richardson.

[No response.]

Senator KING. Well, thank you again for your testimony. Mr. Richardson, again, I appreciate your coming down from Maine and look forward to working with you and Senator Daines, and I and the Committee will be working on these bills, hopefully, in the very near future.

Without anything further, we have two weeks from today for submission of additional information and comments. The hearing is adjourned.

Again, thank you to our witnesses and to my esteemed Vice Chair.

[Whereupon, at 11:35 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

**APPENDIX MATERIAL SUBMITTED**

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

DEC - 9 2022

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the response to the Question for the Record received after the September 21, 2022, legislative hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on National Parks. The response was prepared by the National Park Service.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to you on these matters.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Salotti  
Legislative Counsel  
Office of Congressional and  
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure  
cc: The Honorable Steve Daines  
Ranking Member

**Question for the Record**  
**Senate Energy and Natural Resources**  
**Subcommittee on National Parks**  
**Hearing on *Pending Legislation***  
**September 21, 2022**

**Question from Senator Hoeven**

**Question:** We've been working closely with the National Park Service (NPS) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on efforts to repair the Scenic Loop Drive at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. NPS completed the environmental review process this past spring, and the project is currently out for bid from contractors. Up to 700,000 visitors make their way to Theodore Roosevelt National Park each year, and completion of the road is key to supporting North Dakota's largest tourist attraction. Will you work to ensure that a contractor is promptly awarded so work can begin prior to the end of this year's construction season?

**Response:** The project to repair the Scenic Loop Drive at Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a priority for the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior. The FHWA Central Federal Lands Highway Division's (CFLHD) solicitation for bids on the project was posted on August 19, 2022, with a bid opening scheduled for October 4, 2022.

However, on September 6, 2022, an additional failure occurred along a closed section of the loop road creating a significant change in site conditions. In response, CFLHD in coordination with the NPS made the decision to extend the solicitation period to November 15, 2022, to allow for an assessment of the impacts of the additional failure and amend the solicitation package so bid documents will accurately reflect the current conditions of the project.

Given the present situation, no construction work will be possible in the 2022 construction season, but the NPS anticipates contract award on a timeframe that will allow the selected contractor to utilize the full construction season in 2023.

**U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
September 21, 2022 Hearing: *Pending Legislation*  
Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. Will Shafroth**

**[No response was received at the time of publication]**

**Questions from Senator John Hoeven**

**Question 1:** How is the National Park Foundation able to leverage annual federal funding for improvement projects at our National Parks?

**Question 2:** Are there specific needs that the Foundation intends to meet using the increased funding proposed in S. 4168?

**Question 3:** Does the National Park Foundation use funds to support gateway communities located near NPS facilities, and if so, are there any examples you can share?



American Baptist General Convention of Texas  
Dr. Kerry W. Tillmon, President  
Dr. Garry Roberts, General Secretary

September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

It is more important than ever for us to work to protect Black history and to preserve Black culture and Black history through the National Park System. The site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots is a critical part of Black history and of American history.

The American Baptist General Convention of Texas, a fellowship of churches across Texas, supports the special study of the Springfield Race Riots and urge the Biden Administration to permanently protect this site by designating it as a national monument.

We believe it is important to include the physical evidence of the riots—the foundations of the houses that were burned down as well as any other artifacts from the riots. We also believe it is important that while protection of the land and physical components is paramount, an interpretive visitor center is key to advancing education and preserving the full history of the site including the resulting formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People a year after the riots. This visitor center should be accompanied by a memorial for the African American victims of the riots. In addition, the visitor center, site design and memorial should be done through leadership from the Springfield African American community and the descendants of the riot victims.

The riots that occurred in Springfield in 1908 resulted in significant property damage to Black businesses and Black homes. The Black community in Springfield was terrorized through lynching and murders, forcing them to flee the city. This is a tragic story that cannot be relegated to brief historical mentions nor be allowed to be extinguished from our remembered history. This is a story that demands to be told and that should be told through our National Park System in order to give it the attention it deserves.

We urge the Biden Administration to protect this part of Black history through preservation as a national monument.

ALABAMA STATE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CONVENTION, INCORPORATED

DR. MELVIN OWENS, PRESIDENT



September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
 Associate Regional Director  
 Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
 National Park Service  
 601 Riverfront Drive  
 Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

The site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots is an important place to preserve and protect. What remains of the riots is critical in preserving the history so that current and future generations can learn from this tragedy and hopefully heal from the devastating blow it dealt to the African American community. The Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention founded in 1868 and comprised of some 1,000+ congregations in Alabama, urge the Biden Administration to designate the site in Springfield as a national monument.

The massacre and intimidation of the Black community in Springfield is a well-known and tragic part of American history, but we must preserve this history. It is history that includes raw racism but also exemplifies Black agency. So horrific were the events in Springfield that it propelled a group of African Americans to come together to form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The results of these riots are still being felt today -- both in intergenerational trauma and the work of the NAACP. A national monument dedicated to the Springfield race riots must provide avenues for education for visitors through a formally designated visitor's center.

The dedicated site must also include a memorial for those victims who perished during the Springfield Riots because of racism and hatred. In addition, the full outline of events including the resulting founding of the NAACP should be included in the educational presentations. Finally, the local community as well as the African American descendants of the victims in the riots must be consulted in the design and educational implementation of the national monument.

Historic preservation done through land conservation is a critical avenue to providing understanding of the past for future generations. It provides a way for history to be seen, felt and heard. The emotions and tragedy contained in the Springfield Race Riot site is a history that can best be told through protection of the land itself and the physical artifacts that remain. We call on the National Park Service to complete its special study with priority, dedication, and speed. And we call on the Biden Administration to designate the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot as a national monument to lift the historical and cultural significance of this place.

Sincerely,

Melvin Owens

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
 Office: 334.864.7332

P.O. BOX 26  
 Lafayette, AL 36862



**The Freedom Church**  
Bishop Dennis V. Proctor  
Presiding Prelate  
Email: [BishopProctor@aol.com](mailto:BishopProctor@aol.com)

**North Eastern Episcopal District**  
**The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**  
New York • New Jersey • New England • Western New York  
Bahamas Islands • London-Midland Conferences

**Episcopal Office**  
137 Talcott Notch Road  
Farmington, Connecticut 06032-1630  
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**Mrs. D. Diane Proctor**  
Missionary Supervisor  
Email: [lavdecproctor@aol.com](mailto:lavdecproctor@aol.com)

September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

The full telling of Black experiences and Black history in the United States is long overdue. While parts of Black history have been lifted up through the National Park Service, there is currently no National Park or national monument that provides for the devastating story of mass violence and lynching against Black people. The special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot is a welcome process in order to tell the traumatic story of mass violence and lynching against African Americans.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, with 1.4 million faithfuls, grew out of the merciless enslavement of our African forefathers. In every place of racist humiliation and degradation we, as the AMEZ Church, have been united in our fellowship and faith. We serve as ministers of God's liberating and reconciling grace. Known as the "freedom church" because of the Church's efforts to help enslaved people escape, our faithful have included Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Frederick Douglass.

Our ministry includes emphasis in social change. And, because we believe that reconciliation and liberation cannot happen in the absence of truth, we not only support this special study but urge the Biden Administration to preserve this story through protection of the land that holds the story of the race riots.

The 1908 Springfield Race Riots began as an organized effort to subdue and intimidate Black people in Springfield. It ultimately was not successful as evidenced by the fact that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded as a result of the riots in Springfield. This story must not be buried or forgotten and must be told. And, it must be told by preserving the place where the riots occurred.

The Springfield story, while a story of trauma and pain, it is also a story of hope when the full telling of the story does not end with the riots themselves but incorporates the story of the birth of the NAACP. We urge the Biden Administration to work in earnest to preserve the story of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots by designating the site as a national monument and providing the necessary resources to tell the full story through education and outreach.

Sincerely,

Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding Prelate  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
North Eastern Episcopal District



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

---

September 7, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

I write to you, on behalf of the Church of God in Christ, which, with over 5 million congregants, is the largest Pentecostal denomination in the United States, in support of a national monument being designated at the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots. This, like so many other places of racial violence, is a place of pain. But, this events in Springfield, which propelled the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also contains a story of hope.

The Springfield Race Riots of 1908 terrorized and devastated the Black community with lynchings and violence against Black residents. Both Black businesses and Black homes were destroyed with significant economic damaged inflicted upon the community. While these events mirror other events such as the Atlanta massacre, it was the Springfield Race Riots that propelled Black leaders and others to come together and form the NAACP.

A national monument that attests to this history and tells it in its entirety is sorely needed. The Springfield Race Riots were an important event in the history of this country and the story deserves a place in the National Park System as a national monument.

In His Service,

**J. Drew Sheard**  
Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle  
Church of God in Christ, Inc.  
Eighth in Succession



**CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.**  
930 Mason St. | Memphis, TN 38126  
Office: 901.947.9300 | Fax: 901.947.3607  
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**NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS  
PRESBYTERIANCHURCH (U.S.A.)**

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Vacant

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Vacant

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**PRESBYTERY MISSION AGENCY LIAISON**  
African American Intercultural Congregational Support  
Rev. Michael Moore

September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

As the Biden Administration and the National Park Service priorities equity and inclusion, the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, it's ten regions, thirty-three chapters, 400+ congregations, 43,000 member constituents, and in its commitment to social and racial justice encourages the designation of national monuments that tell a full story of Black history.

The 1908 Springfield Race Riots is a place that deserved both recognition and protection as a national monument. Some of the foundations of the actual Black homes destroyed remain, allowing visitors to the site to immerse themselves in the tragic story of the riots. A visitor center could be erected that could provide the details, context and education needed to allow for transformation and healing. The site in Springfield stands at the ready for preservation and protection.

The Springfield Race Riots are just one example of extreme violence perpetrated on African Americans throughout our nation's history. Lifting up the story of Springfield and including details about the resulting formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People would go a long way to uncovering the truth of our history as a nation and putting us on the path of racial healing.

We thank the National Park Service for their efforts in conducting a special study of the Springfield Race Riots and we strongly encourage the Biden Administration to name this site as a national monument and provide the appropriate educational interpretation of the site that can shed light on our past, provide for a full telling of the violence against African Americans and help our nation unite and heal.

Sincerely,

*Charles C. Heyward, Sr.*

Rev. Dr. Charles C. Heyward, Sr.,  
President: National Black Presbyterian Caucus

CCH:cch



*California State Baptist Convention, Inc.*  
Pastor Welton Pleasant, II - President

September 2, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

As a nation, we are sorely in need of racial healing. This healing, however, cannot occur until we face our past even when that past is unconscionable.

The California State Baptist Convention, and its congregations across California, strives to minister to our communities and provide hope and healing. We are driven by the passion of helping congregations become effective, equipped and empowered.

We know that public lands, which can tell stories of both trauma and redemption, can help us in our ministry. With that knowledge, we fully support the special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots and hope that the study will lead to a full protection of the site as a way to tell the inspiring story of African American resilience.

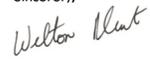
In 1908, an entire Black community was targeted and killed because of the color of their skin by a White mob estimated to number 5,000. This terrorizing and killing occurred in the "Land of Lincoln," and provided evidence then and now that racism was and is not confined to the South.

The National Advancement of Colored People was birthed from the ashes of the Springfield riots and has made it its mission to combat a significant social ill and moral failing of our time—racism. The NAACP has been a salve to our wounds of racism. That part of the story is also part of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots.

The site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots holds the unheard story of both Black tragedy and Black resilience. It is imperative that there be a national monument that lifts up this story and provides visitors to the site education on the importance of the riots in the history of America.

As part of the Black church, we have seen for ourselves the tragedy that befalls us when we ignore the stories of our past. Our community has too often been plagued by a denial that our lived experiences are not valid. When a whole community is terrorized, killed and marginalized, the experience reverberates well past the actual events. It is for this reason that the 1908 Springfield Race Riot story must be told.

Sincerely,



Pastor Welton Pleasant, II  
California State Baptist Church, Inc.  
President

**The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
College of Bishops**



**Bishop Lawrence Reddick, Senior Bishop      Bishop Sylvester Williams, Chair**  
***Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, Secretary***  
***P. O. Box 5069, Sun City Center, Florida 33571***

September 6, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director of Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

As Bishops of the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church we write in appreciation for the National Park Service's special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot and we are in support of the designation of a national monument on the site of the riots.

The CME church, with more than 1.2 million members across the United States, came into being in the tumultuous aftermath of the civil war and the throes of Reconstruction. Our vision is to be transformational in a changing world. And, the changing world, wrought with strife and division, demands the presence of truth and begs for reconciliation.

In 1908, the Springfield Race Riots rocked the nation and decimated Springfield's Black community. Very few physical remnants of the riots remain, but the trauma inflicted on local families and business and to Black communities nationwide still exists. This intergenerational trauma demands a healing, which can start with a national recognition and telling of the events and impacts.

We support the preservation of the archeological sites associated with the Springfield Race Riots to the National Park System as a way to protect not just the historic resources but preserve the story. The protection of the sites would not just provide a memorial to honor the riot victims and their descendants, but ensure that the events of the riot aren't lost or forgotten.

National monuments are unique in their ability to preserve stories on the land. A Springfield Race Riot national monument, with a visitor's center dedicated to helping visitors understand not just the events themselves but their impacts, would ensure that this part of Black history is not erased. A national monument would allow for truth—Black history—to be proclaimed.

Sincerely,

Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, Secretary of the CME College of Bishops

**The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc.**  
***Serving Christ since 1870***  
**[www.thecmechurch.org](http://www.thecmechurch.org)**



## Emmanuel Temple Church of God in Christ

"Where Everybody is somebody, & Christ is All"

September 2, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

Thank you for the National Park Services efforts in conducting a special study of the location where the Springfield Race Riots of 1908 occurred. Although the violent events happened over a century ago, the impacts of the riots is still felt today.

As the Emmanuel Temple Church of God in Christ, we mourn the loss of life associated with the Springfield Race Riots and affirm the designation of a national monument to honor the lives lost and tell the full story of the massacre that occurred in Springfield.

In designating a national monument on the site of the 1908 race riots we ask that you:

- Preserve the physical artifacts related to the riots to help the full story of the events that took place. These should include the building foundations of the Black homes that were burned.
- Include a visitors center so that visitors to the site can understand the events that occurred prior, during and after the riots. The interpretation of the site should include how the riots led to the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People just a year after the riots.
- Provide for an appropriate memorial site dedicated to those African Americans who died during the riots. This site should be designed in consultation with the descendants of the riot victims.
- Engage with the local Black community in Springfield as well as the descendants of the riot victims and partner with them to create interpretation materials, special events, etc.

The 1908 Springfield Race Riots are a dark part of our nation's history, but in telling the full story of the riots through a national monument designation we can bring some healing to a nation sorely in need of racial reconciliation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daryl G. Morrison Sr.".

Daryl G. Morrison Sr.,  
Senior Pastor  
217-525-0156 office  
217-553-8363 cell  
[darylgmorrison@yahoo.com](mailto:darylgmorrison@yahoo.com)





First Cavalry Baptist Church  
605 Dixwell Ave  
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Youth and Young Adults  
Rev. Maurice Porter

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Youth and Young Adults  
Rev. Cicely Little, Advisor

Registration  
Sister Audrey Barr, Chairperson

Ushers and Nurses  
Sister Gloria Jenville, Director

Liturgical Dance, Director  
Sis. Jolyn Walker

Association Moderators  
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Rev. Dr. C.L. Stallworth - Issachar  
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Ingraham - Judah  
Rev. Cicely Little - Levite  
Rev. Jacqueline Watford - Zebulun

## CONNECTICUT STATE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Reverend Dr. Boise Kimber, *President*

Reverend Carleton Giles  
*Vice President At-Large*

Reverend Dr. Derrick Holloway, Sr.  
*Executive Secretary*

September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

Thank you for the work you are doing regarding the special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots. This is important history to document and protect.

The Connecticut State Missionary Baptist Convention has long worked to empower our community, even when faced with adversity and injustice. We have grounded ourselves in mission and education. It is with that foundation that we offer our full support from the designation of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot site as a national monument. Educating the nation regarding the events that took place in 1908 in Springfield is paramount.

During the riots, Black residents in Springfield were targeted and terrorized. Their homes and businesses were burned and destroyed. They fled to safety and when they returned, their community was tragically altered and degraded. A year later, in direct response to the riots, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was formed, and the NAACP continues its strong advocacy today to ensure that Black communities can thrive.

The proposed site of the 1908 Springfield includes important reminders of the riots—building foundations of Black homes that were burned to the ground. These relics of the tragedy are important reminders and tokens of warning for current and future generations. We must preserve the actual physical site in order to tell the full story of the Springfield riots.

This land protection must also provide accommodation for a visitor center so as to better understand the events of the riot and the aftermath. And, because many Black people died as a result of the lynching and riot, an appropriate memorial dedicated to their lives must be erected.

The story of the Springfield Race Riots is best told through land preservation, and we encourage the Biden Administration to protect this place by naming it a national monument.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Boise Kimber*

Rev. Dr. Boise Kimber

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 21, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III  
Chairman  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

We write to urge the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to support the protection of the Springfield Race Riot site by passing S. 305, Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act out of committee to help ensure the painful lessons learned at this site will not be lost for the generations of Americans to come.

Passing this legislation and establishing this National Monument would make sure our Nation never forgets the historic events of national significance that led to the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The U.S. Department of the Interior recognized the national and historic significance in 2020 when it designated the 1908 Springfield Race Riot Site as the 30th addition to the African American Civil Rights Network. Furthermore, the National Park Service conducted a 2019 reconnaissance survey that concluded the archeological site in Springfield, Illinois associated with the 1908 Race Riot likely meets the criteria established by Congress for inclusion in the National Parks System – a finding the Illinois Senate Delegation strongly concurs with.

The establishment of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot National Monument would represent long overdue progress in making sure the National Parks System properly memorializes the historic events of the African-American civil rights movement. The NAACP was instrumental in pushing our Nation forward to form a more perfect union by helping establish justice and working to secure the blessings of liberty for Black Americans.

It is time for the United States Government to formally honor and commemorate the NAACP's founding and national legacy of service, sacrifice and leadership by establishing the 1908 Springfield Race Riot Site National Monument in Springfield, Illinois.

Thank you, Chairman Manchin, and Ranking Member Barrasso, for holding a hearing to discuss this important legislation and we look forward to partnering in the establishment of the Springfield Race Riot National Monument.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

September 8, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

I write to share the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's support for the designation of a national monument at the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot. There are valuable lessons and healing that can be gained from such a designation.

As a denomination, the ELCA is committed to the work of racial justice, socioeconomic equity, and racial reconciliation. We understand that the process of right and equitable relations within this church and society require appreciation of our history that include a deeper understanding of slavery and its legacy, of institutional and structural racism, the roots of racial violence and the resilience of the African American community.

There is no better way to learn about the events related to the Springfield Race Riots than having them told through the land where the events themselves took place. A national monument on the site of the Springfield riots is an opportunity to tell the full history of Black massacres by naming other places where mass racial violence took place and providing a significant interpretive experience through a dedicated visitor center. In addition to the education that must be part of a national monument at Springfield, there must also be space designated to provide a memorial to the African American lives lost in the riots. And, rightly, any interpretation or education done should be conducted with the advice and engagement of the Black community in Springfield and the descendants of the African American riot victims.

The race riot in Springfield was significant because the horror and tragedy that occurred there led to the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909. The events related to the Springfield Race Riots are important to tell through a national monument designation.

As a nation, we can no longer ignore the mass racial violence that has occurred in the U.S. The ELCA commends the National Park Service's special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots and strongly encourages President Biden to name this site as a national monument.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell,

I am a white, middle-class, well-educated, clergy woman. When I reflect on the history education I received, I am horrified at how much was missing. Other than an overview of slavery and the civil rights movement of the 1960's, I was taught nothing about African American history.

The Springfield Race Riots were one of many massacres of African Americans that occurred in the United States that most Americans were not taught. Violence against African Americans also occurred in other places like Colfax, Louisiana, Atlanta, Georgia and Rosewood, Florida. This is part of the history of the United States must be through a national monument designation at Springfield. In order for visitors to understand the context, ramifications and significance of the riots, a visitors' center should be included with the monument designation

For this process to be just and authentic, the local African American community and descendants of those who were victims of the riot should be part of the process. In addition, the National Park Service should partner with the local African American community in Springfield for specific events and programs related to the site.

Green Chalice, a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) urges the Biden Administration to designate a national monument in Springfield at the site of the 1908 race riots.

Thank you,



Rev. Carol L. Devine



September 8, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: Support to designate Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument

Dear Mr. Boswell,

I am writing in my role as GreenFaith's Executive Director to express strong support for the designation of a Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument.

GreenFaith is a grassroots, international, multi-faith climate justice organization. Based in the United States, we work with diverse local spiritual and religious people and communities to oppose new coal, oil, gas and deforestation projects that are destroying the planet, and related financing that facilitates ecological devastation. We support policies for green jobs, an equitable transition to a sustainable future for heavily affected communities and workers, and universal access to clean, affordable energy. We call for generous support from countries responsible for the historic majority of emissions to the countries which have contributed least to the climate and environmental crisis, and which suffer the greatest loss and damage today.

It is because of these commitments that we understand the importance of designating a Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument.

Racism remains a scourge in the United States. In the environmental realm, countless studies have shown that communities of color are disproportionately affected by toxic chemical hazards, air pollution, climate change impacts, food deserts, and other environmental threats. This is wrong.



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[greenfaith.org](http://greenfaith.org)

1216 Broadway  
Floor 2, Room 1005  
New York, NY 10001

Environmental racism is one of too many manifestations of racism in the US today. This is why designating a Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument is so important. Only when US citizens see examples of vicious past racism lifted up honestly and compassionately will they gain the ability to learn more about dismantling racism today - in the realms of the environment, criminal justice, education, housing, and so much more.

I sincerely hope that the National Park Service will designate a Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument.

Sincerely,

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

The Rev. Fletcher Harper  
Executive Director



BAPTIST GENERAL STATE CONVENTION  
OF ILLINOIS, INCORPORATED

Dr. Mark A. McConnell, President

*"Labourers Together with God" ~ 1 Corinthians 3:9*

September 2, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

We thank you for engaging in a special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot. The Black General State Convention of Illinois, organized in 1902, counts among its membership 119 churches and 17,850 parishioners. Our founding originated in Springfield, Illinois, when a group of Baptists met at the Mt. Zion Baptist church located at the corner of Carpenter and 9<sup>th</sup> Street, nearby the proposed preservation site for the Springfield national monument.

The multi-day riots that occurred in Springfield terrorized the Black community in Springfield and caused incomprehensible harm. The events that took place prior, during and after the race riots in Springfield are a devastating part of our nation's history. These events should be told in full.

Through our faith, we envision an exceptional future. We know that we can attain redemption as a nation for the racial injustices committed if we, as a nation, confess and acknowledge the true course of events and the impacts that they had. Highlighting the events of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots is part of the journey of redemption that this country sorely needs.

In the telling of the events through a national monument we urge you to not only recount the actual events of the riots and the racism that foretold the events but also tell what happened in the aftermath including the founding of the NAACP. A visitor's center dedicated to this recounting should be designed to provide the historical and current perspectives of Black communities in Springfield but also offer avenues for reconciliation. Educational programs and resources should be designed to provide the full scope of the riots and the repercussions to the Springfield Black community as well documenting Black resilience in the aftermath.

There are numerous national monuments designated across the United States and the site of the Springfield Race Riot needs to be among these national monuments.

Sincerely,  
Dr. M.A. McConnell

3609 West Harmon Highway ♦ Peoria, Illinois 61604

(309) 339-9434 ♦ BGSCPresident@yahoo.com

Rev. Dr. Gregory Maddox  
*President*

Rev. Dr. Rodney Morton  
*First Vice President*

Rev. Dr. Frank Hines  
*Second Vice President*



Rev. M. Jamal Foster  
*Third Vice President*

Rev. Dr. Beryl Whipple  
*Executive Secretary*

Rev. Quinton Herbert  
*Treasurer*

## *The United Baptist Missionary Convention*

& AUXILIARIES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, INC.  
833 North Bond Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21205  
Voice: 410.523.2950 • Fax: 410.523.0258  
Website: [www.ubmcofind.org](http://www.ubmcofind.org)

September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

I write to compliment the National Park Service on taking the laudable step in conducting a special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot sites.

The United Missionary Convention and Auxiliaries of the State of Maryland, a group of mission-driven churches working to impact the world through Christian service and action, affirms this study and we encourage the Biden Administration to name the location of the Springfield Race Riots as a national monument but using President Biden's authority under the Antiquities Act.

The Springfield Race Riots of 1908 included the lynching and killing of African Americans by a White mob. The riots targeted Black-owned businesses and the homes of Black families. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property were destroyed and about 2,000 Black people were driven out of the city of Springfield as a result of the riots. This riots, occurring in the hometown of Abraham Lincoln, became the center of national attention. The result was the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A protected site where the Springfield Race Riots occurred allows for the opportunity to attend to the horrific events that took place there against African Americans. A designated site, which should include education for visitors regarding the events, aftermath and resulting formation of the NAACP, would lift up important American history.

A national monument dedicated to the Springfield Race Riots could be a place of learning and healing for our nation as we reckon with racial injustices.

Sincerely,

**Greggory R. Maddox D. Min**

President, United Baptist Missionary Convention and Auxiliaries of The State of Maryland Inc.

*"RESTORE"*  
*Nehemiah 2:1-20*



**MID-WEST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**  
 INDIANA ~ KENTUCKY ~ MICHIGAN ~ MISSOURI ~  
 TENNESSEE ~ TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr., Presiding Prelate  
 Mrs. Gelenia A. Frencher, Missionary Supervisor  
 2935 Shady View Drive, High Point, NC 27265

(336) 312-8245 | Email: [bishopmafrencher@gmail.com](mailto:bishopmafrencher@gmail.com)  
 (336) 312-3701 | Email: [frenchergelenia@gmail.com](mailto:frenchergelenia@gmail.com)  
 (336) 886-4300 | Fax

September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
 Associate Regional Director  
 Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
 National Park Service  
 601 Riverfront Drive  
 Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

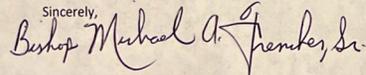
The full telling of Black experiences and Black history in the United States is long overdue. While parts of Black history have been lifted up through the National Park Service, there is currently no National Park or national monument that provides for the devastating story of Mass violence and lynching against Black people. The special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot is a welcome process in order to tell the traumatic story of mass violence and lynching against African Americans.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, with 1.4 million faithful grew out of the merciless enslavement of our African forefathers. In every place of racist humiliation and degradation we, as the AMEZ Church have been united in our fellowship and faith. We serve as ministers of God's liberating and reconciling grace. Known as the "freedom church" because of the church's efforts to help enslaved people escape, our faithful have included Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth and Fredrick Douglass.

Our ministry includes emphasis in social change. And, because we believe that Reconciliation and liberation cannot happen in the absence of truth, we not only support this special study but urge the Biden Administration to preserve this study through protection of the land that holds the story of the race riots.

The 1908 Springfield Race Riots began as an organized effort to subdue and intimidate Black people in Springfield. It ultimately was not successful as evidenced by the fact that The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded as a result of the riots in Springfield. This story must not be buried or forgotten and must be told. And it must be told by preserving the place where the riots occurred.

The Springfield story, while a story of trauma and pain, it is also a story of hope when the Full telling of the does not end with the riots themselves but incorporates the story of the birth of the NAACP. We urge the Biden Administration to work in earnest to preserve The story of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots by designating the site as a national monument and providing the necessary resources to tell the full story through education and outreach.

Sincerely,  




بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
**MASJID MUHAMMAD, INC**  
**The Nation's Mosque**  
 1519 Islamic Way, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001  
[www.thenationsmosque.org](http://www.thenationsmosque.org) [info@thenationsmosque.org](mailto:info@thenationsmosque.org)  
 (202) 483-8832 Office - 202-265-3562 Fax



September 2, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
 Associate Regional Director  
 Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
 National Park Service  
 601 Riverfront Drive  
 Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

The Springfield Race Riots of 1908 was a tragic event in our nation's history, and we are grateful that the National Park Service is conducting a special study of the site. Masjid Muhammad, known as the Nation's Mosque, supports the special study and encourages President Biden to name a National Monument for the 1908 Springfield Race Riots.

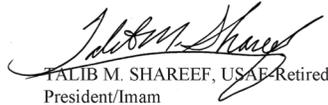
The Nation's Mosque, which dates to the mid-1930s and was the first Mosque built from the ground in America by descendants of enslaved African Americans and African-Muslims, has interest in having the story of African American experiences, including tragedies, told, and preserved. It is therefore important that the loss of life at the hands of rioters in Springfield and the events that occurred during those days and nights in 1908 should be fully documented and interpreted through a National Monument. Since the Springfield Race Riots were not the first or the last acts of mass racial violence in the United States, a National Monument dedicated to the Springfield Race Riots must also include the telling of other race riots and Black massacres in the United States.

The Springfield Race Riots are an important event in the United States and led to the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People just a year later. This organization was and still is important to protecting the dignity and rights of Black Americans.

A 1908 Springfield Race Riot National Monument would highlight the struggles and resiliency of Black Americans as an integral part of our American history and would be an important addition to the National Park System.

We greatly appreciate your attention and request your timely favorable action in respect of the nature and historic impact of this event. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [imam@thenationsmosque.org](mailto:imam@thenationsmosque.org) or 202-483-8832.

Sincerely,

  
 TALIB M. SHAREEF, USAF-Retired  
 President/Imam



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September 6, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell, Associate Regional Director  
 National Park Service - Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
 601 Riverfront Drive Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

The North Carolina Council of Churches, an ecumenical organization with 18 member denominations, offers its full support for a national monument designated at the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots. The North Carolina Council of Churches prioritizes our work on social justice and we see this national monument as a part of our country's journey towards racial healing.

Too often, Black people, communities, businesses have experienced, not just discrimination, but horrific violence. African Americans have been the victims of lynching and massacres all across the nation. In North Carolina, the nation's only successful coup occurred in Wilmington in 1898 when a white mob seized control of a racial mixed city government, destroyed Black businesses, killed African Americans, and terrorized the African American community.

The Springfield Race Riots of 1908 were tragically similar to the events in Wilmington. African Americans were killed and terrorized. Black homes and businesses were destroyed. While the events in Springfield mirrored other massacres such as the Wilmington race riots, it was the Springfield Race Riots that propelled Black leaders to join together and form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

As a way to make the events tangible, a 1908 Springfield Race Riot national monument should include any and all physical artifacts that remain, including the remaining foundations of the buildings that were destroyed during the riots. Because there was a tragic loss of life, it is important to include a memorial to the African American victims of the riot and to design the memorial in consultation with their descendants. Finally, as a way to more fully understand racial injustice, a visitors center should include:

- A full interpretation of the events prior, during and after the riots including the formation of the NAACP.
- Highlight Black agency in the wake of the Springfield Race Riots and other violent atrocities inflicted upon African Americans.
- Information about other Black massacres and race riots including the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot, 1873 Colfax Massacre, 1923 Rosewood Massacre, and Atlanta Race Riots (1906).

While some may want to ignore the tragic history of Black massacres, we, as a nation, cannot. We cannot reconcile or heal until our transgressions as a nation are admitted and told. We urge the Biden Administration to designate a national monument at the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Copeland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jennifer Copeland  
 Executive Director, N.C. Council of Churches

September 19, 2022

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

On behalf of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, an alliance of 5 major national Christian and Jewish faith institutions, I offer support for the 1908 Springfield Race Riot site being designated a National Monument and added to the National Park Service by Congress. NRPE joins with approximately 30 national and regional faith groups as well as more than 4,000 Black clergy in supporting this designation—all of whom submitted comments as part of the special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots being conducted by the National Park Service.

The importance of telling stories of Black tragedy on public lands is highlighted in a report, *Stories on the Land: Showcasing Black History on Public Lands*, to be released this month from the National Religious Partnership for the Environment. The report presents the perspectives and priorities of the Black community regarding public lands. Sites of lynching and massacres were identified by those consulted for the report as being in the top five priority categories of stories to be preserved through national monument designation and public land conservation.

When Black church leaders were asked through the report's interviews and surveys if the story of African American trauma should be told through public lands with official preservation and education, the overwhelming response was yes. The telling of these tragic stories, according to those interviewed, can inform future thoughts and actions and would be therapy to the Black community. Those consulted talked about how stories such as the Springfield Race Riots lifts up the resiliency of Black people against "unimaginable and horrific trauma." It is clear from NRPE's work on the *Stories on the Land* report, that places like the proposed 1908 Springfield Race Riot site are important to add to the National Park Service.

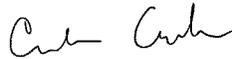
Our country's history tragically includes an untold number of lynching and mass racial violence. Yet, the National Park Service does not have any parks that document these tragedies. Management of the site of the Springfield Race Riots should focus not just the full story of the race riots in Springfield, but should highlight, through the educational interpretation program, other racially motivated massacres such as 2015 Charleston massacre at Emanuel AME church, 1906 Atlanta race riot, 1873 Colfax massacre, 1923 Rosewood massacre and the 1989

Wilmington massacre. All of these massacres were noted by those interviewed and surveyed for the NRPE report.

The Springfield story, while a story of incredible trauma and pain, is also a story of hope when the full telling of the story does not end with the riots themselves but incorporates the story of the birth of the NAACP. By telling the full narrative of the Springfield Race Riots and other massacres, we open up avenues for healing and reconciliation. For this reason, it is important to include a memorial to the victims of the race riots and their families.

The site of the 1908 race riots in Springfield should be designated as a national monument. The National Religious Partnership for the Environment, with its connections to 156,000 congregations and parishes around the country including Black churches, looks forward to partnering with the National Park Service to ensure that the traumatic story of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots is included within our National Parks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cass Carmichael", written in a cursive style.

Cassandra Carmichael  
Executive Director



*Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention, Inc.*  
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 410 Wykes Street, Aliquippa, PA 15001  
Email: [pbscvt@gmail.com](mailto:pbscvt@gmail.com)  
Website: [pbsc.org](http://pbsc.org)

*Reverend Alec K. Piper, President*  
*Reverend Dr. Melvin Baber, Vice President-at-Large*

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September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

This letter is to offer support to the special study on the 1908 Springfield Race Riots being conducted by the National Park Service.

Our organization, the Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention, brings together Missionary Baptist Churches across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We have a particular interest in this special study because of its historical value to our community. The race riots that occurred in Springfield are emblematic of such violence including the Wilmington coup and Black Wall Street and followed a pattern of hatred and violence against Black people. In the aftermath of the Springfield Race Riots, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was formed, showcasing the resiliency and determination of African Americans.

What occurred in Springfield in 1908, which included the violent destruction of Black homes and businesses as well as the killing of innocent Black people, is seldom seen in history books. The Biden Administration has the opportunity to right this wrong but named the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot as a national monument. This designation should include:

- Protection of the remaining artifacts that exist at the location of the riots
- Installation of a visitor's center that can provide education and resources for visitors
- Intentional outreach and engagement with the local Black community regarding the site
- Highlighting of the formation of the NAACP in the education and narrative surrounding the site

The Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention has called for a Season of Reclamation as outlined in Isaiah 58: 8-12. We seek to "raise up the foundations of many generations" and be a repairer and restorer. The naming of Springfield Race Riot site as a protected place in the National Park Service could similarly be a repairer as the designation helps restore the Black history that is in danger of being lost. The Springfield Race Riots were an important historical event in this country and had a profound effect on the African American community. It is critical that this history be preserved and told through a national monument designation.

Sincerely,

Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention, Inc.

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Vision: Traditional, Progressive, and Biblical

**Progressive Missionary and Educational  
Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc.**

Office of the President

**Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Banks, Sr., President**

P. O. Box 75194, Tampa, FL 33675

Phone: (813) 247-2345 or (813) 989-1056 • Fax (813) 247-4143 • E-mail: revbanks1@aol.com



September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

Thank you for your work regarding the special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot site. With organized opposition to telling Black history, this site could be an important counter to that effort. The need to have our history—America's full history—told in the land is critical.

The Springfield Race Riots of 1908 were one of many massacres of African Americans in our country. The resulting damage to Black businesses and homes had a chilling effect on that community. While the events that took place in Springfield and other places like Colfax, Atlanta and Rosewood may not be well known, the tenor and terror of this history is stamped indelibly into the fabric of the African American community. And, we cannot heal as a community or a nation until we bring the Springfield story and other stories of mass racial violence to the forefront.

On behalf of the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, I urge the Biden Administration to designate a national monument at the Springfield Race Riot site and to include a robust educational interpretation center in order to provide education, resources and context to those that visit the site. We also encourage the incorporation of a place of healing for the African American families of the victims of the riots as well as strong community engagement in the formation and administration of the national monument. Finally, because the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was birthed from the ashes of the Springfield Race Riots, we encourage that the story of the formation of the NAACP be included in the national monument.

To proclaim a national monument on the site of the Springfield Race Riots, we are not "cancelling culture." Instead, but not trying to erase history, we are moving towards racial healing and reconciliation for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Banks, Sr.  
President, Progressive Missionary &  
Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc.



September 20, 2022

Dear Senator:

We hope you and your staff had a nice recess, and congratulations on passing the Inflation Reduction Act last month.

On behalf of the Sierra Club's 3.4 million members and supporters, we are writing to highlight four bills that we strongly support, and also hope will pass the Senate: Springfield Race Riot National Monument; Redesignating the Robert E. Lee Memorial; Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park; César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park. Those bills will have a hearing in the Subcommittee on National Parks this week.

**Springfield Race Riot National Monument (S. 305):** The proposed Springfield Race Riot National Monument would encompass the archeological site near Madison Street and the 10th Street Rail Corridor. After discovering the site and objects such as the foundations of the five houses burned down during the riot, in 2014, the Federal Railroad Administration and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office determined that the area is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Sierra Club strongly believes that this area is worthy of monument status. With less than a quarter of our country's national parks devoted to recognizing the histories of diverse peoples, movements, and cultures, designating this site will help guarantee that our public lands reflect the diversity of the country. A Springfield Race Riot National Monument would highlight an often-forgotten event in American history.

Finally, the Springfield Race Riot helped spur the formation of the NAACP, on February 12, so a monument designation is an appropriate way to mark an infamous event in American history and honor the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

**Redesignating the Robert E. Lee Memorial (S.J. Res.57):** The Sierra Club enthusiastically supports renaming memorials on federal lands, army bases and infrastructure currently named for people who fought for the Confederacy. The glorification of white supremacists is demeaning and insulting to our fellow citizens who continue to suffer at the hands of brutality, racism, and discrimination. People like Robert E. Lee, who fought to uphold slavery and for the Confederacy, should not be honored in Arlington Cemetery and we strongly support renaming his memorial.

**Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park (S. 1211):** This bill would establish a national historic park to protect and preserve the earliest and largest pre-Columbian archaeological site north of Mexico in what is modern day North America. Cahokia, which at its peak was larger than modern day London, is the pre-eminent example of a cultural and economic center of the prehistoric Indigenous Mississippian cultural tradition. No other mounds within the National Park Service represent the Mississippian Culture as holistically and uniquely as its epicenter in Cahokia Mounds. These mounds and their ancient non-contiguous satellite settlements are today in need of additional protection to secure the most significant remnants of the largest Native American civilization of the continent north of Mexico from active and passive threats.

**César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park (S. 4371):** The Sierra Club has long supported efforts to honor the legacy of Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement. This bill would complement the National Monument designated by the Obama Administration by also honoring the Farmworkers Movement he helped lead by establishing the Farmworker Peregrinación National Historic Trail in California.

Through the Farmworker Movement, Chavez linked people and the environment, teaching us that we all have a right to live in a healthy and safe environment - no matter who we are or where we were born. The work of Chavez and members of the environmental movement resulted in the passage of landmark laws that protect our air, water, land, and, most importantly, people. The Senate can add to that legacy by passing these four bills, bills that honor movements and highlight overlooked parts of our past, and correct the mistake of memorializing Robert E. Lee, and uplift the history of Indigenous peoples.

Good luck with the hearing, and please let us know if you need more information or have questions about these four bills.

Sincerely,

Athan Manuel  
Director, Lands Protection Program

John Dunmore  
Federal Policy, Lands Protection Program



Sept. 8, 2022

Dear Associate Director Boswell:

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team and Office of Anti-Racism and Racial Equity would like to express our wholehearted support for designating the area of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot as a National Monument.

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas is a Catholic religious congregation committed to eliminating personal and institutional racism and dismantling oppressive structures, policies and processes.

We believe that educating Americans about the racial violence that runs through our country's history is an important step toward acknowledging past and current harms and charting a new path forward.

It is dismaying to learn that the National Park Service has yet to incorporate the stories of race riots and lynchings into its system of parks and monuments. We urge the Biden Administration to rectify this with a site in Springfield, IL.

The race riot of 1908, when a white mob attacked and lynched Black city residents and burned their homes, is one of the worst instances of mass racial violence in U.S. history. The outrage that followed sparked creation of the NAACP the following year, and the tireless activism of Black leaders such as Ida Wells-Barnett. Ms. Wells-Barnett's 1909 speech, "Lynching Our National Crime," addressed the horrific events in Springfield.

We understand that the city of Springfield has offered to donate property for this monument. We urge the Biden Administration to take the city up on this offer and designate the area of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot as a National Monument, to tell the stories of both racial violence and courageous resistance.

Sincerely,

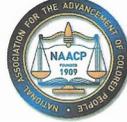
Ada Renée Williams  
Director, Institute Office of Anti-Racism and Racial Equity

Margaret Conley  
Director, Institute Justice Team

## SPRINGFIELD BRANCH NAACP

801 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield, IL 62703 P.O. Box 3002, Springfield, IL 627084  
217/789-2721

naacp1908@aol.com www.springfieldnaacp.org



September 21, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin III  
Chairman  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

I am honored to serve as the President of the Springfield Branch NAACP. I urge the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to support the protection of the Springfield site by passing S. 305, the Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act out of committee as an acknowledgment of our nation's terrible legacy of racial violence.

Members of the Springfield Branch NAACP have waited a long time to see this vision become a reality. We urge Congress to designate the Springfield, Illinois 1908 Race Riot site a national monument.

This Race Riot led to the start of the NAACP as we know it today, and everyone else needs to know this story. The events that took place in Springfield in 1908 is a story that needs to be told NOW! The National Park Service could take the lead in telling that story with the designation of this site as a National Monument.

Thank you Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso, for holding a hearing to discuss this important legislation, and we look forward to supporting national efforts when the monument is established.

We believe it is important to provide a memorial to honor the riot victims and their descendants.

We would like to see the National Park Service develop a visitor experience and educational opportunities in partnership with the Springfield NAACP and other local stakeholders to ensure we never forget the bigotry and violent injustice that occurred.

Sincerely,

Teresa Haley



*That all become whole*

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September 9, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

The Florida Council of Churches offers its support for the preservation of the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot through a national monument designation. This site, like other African American massacre sites in the United States, holds the story of a pattern of abuse inflicted upon African Americans.

It's vitally important for our shared future to honor the experiences of all Americans. The Springfield Race Riot is one of the essential stories of the pain this nation suffered in its march towards a more perfect union. Not to tell this history will restrict us in moving towards that union in which all find flourishing.

In Florida, a racial motivated massacre of Black people took place in 1923 in the rural community of Rosewood. In both Springfield and Rosewood Black business and homes were destroyed, African Americans were killed, and the Black community was forever changed. The story of racial hate and massacre must be told through a national monument so as to bring it to the forefront of American consciousness so that we ensure that it never happens again.

The severe racism documented through the events at Springfield offer a profound lesson for the entire country. Designating the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots would be a step towards racial reconciliation that our country desperately needs.

Respectfully,

---

The Rev. Dr. Russell L. Meyer  
Executive Director  
[rmeyer@floridachurches.org](mailto:rmeyer@floridachurches.org)  
Telephone: 813.435.5335

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*Witnessing with a million Floridians in historic Christian traditions.*

Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.

Dr. Bruce D. Datcher, President
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- List of officers and staff including: Dr. Bruce D. Datcher, International President; Reverend A. W. Collier, Vice President at Large; Reverend A. C. Chapman, Special Assistant to the President; Sister Jewelene Wyatt, President's Administrative Assistant; Reverend R. B. Rogers, 1st Vice President; Reverend Bernard Tate, 2nd Vice President; Reverend Lamar George, 3rd Vice President; Reverend Jerry Lee, 4th Vice President; Reverend Jamarris Humphrey, 5th Vice President; Varon, States of Secretary; Reverend James Ross, Treasurer; Sister K. J. Johnson-Ross, Financial Secretary/Adviser of Finance; Sister Linda Price, Assistant Financial Secretary; Reverend Freddie Wilson, Missions Secretary; Reverend James Wright, Ministers Conference; Reverend Samual Bromberg, Young Ministers' Division; Brother Andrew White, Laymen Movement; Sister Linda Turner, Women's Auxiliary; Sister Myra Adams, Ministers' Wives & Widows; Sister Betty Williams, Deacons; Sister Angela Moble, Youth Department; Sister Jewelene Wyatt, Elders & Nurses Auxiliary; Reverend R. B. Ross, State Institute of Ministers; Sister Patricia Cohen, Musicians; Mission Work; Reverend Mark Washington, Foreign Missions; Reverend Tamar Gentry, Home Missions; OPEN; Prayers of the Heart; State Disaster Relief; Congress of Christian Education; Reverend Jerry Lee, President; Reverend A. W. Collier, Director of the Christian Education; Reverend Charles Wills, Deacons; Reverend Michael Brown, Assistant Deacons; President's Advisory Board; Sister Gladys Hargett; Deacon Hugh Collins; Sister Betty T. Watson.

September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell
Associate Regional Director
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure
National Park Service
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

I commend the National Park Service in its efforts to conduct a special study of the sites associated with the 1908 Springfield Race Riots.

The riots in Springfield, which occurred in the "Land of Lincoln," devastated and terrorized the city's Black community and shocked the nation. Thousands of Black residents were forced out of the city and numerous Black business and Black homes were destroyed. The riots made national news and propelled leaders across the country, including W.E.B. Du Bois, to form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which today still leads the charge in protecting the freedom of Black Americans.

Yet, little is said of the Springfield race riots in modern history books. Proclaiming the Springfield Race Riot site as a national monument would allow the history of the riots and the resulting formation of the NAACP to remain in our collective memory, informing and enlightening us as a nation.

The Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, which works to educate and equip as well as transform our communities, maintains that the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots is an important place to preserve and protect. The physical remains of the riots, including the foundations of five houses that were burned down, are crucial in preserving the history—a history that some would like to erase and forget.

An important part of a national monument designation would be the inclusion of a visitor's center, which could provide much needed education on the events that led up to and followed the riots. In addition, the planning and design process that occurs after official designation should include the local community as well as descendants of the victims of the riots.

The story of Springfield showcases Black agency in the face of crushing racism. Neglecting this important piece of America history would be irresponsible. It offers us lessons today and warnings for tomorrow.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Bruce D. Datcher]

Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, President



Rev. Keith T. Evans,  
929 State Street • Racine, Wisconsin 53404

September 3, 2022

Mr. Tokey Boswell  
Associate Regional Director  
Facilities, Planning, and Infrastructure  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Boswell:

The Wisconsin General Baptist State Convention offers our full support of the special study of the 1908 Springfield Race Riots being done by the National Park Service. Because of the significance of the events in Springfield, we would like to see the site of Springfield riots designated as a national monument and contain both a visitor center and a memorial place for the African American victims of the riots.

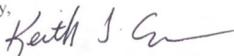
We are motivated in this recommendation by a desire to educate our nation about the events and transgressions that occurred because of racism. These historical injustices are still felt today and cannot be rectified without a full reckoning. That reckoning begins with an honest account, which can best be recounted through the land itself.

The physical evidence of the riots—burned foundations of Black homes—must be protected while it remains. By visiting the site of the riots, visitors can educate themselves more fully about the events and hopefully gain a greater understanding of Black history. The site should tell the story of the racism that preceded the riots, the lynching, murders and destruction of the riots themselves and the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that occurred in response to the riots. In addition, given the sheer number of lynching and massacres that the African American community has suffered, a national monument at Springfield should recognize that the race riots, massacre and lynching there were among others that happened across the country.

It is important to protect the Springfield Race Riot site as a national monument to prioritize Black history and racial healing. The educational programming that happens at the national monument could be designed to promote not just an understanding of the events but engage visitors and the community in racial healing.

When we allow for a full telling of our nation's history, including painful parts of Black history, we embolden ourselves to be better neighbors, more informed citizens, and a more united community.

Sincerely,

  
Keith T. Evans,  
Convention President

FROM THE DESK OF  
**A Cure for Kyler**

---

January 19, 2022

National Service Animals Monument  
2101 Pear Street #567  
Pinole, CA  
94564-9998

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 10, 2020 my 15 year old son, Kyler Lewis, was riding in the car with me on when he turned to me very confused. He told me he didn't know where he was or how he got in the car and all of a sudden his head hurt very, very badly and his vision was blurry. Suddenly, he couldn't remember anything for more than a few seconds.

A brain CT scan revealed my son was bleeding in his brain and required brain surgery. He was diagnosed with an Acute Spontaneous Intracranial Hemorrhage. Our son was born with an Arteriovenous Malformation (Brain AVM) that we did not know it existed until it ruptured. An MRI revealed Kyler's AVM is inoperable. It is a Spetzler-Martin grade 4/5 in the Parietal/Occipital lobe of his brain (about the size of a hen's egg). Brain AVM's are the #1 cause of Pediatric stroke in children excluding trauma, yet doctors do not ever scan for this medical condition. Kyler is now working on recovering from this stroke and the effects of the radiation treatments he started. Epilepsy is just one of his many hurdles.

A year after his stroke, we were able to obtain a service dog named Sam for my son. Sammy has been a true life saver for my kid, now 17. Not only does Sam alert Kyler before he has a seizure, he also helps him with the PTSD and anxiety he developed from having this medical condition. Kyler and Sam are the very best of friends and Sam helps keep Kyler safe. Sam is always with Kyler—by his side 24/7 day and night. He accompanies Kyler to school, to his hospital stays and to his chemotherapy treatments. I can not imagine what my son's mental state or life would be like if he did not have his Sammy with him. Sammy's service is priceless and should be recognized as should his unique and strong bond with my son, Kyler.

Kyler, Sammy and I are in strong support of the creation of a National Service Animal Monument. The human-animal bond needs to be recognized and applauded. The general population needs to recognize and understand service animals are heroes that continue to go above and beyond to help their person in need every single day. Please provide the land in Washington DC so that this statue can be built.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca Raylene Lewis

(Kyler's Mother)

---

2615 CARTINGTON COURT COLLEGE STATION (979-218-2235)  
TEXAS, 77845 CUREFOR KYLER@GMAIL.COM

**Written Testimony for the  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Meeting on September 21, 2022  
from  
Susan Bahary, Artist for the National Services Animals Memorial**

My name is Susan Bahary, the selected artist for the proposed National Service Animals Memorial. Through my work and this testimony, I want to give a voice to the animals and their handlers who have served and sacrificed for our country since its founding.

I was forever changed with my creation of our country's first official war dog monument "Always Faithful", unveiled at the Pentagon in 1994 and dedicated at the War Dog Cemetery on the US Naval Base on Guam. At that dedication, I saw first-hand how Marines in their twilight years were determined to make the long trip to the Island they served on 50 years prior with their faithful war dogs, to honor their service and sacrifice and say their final goodbyes with a wreath and a salute. Their dogs saved their lives and they were forever grateful. It's been my honor to create monuments to service animals and their handlers around the world ever since.

My vision for this memorial is to recognize the human-animal bond as seen through our remarkable service animals and handlers, who provide for our safety, security and independence. Without them, wars would not have been won or been as successful, communities would not be as safe, missing children or those buried in rubble would not have been saved and many of our disabled civilians and veterans would not have their independence, improved quality of life or even their will to live.

My dream is to do justice for them to have a National Service Animals Memorial **for the first time** in the nation's capital. It is long overdue. I can only imagine the depth of gratitude, interest and emotion that will be generated by the National Service Animals Memorial. I envision:

- Parents bringing their children as they learn in wonderment of our rich, history, through the stories of our service animal teams.
- That it engenders pride for our country and that people are inspired by the beauty of the Memorial and its fine art.
- That Service animal handlers will feel honored and proud to be recognized on a national level for their service and sacrifice
- That People with disabilities will feel included and understood.
- That it will raise compassion for each other and for our animals.
- That Handlers who have lost their animals will find it to be a place of healing.
- That the public will find our Educational App a useful resource
- That Visitors from other countries will be inspired and realize we are a compassionate country.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "A nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

MARSHA BLACKBURN  
 TENNESSEE  
<http://www.blackburn.senate.gov/>

357 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
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 FAX: (202) 228-0566

## United States Senate

COMMITTEES:  
 ARMED SERVICES  
 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 JUDICIARY  
 VETERANS' AFFAIRS

### Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

#### Subcommittee on National Parks

Testimony of Senator Marsha Blackburn

I sincerely appreciate Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines for the time and consideration of S.3447, the National Service Animals Memorial Act.

This legislation authorizes the creation of a memorial to honor and recognize service animals and their handlers' contributions to the American public's security, well-being, and independence. Additionally, this memorial will come at no cost to taxpayers.

While formalized service animal work dates to 1929 with the first guide dog training at the Eustice School (later known as the Seeing Eye School in Morristown, New Jersey), animals such as law enforcement and military dogs, sea lions, and dolphins have served alongside human handlers for much longer. In past conflicts, horses, elephants, and camels hauled men and supplies; pigeons carried messages; and dogs tracked enemies and protected troops. These efforts, in turn, helped determine the outcomes of numerous battles. Taking on this tradition, U.S. forces employed thousands of animals during World War II and continue the practice to this day.

A vast body of anecdotal evidence and scientific studies reflects that animal companionship can help support positive physical and mental health outcomes. Today, service animals benefit people with various disabilities, from mobility, hearing, and visual impairments to autism and psychiatric disabilities such as post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, I am confident that service animals' historic and modern roles are of timeless significance and value to our country.

I firmly believe the American public will cherish and value this memorial, and I respectfully urge you to pass this legislation out of the subcommittee. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,




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Marsha Blackburn  
 United States Senator



September 12, 2022

**Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**  
**Subcommittee on National Parks**  
 Testimony of Senator Richard Blumenthal

Thank you, Chairman King, for your time and consideration of S.3447, the National Service Animals Memorial Act.

This legislation will honor and recognize the contributions service animals and their handlers have made to the American public's wellbeing, safety, and freedom.

Service animals have provided well-documented benefits to human health, safety, and security since our country's founding. While formalized service animal work dates to 1929 with the first guide dog training at the Eustice School, animals have served alongside humans for much longer. They were used during the Revolutionary War, carrying soldiers and transporting the wounded and critical supplies; delivering critical communications throughout World War I and World War II, and clearing areas of improvised explosive devices during our operations in Afghanistan – ultimately saving thousands of lives.

The support service animals provide is extraordinarily unique and diverse, particularly to our veterans and servicemembers. Service animals are trained to provide medical assistance, aid law enforcement, and support military efforts. They also play an increasingly important role in the lives of veterans as they recover from the wounds of war. These animals assist with everyday functions of our disabled veterans, including those suffering from post-traumatic stress.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, and the Senate Committee on Judiciary, I am confident that the role service animals play in law enforcement, military operations, medical independence, and life after service is of significant value to our country and of lasting importance. Their monumental sacrifice has yet to be memorialized in our nation's capital, and I believe it is past time to pay homage to the invaluable roles service animals and their handlers have played in America's history.

This memorial will serve as a place of introspection and education about service animals and their handlers' contributions our country.

I strongly believe this legislation and memorial will have enduring value to the American public and respectfully urge you to pass this legislation out of subcommittee. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
 Richard Blumenthal  
 United States Senate



Dear National Service Animals Monument,

We are pleased to offer you this letter of support from Canine Companions for Independence for the creation of the National Service Animals Monument, as well as the symbol of the Purple Poppy representing all service animals and their handlers in the US.

We feel these initiatives are important to recognize and support the vital work our service animals do for our citizens and our country. Canine Companions for Independence is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs at no cost to the recipient. We are a leader in our field and have a program to help US war veterans across the country. We have seen firsthand the critical impact our service dogs have on our clients – creating opportunity and independence in their lives every day.

We look forward to partnering with you in the future with any special events and in any other ways we can help to foster the importance of service animals both nationally and internationally.

Sincerely,

  
Paige Mazzoni  
Chief Executive Officer



[cci.org](http://cci.org)  
800 572-2275

Follow us  

National Headquarters & Northwest Training Center  
2965 Dutton Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407-5711  
707 577-1700



March 11, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

The Military Women's Memorial is pleased to offer this letter of support for the creation of the National Service Animals Monument in the nation's capital, and to designate February 24<sup>th</sup>, as celebrated internationally, for "National Service Animals Day."

We feel these initiatives are an important part of recognizing and supporting the vital work our service animals do both on and off the battlefield every day. As a 37-year veteran of the U.S. Army and a combat veteran, I have personally witnessed the enormous contribution military working dogs bring to the day-to-day operation of our military and their critical role on the battlefield. And, it's not difficult to see daily the positive impact service animals have on our wounded warriors. Its time these national heroes, and the thousands of other service animals that every day provide life-saving, invaluable support and assistance to individuals, get the long overdue recognition they so richly deserve. Their stories of service are an important part of our history and national narrative. A National Service Animals Monument and day of awareness are fitting tributes and valuable assets for educating every generation.

The Military Women's Memorial is America's only major national memorial and education center to honor and tell the stories of women, past and present, who serve in the defense of our nation. Our newest acquisition, *The Pledge* by internationally acclaimed artist Susan Bahary, plays an important role in telling that story. Strategically displayed in the Memorial gallery, it features both a female working dog handler in combat gear and her military working dog – one of the most dangerous jobs in the military. We are not only proud to feature this remarkable piece but grateful for the dialogue it generates and incentive it presents to learn more.

We look forward to the potential of partnering with the National Service Animals Monument to promote the story of military working dogs and other service animals to our servicemembers and veterans and the important role service animals play at large, both nationally and internationally.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me should you care for further information."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phyllis Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P".

Phyllis Wilson, R.N.  
CW5, U.S. Army (Ret.)  
President  
Military Women's Memorial Foundation  
[pwilson@womensmemorial.org](mailto:pwilson@womensmemorial.org)

**Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**  
**S.3447 – National Service Animals Memorial Act**  
**September 21, 2022 at 10 am**  
**Testimony from Theresa M. Brandon, MBA**  
**President of the National Service Animals Monument Corporation**

Thank you, Chairman King and other members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for reviewing our bill. On behalf of all service animals and their handlers who have served our great nation, I am requesting your support for bill S.3447 so that we may build a memorial to recognize and educate our fellow citizens of these national treasures who serve us through **safety, security and independence**.

Since the founding of our country, service animals have provided vital assistance to veterans, persons with disabilities, search and rescue, military, and law enforcement. Service dogs in particular have provided assistance to those who are blind or deaf, have mobility issues, or suffer from mental or emotional ailments. These unsung heroes have served society, saved lives, and fought and died for our country. They are deserving of the highest honor and respect.

Our corporation is so intent on celebrating these service animals that we believe a basic tenet is to inform and educate the public on the many stories of heroism throughout our history, highlighting the **human-animal bond**. For the handlers who have worked with service animals in the field of law enforcement and the military, they understand the concept of the human-animal bond at bone depth. ...the difference between experiences in the laboratory and the field can be measured by sheer survival.

To accomplish this goal, at the center of our organization is a virtual Education Program on our website providing resources for teachers, students and families. Included in the Memorial there will be a phone app to share the many stories of heroism based on the statue where they are standing while reviewing the memorial. <https://nationalserviceanimalsmonument.org/education/>

**Presented across a timeline that demonstrates their long historical involvement with mankind, the following will provide a very brief overview of the broad and specialized service that animals have performed with their handlers and the critical impact made on our nation.**

**SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The United States has a long history of wars and conflicts, especially during the past couple of centuries, where service animals played a huge part. From the Civil War, to the two World Wars, the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts, and the last war in Afghanistan, we have seen several species of animals who served our troops in a number of ways

### Revolutionary War

“At the time of the Revolutionary War, there were three types of mounted commands. These included the heavy cavalry (cuirassiers), used primarily for shock effect; light cavalry (hussars), used primarily for reconnaissance, screening and liaison missions; and the dragoons, trained to fight on horseback and on foot. The traditional cavalryman in the U.S. Army has been the light dragoon.

### Civil War and WWI

In the early years of American history, before mechanized vehicles became established in WWII, horses and mules were used for the movement of troops and equipment. In the case of the Cavalry, horses were a critical part of the fighting. The loss of equine life and other heroism in combat zones has been well-documented.

- Between 1,000,000 and 3,000,000 horses and mules were killed during the Civil War.
- Approximately 1,325,000 American horses and mules were used in WWI.

Considering all the animals that served in WWI, “Over 16 million animals served...[and] were used for transport and communication. In 1914, both sides had large cavalry forces. Horse and camel-mounted troops were used in the desert campaigns throughout the war, but on the Western Front, new weapons like the machine gun made cavalry charges increasingly difficult.”<sup>1</sup>

### 1939-45: World War II

During WWII and afterwards, we began seeing a greater use of working dogs. The dogs were trained for guard and patrol duty and more than 11,000 dogs ended up serving with the Army and Marine Corps.

### 1950-53: Korean War

The United States Marine Corps has endured few firefights as savage as the Battle for Outpost Vegas. There was so much smoke from the barrage of ordnance used, that little could be seen except one specific hero’s silhouette. A horse known as **SGT Reckless**, traveled alone on 51 round trips through rice paddies and scaling a 45-degree incline to deliver nearly 9,000 pounds of ammunition from the supply point to the gun teams. The platoon knew their heroic compatriot was no ordinary Marine—and it wasn’t just because she was a horse.

### 1955-75: Vietnam War

Dogs in Vietnam were used for many different purposes. They used their keen senses to find dangers like ambushes, booby traps, and tripwires. They were also used to set up ambushes, find downed pilots

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/15-animals-that-went-to-war>

and runaway ambushers, caches of weapons, food, ammunition, and guard the perimeter of military bases.<sup>2</sup>

#### 1959 – today: Dolphins and Sea Lions trained by US Navy

- **Mission #1: Mine Detection (Dolphins Only)**
- **Mission #2: Intruder Defense (Dolphins and Sea Lions)**
- **Mission #3: Object Recovery (Sea Lions Only)**

#### 2001-21: Afghanistan War

During later conflicts, **canines** became more entrenched with a single handler with the role of protecting military units in hostile territory. **MWD Lucca** served with the Marines in Afghanistan and Iraq. Working side-by-side with her handlers, she cleared the path through improvised explosive devices (IEDs) for 400 units of Marines without a single loss of life.

#### 2001 - Search and Rescue (SAR) dogs used at 9/11 ground zero

When the World Trade Center collapsed on September 11, 2001, nearly 10,000 emergency rescue workers joined in the efforts to help. More than 300 of those heroes were dogs. We remember and honor the **Hero Dogs of 9/11** along with the countless people who had their lives changed by man's best friend.

#### **INDEPENDENCE**

In terms of supporting independence for their human charges, the value of these service animals through assistance and support is immeasurable. Individuals who have lost the enjoyment of a major life activity, such as seeing or hearing or mobility, can oftentimes find relief through the use of an assistance animal. Parents of children with seizures can find reprieve from the 24/7 overwatch by a dog trained to sense and react to an oncoming seizure whether it is to alert adults close by to help, as well protect the child from serious injury by positioning their bodies to cushion the throes of a seizure, not to mention the calming effect on the child experiencing a seizure.

#### 1928 - "Buddy" the first seeing eye dog

From the history page of The Seeing Eye: "In 1927, a young man named Morris Frank read an article about dogs being trained as guides for blinded veterans of World War I. Frustrated by his own lack of mobility as a blind person, he was inspired to write its author for help. Dorothy Harrison Eustis was an American training German shepherd police dogs in Switzerland, and when she received Morris Frank's letter, she agreed to help him. This was the beginning of the first seeing eye guide dogs in America.

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<sup>2</sup> Lemish, Micahel G. Forever Forward: K-9 Operations in Vietnam. China: Schiffer Publishing, 2009.

**1969 - Therapeutic horse riding recognized in North America**

Equine-assisted psychotherapy (EAP) incorporates horses into the therapeutic process. EAP is often not the sole form of treatment, but rather a complementary therapeutic service to be used in partnership with more traditional treatment. It brings people outdoors and offers an opportunity to use all senses while learning and processing through emotional challenges.

**In conclusion...**

Considering American history, the contributions by service animals and their handlers have been such that we owe a great debt of gratitude. The National Service Animals Monument Corporation believes it is time for the United States to honor these heroes – the service animals and their handlers – with a tribute in our nation’s capital, celebrating the **human-animal bond**.

The value of service animals in support of **safety, security and independence**, and have shown them to be national treasures. We have received 17 letters of support from organizations and individuals in support of the Memorial. Included in the cache of testimony are 8 letters for your information.

On behalf of the NSAM Corporation, I appeal to your collective sense of just recognition to support our bill, the **National Service Animals Memorial Act**, to create a place in Washington, DC or its environs to celebrate, honor and reflect on their service and sacrifice to our nation and all Americans.

Semper fi,  
Theresa M. Brandon, MBA  
President, National Service Animals Monument, Inc.



March 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 19, 1995, many lives were changed forever when a terrorist bomb ripped open the side of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killing 168 and injuring many more. First responders from across the country answered the call to aid in rescue and recovery efforts, including my disaster search dog, Murphy, and me.

Because of that life-altering deployment, I made a vow to myself and the nation to create the Search Dog Foundation as the first nonprofit to produce highly trained disaster search dogs for our country. I also set a personal goal to train and certify 168 canine disaster search teams—one for each of the lives lost on that fateful day. Accomplishing this honors those who died and the many rescuers who worked tirelessly to find survivors in the aftermath.

With team effort, passion, and persistence, this goal was realized in 2020. And much like the day that sparked the inspiration to form the Search Dog Foundation so many years ago, it is a moment I will remember. The number 168 remains engraved in my heart forever.

In 2021 we celebrated our 25th year of service. For the last quarter-century, the Search Dog Foundation has been dedicated to strengthening America's disaster response network by recruiting and training canine disaster search teams (two and four-legged heroes) to find survivors in the aftermath of disasters. Since 1996, SDF has provided the nation with 190 certified search teams that have deployed to 217 disasters and missing person searches - and touched the lives of canines, handlers and those in need across the nation.

Search dogs and service animals are essential to the lives of many Americans on a daily basis. In the work we do at SDF, the canines need to be prepared every day to assist and search when need dictates - as they did at Oklahoma City, on September 11th and in many other disasters when called upon to serve. With this in mind, I am writing in support of the creation of the National Service Animals Monument. It is well deserved and timely - and with the involvement of Susan Bahary it will be creatively and impressively designed and implemented in ways that will truly honor the service of the animals depicted while attracting a wide audience of admirers. For our 25th Anniversary we commissioned Susan to create a life-size sculpture for our campus of a handler with canine in action. Not only were we pleased with the opportunity to work with Susan - the sculpture has become a much admired and focal point on campus for our visitors.

To further honor and celebrate service animals, while also raising awareness and support for the invaluable work and service they provide, I strongly support designating February 24th as National Service Animals Day to coincide with the international celebration via the Purple Poppy.

I am grateful for your consideration and am available to answer questions or provide additional information.

With appreciation,

*Wilma Melville*

Wilma Melville, SDF Founder

March 11, 2022

President  
National Service Animals Monument  
2101 Pear Street #567  
Pinole, CA 94564  
Attn: Ms. Theresa M. Brandon, MBA

Dear Theresa,

The purpose of this letter is to offer my utmost support and testimonial for the National Service Animals Monument. During 30 years of active-duty service in the United States Navy, it was my distinct honor and privilege to serve with many brave animals who ensured success in our complex and often dangerous missions.

From 1996 through 1997, I was the Officer in Charge of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit Three, Detachments 81 and 83 in Coronado, California. These teams employed Atlantic and Pacific bottlenose dolphins who located tethered and bottom mines, including those buried in the ocean floor, which posed lethal hazards to shipping and human life. I was humbled to witness the dolphins' unprecedented capabilities, as well as their remarkable stamina and loyalty. Their incredible service saved the lives of scores of Navy EOD technicians during high-risk diving operations. Further, I observed the service of beluga whales and sea lions with distinction, who located and recovered hundreds of training devices safely at a great cost savings to the Navy.

Between 2009 and 2010, I served as the Deputy Commander of Combined Joint Task Force Paladin in Afghanistan, dedicated to defeating Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and dismantling the terrorist networks that employed them. During this dynamic war, military working dogs from several coalition nations contributed to the fight with uncommon grit and valor. With unmatched skills ranging from security to explosives detection, these service animals demonstrated phenomenal poise and grace under pressure by locating hundreds of IEDs and preventing the deaths of thousands, including many innocent civilians. I am alive today due directly to the courage displayed by these tremendous animals.

In sum, these remarkably gifted and loyal service animals demonstrated countless selfless actions despite incredible odds, are worthy of our praise, and merit permanent recognition by construction and dedication of the National Service Animals Monument. Please contact me if there is any additional information I can provide about their timeless service with honor.

Sincerely,



Captain Joseph Polanin, U.S. Navy (retired)  
15514 Avocetview Court, Lithia, FL 33547  
(757) 373-6930 | [thealakagroup@gmail.com](mailto:thealakagroup@gmail.com)



United States Police Canine Association  
34605 454<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Ottertail, M.N.  
56571

To Whom It May Concern,

The United States Police Canine Association has a long history of supporting police canine and projects such as the National Service Animal Monument by Susan Bahary. Our police canine association has been in existence for 50 years, and this is the first time we have seen such comprehensive acknowledgment for service dogs. The development of a service dog memorial has never meant as much as it does at this time.

The Purple Poppy movement is an excellent way to raise awareness, compassion, and support for handlers and their service dogs. The internationally known symbol of service by animals in conjunction with the recognition of National Service Animals Day on February 24<sup>th</sup> will acknowledge the human-animal bond that is so strong.

The United States Police Canine Association fully supports the National Service Animal Monument. It will be a lasting tribute to the importance of service, our country's history, and the animal-human bond for generations to come.

I appreciate your consideration, and please get in touch with me should you need any further information.

Respectfully,

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

Don Slavik  
Executive Director  
United States Police Canine Association  
uspcaexecutivedirector@gmail.com



To whom it may concern,

As the Chairman of the Board of the United States War Dogs Association it is my pleasure to give my full support for the National Service Animals Monument proposed for Washington D.C.

I am a founding member of the National Service Animals Monument project as I know that it will be a great asset to Washington D.C. as well as to the country as a whole. It will be an exciting way for the public to learn about our country's history with service animals and the great bond that has existed between them and their handlers as together they have helped win wars, protected our citizens and in the case of assistance animals, have enhanced and even saved lives.

We have seen that military working dogs and handlers are needed now more than ever since WWII when we had our first official war dog program. Since then thousands of MWD teams have saved countless lives over our wars and many have made the ultimate sacrifice. While people now more than ever are realizing the value of these highly trained dogs and their vast potential, we can greatly use the support of this monument to raise further support and awareness.

As a Marine Corps handler in Vietnam it has been my honor to head our organization for 20 years and provide daily assistance to make sure our MWD Teams receive complete support through care packages, letter-writing correspondence, veterinary assistance and help in the adoption of military and police K9's.

I have known Susan Bahary the sculptor for this monument for many years and the US War Dogs Association recently commissioned her to do a stunning life-size bronze called THE PLEDGE of a female MWD handler and her war dog in honor of all the women of the military located at the Military Women's Memorial at the gateway to Arlington Cemetery. Her talent and reputation is well-known worldwide and she has been on the forefront of such great projects for many years.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me should you like any further information.

Sincerely,

Ron Aiello  
1313 Mt. Holly Road  
Burlington, New Jersey 08016  
609-234-4539 [uswardogs.org](http://uswardogs.org)

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

andersonwsmoa@gmail.com

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**WESTERN STATES MOUNTED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

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**TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**FROM: ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT**

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL SERVICE ANIMALS MONUMENT**

The Western States Mounted Officers Association (W.S.M.O.A.) is dedicated to enhancing relationships throughout the communities we serve and to being a high-performing organization that best represents police personnel and their police mounts assigned to mounted patrol duties across the United States. As President of this organization, I often ask new members why they have chosen to work in partnership with a horse for their job function. In all responses, it's the love for the animal they all share; in this particular case with our organization – the love and bond you get with a horse. I am writing this letter in full support of the creation of the National Service Animals Monument and the mission of the Purple Poppy movement in support of all our service animals.

Any animal lover can tell you the impact their animal has not only in their own personal and family life but the impact that animal may have on their daily job duties and requirements. The horses that represent the members of our organization receive countless hours of training in order to help protect the communities we serve during civil unrest, through combating criminal activity, or whether enhancing the bond with the public we serve. Through various training and schools, our horses officially are given the title of "Police Officer" from our respective states based on the certification and training they receive. The horses are also given a badge to indicate their sworn position as a Police Mount, which is a distinctive honor.

Sadly comes the day and time when we must say goodbye to our beloved animals as they retire from serving our communities and pass on to the heavens of greener pastures. What often gets forgotten is the memory of that animal. The impact that animal left on that military or law enforcement person's job, personal life, and even family life as a whole. I believe a monument like this will not only be a great memory to the men and women in law enforcement and military as a whole but to the service animal themselves as honor and pay tribute to the effort and sacrifice they gave to our communities.

As artist Trisha McGagh once said, "*Animals are the bridge between us and the beauty of all that is natural. They show us what's missing in our lives, and how to love ourselves more completely and unconditionally. They connect us back to who we are, and to the purpose of why we're here.*" I thank you for your consideration and support for the National Service Animals Monument, as this monument, will be a lasting tribute to the importance of service, our country's history, and to the animal-human bond for families to share for generations to come.

Respectfully,



Testimony for the Record  
Senator Christopher A. Coons  
Senator John Boozman

Before the  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Subcommittee on National Parks

**Hearing on National Parks Legislation**

September 21, 2022

Thank you, Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and Members of the subcommittee for allowing us to provide input on S. 3579, *A bill to authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union, and for other purposes*. We write in strong support of this bill, which we introduced in the Senate this year.

This legislation would authorize the Government of France to establish a commemorative work on federal land in the District to honor the contributions of Jean Monnet in restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union. The Government of France shall be responsible for the

acceptance of contributions for, and the payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work. The United States Government shall not pay any expense for the establishment of the memorial or its maintenance.

As required by the *Commemorative Works Act*, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) met to review S. 3579 on July 22, 2022 and voted unanimously to support the legislation. Technical edits to the bill provided by NCMAC have been incorporated (changing the memorial sponsor from the Embassy of France to the “Government of France” as well as explicating that the memorial sponsor is responsible for maintenance). NCMAC also asked for the sponsors to clear the bill with the State Department, which has been done.

During World War II, Jean Monnet played a central role in fostering strong ties between the Allies and the United States. At the request of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Monnet moved to Washington, D.C. and negotiated a massive and rapid transfer of American aircraft and weapons to the Allied Forces. In recognition of this work, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Monnet to be one of his advisors for the war effort. Believing America could be “the great arsenal of democracy,” Monnet helped develop a domestic arms production program, one that stimulated the U.S. economy and buoyed the Allies’ efforts. Years later, English economist John Maynard Keynes estimated the efforts of Jean Monnet shortened the war by one year.

Jean Monnet was a diplomat, businessman, and friend of the United States. It is without question that honoring the “Father of the European Union’s” work is of the utmost national significance and historical importance. The work commissioned by the French government embodies the spirit of a visionary figure in American and European history and will serve as a reminder of the lasting bond between the United States and its ally, a unified Europe.

**French Embassy Statement to the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks  
In Support of S. 3579  
September 20, 2022**

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

As the French Ambassador to the United States, it is a real pleasure and a great honor to submit this statement to you in support of S. 3579 as part of the National Parks Subcommittee hearing on this and other pending legislation. S. 3579 has been introduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress to authorize the installation of a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs in honor of Jean Monnet. I hope you will consider this project positively ahead of the congressional deliberations on the two bills that were introduced earlier this year by a bipartisan, bicameral group of Members of Congress. Let me take this opportunity to thank Senator Chris Coons of Delaware, for introducing this bill in the Senate, and Senator Boozman of Arkansas, Senator Leahy of Vermont, and Senator Cassidy of Louisiana for co-sponsoring this legislative proposal.

As the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission acknowledged with its unanimous support of the legislation last July, this project aims at recognizing the lasting significance of Jean Monnet's legacy, both American and in the realm of transatlantic history. Indeed, Jean Monnet, also known as the "Father of Europe," was not only the initiator of what would become, years later, the European Union, but he was also a very important political player in Washington during and after the Second World War.

**A friend of America marked by its unspoiled wilderness, protected by the National Park Service**

From his work as Deputy Secretary General of the League of Nations after the First World War to his role as President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community in the 1950's, Jean Monnet lived a very well fulfilled life, here in the United States. Actually, he had visited the U.S. many times before the war and America had a lasting impact on him. When he first visited the "New World" as he called it, in 1906, at the age of only 17, he was profoundly marked by the authenticity and pragmatism of the American people. He never ceased to admire it and it was precisely the first characteristic he noticed in President Roosevelt. But above all, he was deeply impressed by America's unspoiled wilderness, protected by the National Park Service, where he found this same feeling of authenticity. Throughout his career, Jean Monnet became a close friend to many prominent Americans, from John Foster Dulles, whom he first met during the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, to FDR's closest advisor Harry Hopkins, among many others. Between 1940 and 1945, he lived in Washington, DC. Those years are essential to assess both the significance and the lasting impact of Jean Monnet's "American life," and the primary reason behind the project to establish a commemorative work in his honor.

**A DC resident, who played a significant role in the U.S. "Victory Program" during WWII**

Jean Monnet arrived in Washington in August 1940, only a few weeks after the fall of France. Until then, he had been working as the Chair of the "Franco-British Coordination Committee," which aimed at jointly organizing the military purchases of France and the United Kingdom at the beginning of the Second World War. After the capitulation of the Vichy Government, he was sent to United States by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to continue this work, this time as Vice-Chair of the

“British Purchasing Commission,” whose purpose was to secure delivery of armaments for the British military from North America.

He settled in a house located at 2415 Foxhall Road NW. Today, this house sits, very symbolically, between the French and German Embassies near Georgetown. At that time, Jean Monnet worked from an office of the British Mission at the Willard Hotel. As you may know, a historical marker was installed on the hotel’s façade at the request of the “Jean Monnet Council” in 1997. In his memoirs, Jean Monnet makes several mentions of his life on Foxhall Road, where he would invite his American friends, including Justice Felix Frankfurter who had been appointed to the Supreme Court a few months before. This house played a significant role in Jean Monnet’s experience of Washington.

So, when Jean Monnet arrived in Washington, Nazi troops were occupying Paris. At that time, partly due to the trauma left by the brutality of World War I, and to the strength of both isolationist and pacifist movements in America, the United States remained officially neutral in this war. Jean Monnet, himself, profoundly marked by his own experience during and after the First World War when he worked to coordinate the war efforts of France and Britain, was then set on a mission: securing a commitment from the Roosevelt administration to take a side and to get the United States’ support to win against Nazi Germany. Indeed, just as he was convinced that European countries needed to coordinate their war efforts to defeat Hitler, he knew that all of this was dependent of the United States taking a leading role in this endeavor against tyranny and hatred.

Through his friendship with key actors in the U.S. administration, Jean Monnet encouraged President Roosevelt to take a stand. In his memoirs, he tells the story that, during a conversation with Justice Frankfurter, he made the argument that the United States needed to supply more weapons to European countries and actually coined the phrase “Arsenal for Democracy.” This now greatly famous expression was used by President Roosevelt in his radio broadcast address on December 29, 1940 – arguing for a more forceful, albeit indirect, involvement in the war.

This shift in policy resulted in the adoption by Congress of the Lend Lease Act of 1941. A few months later, it was even deepened after the tragic attack on Pearl Harbor, which precipitated the official entry of the United States in the world conflict. In the following months, Jean Monnet played a very active role advocating for a massive industrial endeavor aimed at building President Roosevelt’s “Victory Program” that would eventually lead to the military victory on the battlefield and the liberation of Europe.

To illustrate the significance of Jean Monnet’s role, let me cite the words of American economist John Maynard Keynes, who was then a close advisor to President Roosevelt: *“When the United States was at war, Roosevelt was presented with a plan to build airplanes that every American technician found to be miraculous or far too much. Monnet was the only one who dared to think it was not enough. The President rallied to his views. He then imposed on the American nation an effort which, at first, seemed impossible, but which was, in the end, completely accomplished. This key decision has probably shortened the duration of the war by a year.”*

Through his persistence and ability to convince his interlocutor, he proved that the United States could also benefit from its determination to support its allies around the world. When we think about this particular aspect of Jean Monnet’s legacy, how can we not think about current events and the robust support that the United States – along with its European partners – has given to Ukraine to defend itself against Russian aggression. Two months after the beginning of the war, Congress adopted a new Lend-Lease program to support Ukraine’s military needs.

**A man of peace, promoting European integration and strong transatlantic ties after the war**

However, Jean Monnet must also be remembered as a man of peace. Indeed, he dedicated his work after World War II to establishing a lasting peace in Europe. His idea was to pool together the steel and coal industries of the formerly warring powers, including France and Germany, to create the conditions favorable to what he envisioned as the European Federation. Several decades later, his project partly became a reality. If the European Union is not, strictly speaking, a federation as the United States is, it is the result of the European integration process originally set in motion by Jean Monnet after the war.

**An avid hiker who envisioned a united Europe during his daily strolls in Rock Creek Park**

Here again, Jean Monnet's life in the United States, and particularly in Washington, played a significant role. It is something less known about his career: Jean Monnet was an avid hiker. Every morning, he used to walk for a couple of hours in Rock Creek Park, which was directly accessible from the backyard of his red brick house on Foxhall Road. It was a true haven for him. He fondly called it "mon parc," "his park". In his memoirs, he described Rock Creek Park as follows: "It is the natural backdrop to my thinking: that is my form of poetry". In addition to all he managed to accomplish during his stay in Washington and the lasting significance of his legacy, it is also this aspect, more poetic but nonetheless symbolic, of his life that the Embassy of France would like to commemorate through the installation of a memorial in his honor.

The idea of this memorial comes, from a true, and inspiring story. All this life, Jean Monnet was a man of big dreams and bold proposals. He used to say to his staff: "We have no more ideas to make the world a better place? Let's take a walk". And, therefore, it was there, in the woods and along the paths of Rock Creek Park, that Jean Monnet's whole life experience and daily, intimate contact with American democracy were shaped. It was there that he thought about post-war Europe, about the project that should be built to avoid the horrors of wars for generations to come. It was there in Rock Creek National Park that the seeds – conceptual, political, and institutional -- of what has become since then the European project, a project between democratic nations, with no such equivalent in the world, were imagined, sown, and conceived.

**An ardent believer in Democracy whose vision of transatlantic partnership still resonates today**

All his life, Jean Monnet fought for the cause of democracy. As he eloquently underlined in his memoirs, recalling a conversation with his American friends, he had been shocked by the violence of Nazism against the Jews after the so-called "Night of Broken Glass" in November 1938 during which the Nazi paramilitary organized pogroms against the Jewish population in Germany, and he got a very early, clear understanding that such a regime would go to war and try to impose its dominance over the world. All his life, he thought about how to make democracy stronger against economic crises, fears in society, and threats of hostile, authoritarian regimes. And he did so in a permanent, thriving, inspiring conversation with his friends in the U.S., including U.S. Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy after the war. In that sense, the life and ideas of Jean Monnet are very contemporary: How to build, nurture, and develop a shared conversation between democracies. And, if we share some of the same challenges, how should we think and work together to address them?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Philippe Etienne  
Ambassador of France to the United States



September 19, 2022

Dear Members of the Senate Energy Natural Resources Committee,

We, the members of the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition<sup>1</sup>, write in support of the National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2022 and urge the committee to swiftly move the bill and ensure final passage. National parks unite our country as evidenced by the bipartisan support of committee leadership and park champions for this bill. We commend the leadership of Senators Portman, King and Daines and Representatives Grijalva and Westerman.

The National Park Foundation is the official charitable partner of the National Park Service that directly supports the parks with private funding and strategic partnerships. Annually, the National Park Foundation raises over \$100 million in private funds to support the national parks.

The National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2022 reauthorizes the National Park Foundation's appropriations through 2030 and increases the authorization level from \$5 million to \$15 million. The federal investment requires a minimum 1:1 match with private dollars. Currently there are over \$20 million worth of projects waiting for a federal match.

The funding helps reduce the deferred maintenance backlog and address pressing issues like overcrowding. In 2020, NPF used \$2 million (\$1 million federal/\$1 million private) to reconstruct and modernize the North Entrance of Yellowstone National Park. The funding helped the NPS construct a new road, parking area and entrance kiosks and these additions are expected to reduce visitor wait times by 50%. In addition, the National Park Foundation used \$50,000 (\$25,000 federal/\$25,000 private) to restore Lake Irene and Lower Tonahutu Trails at Rocky Mountain National Park.

The 100+ year-old National Park Service is challenged by aging infrastructure, visitation pressures, and decades of inconsistent funding. Investments from the federal government, private donations, entrance and recreation fees all help support our parks. The National Park Foundation is a key partner in ensuring that support and warrants continued federal resources that can

leverage private donations. We support the National Parks Foundation Reauthorization Act.

Thank you for considering our views,

American Hiking Society  
American Society for Landscape Architects  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Atomic Heritage Foundation  
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks  
Friends of Acadia  
Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park  
Friends of Saguaro National Park  
International Inbound Travel Association  
League of Conservation Voters  
National Park Hospitality Association  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Park Trust  
National Park Partners  
National Tour Association  
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable  
Public Lands Alliance  
Rocky Mountain Conservancy  
RV Industry Association  
Scenic America  
Southeast Tourism Society  
Student Conservation Association  
United States Tour Operators Association  
US Travel Association  
Voyageurs Conservancy  
Washington's National Park Fund  
Western States Tourism Policy Council  
Wild Rivers Conservancy of the St. Croix & Namekagon  
Yosemite Conservancy

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<sup>1</sup> The National Parks Second Century Action Coalition is made up of organizations supporting conservation, recreation, outdoor industry, travel and tourism and historic preservation that are dedicated to promoting the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of the National Park System for the long-term benefit it offers our nation.

**Statement of Airbnb, Inc.**  
**Regarding S. 4222**  
**St. Croix National Heritage Area Act**  
**Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources**  
**September 30, 2022**

**Proposal:**

The *St. Croix National Heritage Area Act* seeks to designate the island of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area. National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated by Congress as places of natural, cultural, and historic resources to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape.

**Comments:**

Airbnb appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on S. 4222, the Senate companion to Congresswoman Stacey E. Plaskett's H.R. 1424, which was included in the *Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act* that passed the U.S. House of Representatives in February 2021. Airbnb strongly supports the preservation and restoration of historic and cultural sites that provide the conservation of natural resources, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational opportunities.

Additionally, this legislation would support St. Croix's business climate. A study by the National Park Service found a number of economic benefits to National Heritage Areas, with tourism noted as the primary economic benefit.<sup>1</sup> Airbnb is proud to support the island's tourism economy. Through the platform, Airbnb is prioritizing inclusive tourism by providing an array of accommodation options for regular travelers, in more varied locations, with a spectrum of budgets. In addition, Airbnb allows regular people to leverage their home to benefit from the tourism economy. In 2021, Hosts on Airbnb in the U.S. Virgin Islands earned a combined total of \$65.8 million. Over 134,100 inbound guest arrivals occurred on Airbnb in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2021.

As this legislation makes its way through the U.S. Senate, we urge its passage and enactment by the President. It is critical that historic and culturally important lands be protected and provided the necessary resources to continue to engage generations to come.

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<sup>1</sup> "Economic and Community Impact of National Heritage Area Sites," *National Park Service*, 2014, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/upload/Economic-and-Community-Impact-of-National-Heritage-Areas-2014-2.pdf>.

STACEY PLASKETT  
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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PLASKETT.HOUSE.GOV



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2022

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE  
AND RESEARCH

Senator Angus S. King  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Steve Daines  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: St. Croix National Heritage Area Act (S.4222)**

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines:

Thank you for including S.4222, the St. Croix National Heritage Area Act, to designate the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands as a National Heritage Area, in today's National Parks Subcommittee hearing. I introduced this legislation in the House of Representatives (H.R.1424), and I thank Chairman King for introducing the companion Senate bill and for holding this hearing.

My efforts for this designation are preceded by nearly 20 years of tireless work on the part of many individuals, community groups, and local stakeholders in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and on St. Croix. This National Heritage Area designation is being proposed pursuant to a congressionally directed feasibility study that was conducted through over three years of work by the National Park Service and completed in 2010. The study was initiated by the National Park Service after it was directed by Congress in the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-338), thanks to the efforts of my predecessor, Dr. Donna Christian-Christensen.

St. Croix is where Columbus first arrived in the Virgin Islands on his second voyage to the New World in November 1493, and it was the home of the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton. Today, the island has two distinct towns--Christiansted built in 1734 and Frederiksted built in 1752. Christiansted is the onetime Danish West Indies capital and now a National Historic Site. Just off the coast of Christiansted is Buck Island, the only U.S. underwater National Monument.

The congressionally directed feasibility study, completed by the National Park Service pursuant to Public Law 109-338, was submitted to Congress in 2011. It concluded that St. Croix meets the evaluation criteria for designation as a National Heritage Area. Furthermore, the National Park Service feasibility study found the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area to have strong local public support, and that there is local capacity and commitment to undertake the responsibilities of administering a National Heritage Area. This bill would establish a National Heritage Area for St. Croix in a way that is consistent with the procedures traditionally set forth for such site designations, as last enacted in the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116-9).

Enactment of this bill will finish the long-standing work of my home island of St. Croix to utilize our spectacular natural and historic resources to spur economic development that is much needed. I respectfully urge that the committee advance this meritorious legislation favorably. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey E. Plaskett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



**Amigos de Guadalupe**  
Center for Justice & Empowerment

September 21, 2022

Honorable Angus S. King, Jr., Chair  
ENR Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Honorable Steve Daines, Ranking Member  
ENR Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

**RE: SUPPORT – S. 4371, the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act**

Dear Chair King, Ranking Member Daines, and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks,

*Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment*, based in East San Jose, California, strongly supports S. 4371, being heard by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks on September 21, 2022. We respectfully request this letter be included in the hearing record.

The Cesar E. Chavez Special Resource Study, conducted by the National Park Service and transmitted to Congress in Fall 2013, recommends the congressional actions set forth in S. 4371. Bipartisan legislation authorized the Special Resource Study nearly two decades ago and was enacted by President George W. Bush. We recognize the often polarized context of current times and stand ready to promote bipartisanship in advancing this bill. The history at hand ought not be politicized by any one party or stakeholder group, but preserved, respected, studied and scrutinized for lessons by scholars, students, and the public-at-large.

On behalf of our East San Jose, California community we submit the following testimony offered on July 29, 2022 at a press conference celebrating Amigos de Guadalupe acquiring the Chavez Family Home at 53 Scharff Avenue, San Jose, listed among the nationally historical sites by the Special Resource Study:

**Preservation of Cesar Chavez and Farmworker Movement History:  
Power & Pride in East San Jose, California**

My name is Paola Mondragon, I am part of the Amigos Staff, but I mainly stand here today as a lifelong East San Jose resident. Words fall short when explaining how special this preservation is for someone that grew up here – and I realize that this preservation belongs not only to East San Jose – it belongs to the entire city, state, nation and any individual across the globe that was moved by Cesar Chavez and the Farmworker Movement.

As a child, when I first learned about Cesar Chavez in school, I learned about the United Farm Workers and the general significance of Cesar’s activism, but that was about it. What I didn’t know, until years later, was that all of this valuable, powerful history of non-violence and civil rights started right here in *this small, humble neighborhood that I lived in*. Years after that, I learned that the same Catholic Church that I went to every Sunday, was the same church he used to organize in and that the same Mexican Heritage Plaza I used to go to, was once a supermarket where he led one of his first boycotts.

It’s not news to those of us here that impoverished East San Jose has long suffered and continues to suffer a negative stigma. We often hear East San Jose described as poor, unsafe, and “ghetto.” For many youth, growing up and hearing these things can naturally make you feel ashamed and embarrassed.

But for many youth, understanding that East San Jose is a culture-rich, vibrant home of the resilient people that are the backbone of Silicon Valley – the engine of all our valley’s past economies – and that East San Jose raised up one of the greatest American activists, is what makes you prideful about living where you live, despite all those negative stigmas being thrown at you day by day.

So for some people like me, being able to preserve this humble house, where the Chavez family settled in the early 1950s, is really about keeping our pride alive. Not just because there’s something special about still having a standing, physical sanctuary that symbolizes years of hard work, but because there’s also something so powerful about being able to organize in the same space Cesar Chavez did.

Reflecting on all of this, I recognize that I was lucky enough to learn about the history of Cesar Chavez. Many youth haven’t had the opportunity yet and future generations deserve the benefit. History books aren’t enough to teach people that live up and down these streets about all of the displacement, oppression, and

neglect that has historically and continues to hurt our community. Books also aren't enough to teach folks about all of the power, organizing, and determination that grew out of this neighborhood to change that here and across the nation and world.

Preserving the Chavez Family home in East San Jose now means opening a new door of opportunity to empower our own children and families. It means being able to give our community a chance to ignite that fire within themselves that they may not be aware exists already. It means building new leaders, and preserving the education, history, and the culture that lies within East San Jose that many of our own families worked so hard to create. But most importantly, for our community and for me, it means keeping our pride alive. It means reclaiming our power, continuing Cesar Chavez's legacy, and igniting many, many new ones.

Preservation and interpretation clearly and deeply matters. We proudly join the broad and lengthy list of S. 4371 supporters urging the Committee to advance this important legislation. However we may promote bipartisanship here and in all matters, please call on us.

Respectfully,

/s/ Maritza Maldonado, Executive Director



September 20, 2022

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The Honorable Joe Manchin, Chair  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Barrasso, Ranking Member  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: S. 4371, the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act.**

Dear Senators Manchin and Barrasso,

The California Catholic Conference of Bishops SUPPORTS S. 4371 (Padilla & Feinstein). This bill will establish in the States, a unit of the National Park System, to be known as the César Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park. In the future this bill, upon written agreement by the Secretary of Interior and the owner of the property may allow the inclusion of McDonnell Hall in San Jose, California.

César Chavez, motivated by his deep Catholic faith, recognized the dignity of every person, and worked for a dignified environment for farm workers. He built a movement of solidarity with farm workers, mobilizing them to create community and pathways for justice. This monument will memorialize his contribution and encourage new generations to put their faith into action to create a more just and fraternal world.

For these reasons as the official public policy voice for the Catholic Church of California, we request that you vote "AYE" on S. 4371. Should you have any questions regarding our position please contact Linda Wanner, Director of Social Justice and Environmental Stewardship at 916.313.4017.

Sincerely,

  
Kathleen Buckley Domingo  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, Sponsor, Senator California  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Sponsor, Senator California

KBD: LW: mip



**UNITED FARM WORKERS**

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The Honorable Alex Padilla  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Padilla and Feinstein and Representative Ruiz:

Our national parks system has no greater mission than honoring the diversity of our country's history. The United Farm Workers requests your support for creating the Cesar E. Chavez and Farm Worker Movement National Historical Park.

Following long and careful study, in 2013 the National Park Service recommended to Congress that it establish this national historical park—including the existing Cesar E. Chavez National Monument and other historical locations—to tell the story of our movement. Such a park would help all Americans learn more about the legacy and values of Cesar Chavez and the movement he helped build.

Establishing this park would pay tribute to the contributions of one of the most consequential leaders in U.S. history as well as the countless others who selflessly worked with him, all while teaching everyone about the struggle for justice for America's farm workers. It will continually inspire and educate all Americans.

It is crucial that our national parks represent the diversity of America and respect the rich heritage of all of its people. Establishing a Cesar Chavez National Historical Park would help realize this vision. Please honor the legacy of the farm labor movement and support legislation to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and Farm Worker Movement National Historical Park.

Thank you once more for your commitment to honoring the heritage we all hold dear.

Sincerely yours,

Teresa Romero  
President

*¡Si Se Puede!*®  
Founded by César E. Chávez  
(1927-1993)

[Jose Barrera](#)  
State Director

[Yvonne Gonzalez Duncan](#)  
Immediate Past  
State Director

[Elizabeth Gonzalez  
Zepeda](#)  
Deputy State Director

[Jacob Sandoval](#)  
State Treasurer

[Miriam Aguilar Escobar](#)  
Deputy Director  
for Women

[Alyssa Mireles](#)  
Deputy Director  
for Young Adults

[Jaime Sonne-Diddi](#)  
Deputy Director  
for Youth

[Dave Rodriguez](#)  
Deputy Director  
for Seniors

[Beatriz Mendoza](#)  
District Director 1

[Anthony Noriega](#)  
District Director 3

[Euler Torres](#)  
District Director 11

[Andrew Sandoval](#)  
District Director 12

[Sylvia Alvarez](#)  
District Director 14

[Dave Rodriguez](#)  
District Director 17(Interim)

**Non-Voting Members:**

[Christian Contreras](#)  
Legal Advisor

[Toni Cervantes](#)  
Secretary

[Isabella Castro](#)  
Director of Publicity

[Kimberly Fuentes](#)  
Director of Policy and  
Communications

**About LULAC**

The League of United Latin  
American Citizens (LULAC)  
is the nation's largest and  
oldest civil rights  
volunteer-based organization



### California League of United Latin American Citizens

Honorable Angus S. King, Jr., Chair  
ENR Subcommittee on National  
Parks  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Honorable Steve Daines, Ranking Member  
ENR Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

RE: SUPPORT – S. 4371, the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement  
National Historical Park Act

Dear Chair King, Ranking Member Daines, and Members of the Senate Energy and  
Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks,

On Behalf of LULAC California, we urge you to support the S. 4371, the César E.  
Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act.

The Cesar E. Chavez Special Resource Study, conducted by the National Park  
Service and transmitted to Congress in Fall 2013, recommends the congressional  
actions set forth in S. 4371. Bipartisan legislation authorized the Special Resource  
Study nearly two decades ago and was enacted by President George W. Bush. We  
recognize the often polarized context of current times and stand ready to promote  
bipartisanship in advancing this bill. The history at hand ought not be politicized by  
any one party or stakeholder group, but preserved, respected, studied and  
scrutinized for lessons by scholars, students, and the public-at-large.

Respectfully,

Jose Luis Barrera Novoa  
State Director-California LULAC | LULAC National Board of Directors- Member  
[Jb.lulac@gmail.com](mailto:Jb.lulac@gmail.com) | [Calulac.org](http://Calulac.org)



April 27th, 2022

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Padilla and Feinstein and Representative Ruiz:

A key mission of the National Park System is honoring the rich diversity of America's history and people. La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), which was also founded by Cesar Chavez and has been active for decades on behalf of farm workers and other poor Hispanics in South Texas, requests your backing for authorizing the Cesar E. Chavez and Farm Worker Movement National Historical Park.

After lengthy investigation and consideration, the National Park Service in 2013 recommended that the Congress form this park to document our history. Among other historical sites, the park would embrace the present Cesar E. Chavez National Monument at La Paz in Keene, California. This new park would be an opportunity for all people in our country to learn about and recognize the transformational contributions made by Cesar Chavez and the civil rights and labor movement he and others forged.

By taking this action, Congress would recognize one of the most important figures in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America history, acknowledge so many other men and women who nobly joined *La Causa*, and hard-fought nonviolent struggle for equality by the farm workers of America.

Thank you for supporting the Cesar E. Chavez and Farm Worker Movement National Historical Park.

Sincerely,

Executive Director  
La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)

*"Once Social Change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the person who is not afraid anymore"*  
-César E. Chávez



*The Salvador E. Alvarez  
Institute for Non-Violence*

September 21, 2022

Honorable Angus S. King, Jr., Chair  
ENR Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Honorable Steve Daines, Ranking Member  
ENR Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

**RE: SUPPORT – S. 4371, the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act**

Dear Chair King, Ranking Member Daines, and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks,

*The Salvador E. Alvarez Institute for Non-Violence* writes to support S. 4371, being heard before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on September 21, 2022. We respectfully request this letter be included in the hearing record.

The Cesar E. Chavez Special Resource Study, conducted by the National Park Service and transmitted to Congress in Fall 2013, recommends the congressional actions set forth in S. 4371. Bipartisan legislation authorized the Special Resource Study nearly two decades ago and was enacted by President George W. Bush. We recognize the often polarized context of current times and stand ready to promote bipartisanship in advancing this bill. The history at hand ought not be politicized by any one party or stakeholder group, but preserved, respected, studied and scrutinized for lessons by scholars, students, and the public-at-large.

As ever, Americans and the global community are hungry for witness of the persistence of goodness. Examples of non-violent struggle consistent with our democratic values are vital for preservation of our nation. My father, Rev. Deacon Sal Alvarez, M.S.W. (1940-2015), ministered to farmworkers and founded the Institute for Non-Violence. Dad was changed forever, like Cesar Chavez, through his early encounters with a humble Irish, Spanish-Speaking Catholic priest in East San Jose, California named Father Donald McDonnell. Ordinary helpers into prolific servants of humanity – the life of Cesar Chavez and the Farmworker movement evidence how extraordinary greatness is born of ordinary people when, by faith, they offer their lives in humble service to others and for our nation's greater good. We join the broad and lengthy list of S. 4371 supporters and urge the committee to advance this important legislation.

Respectfully +

/s/ *Serena Alvarez*, Esq., Executive Director



## American Discovery Trail Society

*Making connections coast-to-coast*

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Front Royal, VA 22630  
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### Statement of the American Discovery Trail Society

#### Submitted to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks

Hearing on September 21, 2022

The American Discovery Trail Society urges the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks to support S. 4693, “The National Discovery Trails Act,” en route to full Senate passage.

The American Discovery Trail Society is a national membership-based and volunteer-based nonprofit organization formed to develop and manage the American Discovery Trail, America’s only coast-to-coast, multi-use hiking trail. Over the past 30 years, the Society has developed the American Discovery Trail in cooperation with countless local, regional, and national trails groups; corporations; federal agencies; and local and state governments.

The American Discovery Trail exists from coast-to-coast and has been in use by travelers for many years. There is no need to buy or acquire any new land. The American Discovery Trail provides a unique, transcontinental trail experience, exposing the traveler to not only the country’s most scenic areas, but also some of its most historic areas in a fashion that meets the primary policy goal of the National Trails System Act. By connecting major urban greenways to wilderness trails, it brings trails to communities, beckoning citizens to get outdoors. The opportunity it offers travelers to interact with their fellow Americans is unique among long-distance trails, and brings attention and economic benefits to many small towns and cities. The National Trails System lacks a trail of this important and diverse nature.

This legislation remedies this deficiency in the National Trails System by adding a new category of trail—National Discovery Trails—and designates the American Discovery Trail as the first of these new trails. The legislation implements the recommendations of a National Park Service study that examined the feasibility of adding the American Discovery Trail to the National Trails System.

The concept of this new category of trail originated with the National Park Service in that study and is needed to finally have the National Trails System meet the primary purpose—and an unmet need—stated in the National Trails System Act. The National Trails System Act’s “Statement of Policy” specifies that “in order to provide for the ever-

increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population ... trails should be established (i) primarily, near the urban areas of the Nation, and (ii) secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the Nation which are often more remotely located.”

The NTSA clearly defines the two existing long-distance trail categories—National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails—as designed to meet the “secondary” purposes of the Act. National Scenic Trails avoid urban areas by design. National Historic Trails are interpretive resources, and not meant to be continuous, walkable routes. In contrast, National Discovery Trails are designed to pass through the urban areas mentioned in the Act. By connecting urban areas to other trails in the National Trails System, National Discovery Trails would at long last meet the primary purpose of the founding act.

The 6800-mile American Discovery Trail is not only the first coast-to-coast trail, but is also the first long-distance trail consciously designed to provide connections in the National Trails System. The United States is blessed with a number of irreplaceable long-distance trails, such as the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Continental Divide Trail. However, no official trail links these jewels or connects the entire nation from coast to coast. The American Discovery Trail fills that gap and helps to unify the country physically, geographically, and spiritually in people’s imaginations. The ADT links five National Scenic Trails, 12 National Historic Trails, and 39 National Recreation Trails with urban areas, such as San Francisco, Denver, St. Louis, and Cincinnati, as well as many small towns and cities. It visits 10,000 sites of historic, cultural, and natural interest as it provides a true backbone to the National Trails System.

The route of the ADT was developed through the cooperative efforts of citizens working with federal, state, and local land managers; state and local planning and transportation departments; state departments of natural resources; and citizens’ trail groups. The route is entirely on publicly accessible land. It incorporates existing hiking trails, towpaths, rail-trails, country roads, small town sidewalks, and big city greenways in a cooperative effort that leaves the management and maintenance of these segments in the hands of the existing local organizations and governments. The ADT does not add to the management or maintenance tasks of federal agencies.

The American Discovery Trail has stood the test of time. It is now more than 25 years old and has been traveled continuously since its inception. The ADT Society has published complete guidebooks, turn-by-turn directions, and electronic GPS guides for the entire route for many years. Recognition and use of the ADT continue to increase—each spring adventurers aspiring to travel coast to coast depart from the Atlantic or the Pacific. But more importantly, thousands of citizens have hiked smaller parts of the trail, many with the goal of sampling different sections of the trail through diverse areas of America.

Passage of S. 4693 would help overcome one issue that is holding back greater use of the trail: a lack of signage in many areas. The Congress has already taken a significant step in this direction. In Section 2503 of PL 116-9, the John D. Dingell, Jr, Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, Congress overwhelmingly directed the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, overseeing the National Park Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service, to place ADT signage on federal lands. Great progress in signage has been made, as the American Discovery Trail Society has

successfully cooperated with the National Park Service to install signs in heavily visited units such as the C&O Canal National Historic Park in Maryland and Gateway Arch National Park in Missouri. ADT signs have been installed along the Tahoe Rim Trail in Tahoe National Forest in California and Nevada, on the River-to-River Trail in Shawnee National Forest in Illinois, and on BLM lands in Nevada.

It is time to complete this effort. To encourage non-federal jurisdictions, Congress needs to implement the final recommendation of the 1996 NPS Study and make the American Discovery Trail an official part of the U.S. National Trails System. Designation of the trail as a part of the National Trails System would facilitate the ability of the ADT Society and interested civic groups to mark the trail across the country.

As the American Discovery Trail has developed across the country, the vision it offers of a cross-country trail has inspired many trail-building efforts. One trail success story that was inspired by the American Discovery Trail is the River to River Trail in Southern Illinois. Although the River to River Trail existed in theory through the Shawnee National Forest, it was not a continuous, usable trail, and there was with little hope for improvement. When the possibility was raised that it could become a part of the American Discovery Trail, within months local trail activists organized the River to River Trail Society. This organization quickly defined and marked the trail, wrote a detailed guidebook, and created maps for the 146-mile trail from the Ohio River to the Mississippi River that has since garnered recognition for being one of the premier trails in the Midwest. These efforts continue to this day.

The ADT has been supported by a wide variety of groups like the River to River Trail Society. The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission petitioned the ADT Society to reroute the trail onto the northwest Indiana regional trail system through several towns to take advantage of several new trails in the area. In the Quad Cities area of Iowa and Illinois, a popular bicycle and pedestrian crossing of the Mississippi River came about in large part because it could become a part of the coast-to-coast ADT, and it was known as the "ADT Connection." The success of the ADT depends on the support of such localities.

As an example of state participation in the trail, Delaware's Department of Transportation put up signage to mark the trail through the state and Cape Henlopen State Park installed a beautifully illustrated sign to mark the eastern terminus at the Atlantic Ocean. The Nevada State Parks have partnered several times to support ADT Society-sponsored events on the trail, such as trail runs, bike rides, and an equestrian ride. The ADT passes through several state parks, and the agency recognizes that the American Discovery Trail brings much-wanted and much-deserved attention to the state's many scenic and natural assets.

State departments of transportation that have published printed maps showing the route of the ADT include West Virginia Official State Highway Map, Kansas Bicycle Map, and Discover Colorado: Bicycle and Scenic Byways Map. The Indiana Statewide Trails Plan includes the ADT as a "Priority Visionary Trail" and the Iowa Department of Transportation lists the ADT as a "Trail of Statewide Significance." In its scoring process to decide which trails will be given development funds, Iowa gives priority to trails that can become a part of or connect to the ADT.

Many localities support the American Discovery Trail because they recognize that trails benefit local economies. Because its route passes through many small towns and cities, the American Discovery Trail benefits local economies in ways that trails that avoid these areas do not. As just one example, a support letter for this legislation from the Coon Rapids, Iowa, community coordinator voices notes that the ADT “is already boosting tourism and bringing economic growth to nearby communities.” A letter from the Ripley County (Indiana) Economic Development Corporation notes that the designation of the ADT will not only attract tourist dollars, but it will also help in “attracting talent to Indiana” because “trail projects are high on the list” that “younger talent seeks” in choosing where to live. The Franklin County (Indiana) Economic Development Commission agrees that “trails are transformative projects that offer tangible quality of place benefits that enhance our ability to compete for jobs and talent.” (Letters of support can be found at <https://discoverytrail.org/legislation/support-letters/>.)

The mayor of Woodland Park, Colorado, notes that “many studies have found that trails and greenways positively affect property values, small business revenues, and even corporate relocations.” Trails have shown again and again that they can be engines stimulating economic activity as shown by the bike shops and inns along the North Bend Rail Trail in West Virginia and the Katy Trail in Missouri. Many studies have found that having a trail near one’s home is an amenity that adds to property values.

Recognizing the need for more trails near the places where people live, the National Park Service first proposed this new category of National Discovery Trail in its feasibility study of the American Discovery Trail. As the National Park Service has stated in testimony on previous versions of this legislation: “Currently, there are no trails that are primarily intended to tie together existing trails and urban areas into the national network envisioned by the National Trails System Act.” It is time to rectify this unmet need by designating the American Discovery Trail as the first of the category of National Discovery Trails.

The National Park Service study of the American Discovery Trail emphasized the efficiency of this model when it proposed this new category of trail: “The national discovery trail alternative would place fewer new demands on the federal agencies because a nonprofit group would have primary responsibility for the trail’s general management.” Another factor that lessens any overall administrative burden on federal agencies is that the route ties together existing trails, and every one of these trails already has a government entity or private group that provides its maintenance and upkeep. The American Discovery Trail overlays these trails without shifting any control from state and local jurisdictions or imposing new maintenance obligations on federal agencies.

As the NPS study stated: “National Discovery Trails would be intended to link existing national, regional, and local trails into an integrated system, much like the way the interstate highway system functions.” This kind of trails system has been a goal at least since President Reagan’s Commission on Americans Outdoors called for the creation of a vast network of hiking and jogging trails, bikeways, and bridle paths. The Commission envisioned a nationwide system of trails that would “tie this country together with threads of green,” linking communities and providing access to the natural world. American Trails and the National Park Service followed up this Commission’s recommendations with the “Trails for All Americans” report calling for just such a network of trails.

Even though S. 4693 would take us closer to these long-stated goals by making the ADT official as a national discovery trail, it is a simple bill:

- It does not ask for any appropriations or federal funds;
- It does not spend any tax dollars or budgetary outlays;
- It does not expand federal control over public or private lands;
- It does not seek to acquire any lands; in fact, it prohibits doing so;
- It does not shift control of land or routes from existing state and local jurisdictions to federal agencies;
- It does not impose any restraints or restrictions on future development of adjacent lands;
- It does not call for any buffer zones;
- It does not affect hunting rights or zones;
- It does not alter the current maintenance responsibilities of federal, state, or local jurisdictions;
- It does not require the level of NPS management required by the national scenic and national historic trail categories.

The National Discovery Trails Act has a history of bipartisan support. The Senate has passed unanimously a similar bill three times: S. 1069 in 1998; S. 734 in 1999; and S. 498 in 2001. A companion bill in the House, H.R. 4878 has 64 cosponsors, demonstrating widespread, coast-to-coast, and bipartisan support.

In its testimony before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands on the companion bill, H.R. 4878, the National Park Service testified that it “appreciates the concept” but no longer supports the creation of the category of National Discovery Trails—while avoiding mentioning that NPS originated the concept. NPS testified that the goals could be achieved by other means, but gave no hint—and certainly no plan—of how to achieve the goals. And NPS has not responded to repeated requests for clarification of its apparent change of position.

In fact, the NPS testimony continued a pattern of changing its arguments unpredictably without providing the rationale for its new positions. It must be emphasized that the concept for National Discovery Trails was proposed by the National Park Service after a multi-year, multi-agency, multi-stakeholder study that featured broad support and input from a wide range of stakeholders and interest groups through hearings and comment periods. The current NPS position is based on no such study. The NPS has never revealed the underpinnings of its current position.

Perhaps the NPS position has been affected by an ethos of the Park Service that focuses on remote national parks and wilderness. The ADT doesn't fit neatly into that mindset. The ADT, in contrast, epitomizes connecting wilderness with metropolitan regions; providing trail access from local towns to nearby cultural and natural sites; and establishing a network that links diverse trails into a national trails system.

Or perhaps the position reflects the mindset of a bureaucracy that is comfortable with the status quo, that is resistant to change, that is so entrenched in its way of doing things that it has lost sight of the vision that motivated the authors of its study. We encourage the committee to embrace that vision of a truly national system of trails.

Just as citizens look back on the start of the Interstate Highway System in the 1950s as a great national achievement, so decades from now citizens will look back on the coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail as a remarkable achievement that benefits the entire nation in countless ways. Decades from now Americans will laud the establishment of the American Discovery Trail and thank the congressional leaders who had the vision to realize the magic and grandeur of a national trail.

In conclusion, we ask for your support for S. 4693 because it helps to fulfill the goals of the National Trails System Act. The National Discovery Trails Act would make the ADT an official part of the National Trails System, and thereby help boost tourism and bring economic growth to nearby communities. Designating the American Discovery Trail would promote physical health and exercise by bringing national trails closer to urban centers and rural communities. Finally, as a coast-to-coast trail, the American Discovery Trail psychologically helps to unify the nation and brings us closer together.

Eric Seaborg  
President



## American Discovery Trail Society

*Making connections coast-to-coast*

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**Statement of the American Discovery Trail Society  
Responding to the National Park Service Testimony on S. 4693**

**Submitted to the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee  
National Parks Subcommittee**

**Hearing on September 21, 2022**

The NPS testimony ignores two critical points. First, **the idea for National Discovery Trails originated with the National Park Service, NOT the ADT Society**. It was the NPS in their mandated study in 1996 that concluded that the ADT should be a National Discovery Trail, and not a scenic or recreation trail. The ADT Society is simply asking that the Congress implement the NPS's original idea.

The NPS apparently no longer supports the approach the NPS itself recommended in its study of the American Discovery Trail. However, the NPS does not explain why it changed its position, other than commenting that in its original study "the definition and management direction was not well-defined" for national discovery trails. This comment is difficult to understand considering that the study devoted many pages to defining the characteristics of a National Discovery Trail.

If NPS needs a better understanding of National Discovery Trails, we direct it to its own testimony delivered on July 23, 2014, regarding S. 2346, a bill nearly identical to S. 4693. This testimony contains an excellent description of National Discovery Trails based on the characteristics delineated in the NPS study. This testimony certainly did not refer to National Discovery Trails as "not well-defined."

Second, **the NPS position ignores the widespread and strong local desires to promote their towns and communities by connecting them to a recognized, known, and designated national trail**. These local leaders comprehend that having links to a national trail boosts economic growth, upgrades local amenities, and helps to attract young talent. The ADT addresses these desires. We believe that the flood of support letters to NPS Director Sams, many Representatives and Senators in numerous states, the ADT Society, and others confirms the bipartisan and widespread support for the American Discovery Trail and S.4693/H.R. 4878. Having 64 Members of the House and 4 from the Senate, from both parties and from 25 states, sign on as cosponsors is further evidence of solid support!

The NPS testimony raises three objections to National Discovery Trails. Each of these concerns is either misplaced or fails to understand the intent and language of S.4693/H.R. 4878:

(cont. on p. 2)

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Concern Number 1: NPS claims that amending the NTSA could potentially complicate the American Discovery Trail Society's efforts to coordinate with state and local law enforcement and transportation agencies on non-federal lands. The concern reflects a common misunderstanding of the ADT and S.4693/H.R. 4878. **When the ADT is designated as a National Discovery Trail, those portions of the trail on city sidewalks, county streets, or state parks do not change ownership; they do not become federal lands or property after designation. Federal officials will have no additional oversight rights or authorities than they do now.** Those sections will remain under the full legal authorities of their present owners. Furthermore, because no federal funds were used in establishing the trail route on non-federal lands, federal oversight will not be involved. The NPS assertion that "if the ADT were federally designated as a component of the national trails system, any agreement would be subject to ... Federal laws and oversight" is incorrect. S.4693/H.R. 4878 specifies that "where the designation of a discovery trail is aligned with other units of the National Trails System, or State or local trails, the designation of a discovery trail shall not affect the protections or authorities provided for the other trail or trails...."

In addition, the NPS assertion that incorporating the American Discovery Trail into the National Trails System would not provide ADT Society officials or state coordinators any additional influence while negotiating with local officials fails to understand the power of a federal designation and its endorsement of the vision of a coast-to-coast trail in encouraging local officials to cooperate in such activities as allowing signs to mark the trail.

Concern Number 2: The NPS testimony claims that "the legislation proposes to eliminate some of the authorities that are common to other trail categories" and that "S.4693 would exempt national discovery trails from sections of the NTSA authorizing the acceptance of donations and collaboration through cooperative agreements and authorizing land exchanges." This is a gross misreading of the actual language of S.4693/H.R.4878. That **bill limits land acquisition authority only for the American Discovery Trail, not for any other possible future Discovery Trails.** If the supporters of possible future National Discovery Trails seek these authorities, they are free to draft legislation to that effect.

The drafters and supporters of S.4693/H.R. 4878 knowingly included Section 2(b) stating that sections 7(e, f, and g) of the NTSA do not apply to the American Discovery Trail. The subsections of the NTSA involve the acquisition of land by the federal government and the use of eminent domain to acquire such land. S.4693/H.R. 4878's exclusion of the authority to buy or acquire additional land was deliberate. One of the major fears of opponents of the ADT is that it will gobble up vast acreage, particularly in the West. They fear that the trail might thwart ranchers and landowners from developing their property or handicap economic growth, or that in the future supporters might seek buffer zones or more land to protect viewsheds. These fears are unfounded, but to put them to rest, S.4693/H.R.4878 includes these provisions.

Concern Number 3: Alleged safety worries. The NPS testimony states that "greater recreational use of motorized roadways would be a challenge within the NTSA framework ... and Federal agencies would assume great responsibility for ensuring that users understood that all national trails would not necessarily afford them the same degree of protection." The American Discovery Trail would mean "greater use" of roadways. However, **using roadways would not be new for the National Trails System.** Every National Scenic Trail presently has and includes

some roads. The North Country Trail, for example, has more than 1,000 miles on roads, and the Ice Age Trail has approximately half its 1000mile route on roads. Second, National Historic Trails are primarily motorized routes. They are interpretive trails and are primarily motorized routes that the interested traveler experiences by driving from site to site. The National Park Service and the NTSA have long ago figured out how to acknowledge and accommodate roads on these major national trails.

Regarding the concern about “responsibility for ensuring that users understood that all national trails would not necessarily afford them the same degree of protection,” we assert that hikers understand that different trails and routes offer different kinds and levels of risk. We believe that hikers realize that there are different degrees of risk in different trails, e.g., while hiking in Glacier National Park vs. crossing a motorized bridge on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail vs. Point Reyes National Seashore in California.

**The ADT Society takes user safety seriously and is constantly implementing safer segments.** The long-term goal is to relocate the trail off motorized roads and onto newly developed trails in greenways or parks. The American Discovery Trail Society has an active, ongoing program to shift the route off of roads and onto pedestrian trails. Every year ADT Society State Coordinators work with local and state officials to shift sections of the ADT to make them safer. Thus, safety has been a high priority since the trail was conceived, and concerns will steadily diminish over time. In sum, we have received no concerns about safety issues from the many hikers and bikers who have enjoyed the ADT for many years.

The ADT Society notes that the NPS did not raise these three points previously, such as in past testimony in 2014 on S. 2346, a virtually identical bill. The NPS says it “appreciates the goals of this bill” but “we believe that these goals would be better achieved without designating a new category” of trails—but it has never specified its alternative proposal for achieving the goals despite having the opportunity to do so.

We suspect that the real reason for NPS objections is the historic ethos of the Park Service that focuses on remote national parks and wilderness. The ADT doesn’t fit neatly into that mindset. **The ADT, in contrast, epitomizes connecting wilderness with metropolitan regions; providing trail access from local towns to nearby cultural and natural sites; and establishing a network that links diverse trails into a national trails system.** Or perhaps the NPS position reflects the mindset of a bureaucracy that is so resistant to change that it has lost sight of the vision that originally motivated the authors of its study.

The lockdown and travel restrictions imposed during the last two years because of covid have released an astounding surge in walking and hiking and interest in local and national trails. The Congress should respond to this need by acknowledging the public demand and pass S.4693/H.R. 4878, the National Discovery Trails Act. As House Subcommittee Chair Neguse so eloquently said, “This is an idea whose time has come.”

Eric Seaborg  
President  
American Discovery Trail Society  
September 29, 2022



September 26, 2022

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
 Subcommittee on National Parks  
 304 Dirksen Senate Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S. 4784, the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act, and  
 Opposition to S. 4693, the National Discovery Trails Act

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Daines,

On behalf of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), I write in support of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act (S. 4784) and in opposition to the National Discovery Trails Act (S. 4693). We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on these topics.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is the §501(c)(3) nonprofit organization charged under a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) to co-manage the 2,194-mile Appalachian National Scenic Trail (ANST, A.T., or "Trail"), a unit of the National Park System. The Trail is a 2,194-mile "linear park," surrounded by approximately 300,000 acres of government-protected land (as well as many acres of privately conserved land). The ANST and the National Trails System Act (NTSA), which is the enabling legislation for all components of the National Trails System, are in large part the results of the efforts of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Appalachian Trail Maintaining Clubs, the 30 local and regional organizations responsible for on-the-ground Trail management.

First, ATC strongly supports S. 4784. The ANST was the first of the National Trails System's (NTS) continent-spanning trails, designed to connect communities and conserved lands along the scenically, culturally, naturally, and historically significant Appalachian Mountain range. The NTS, and in particular the National Scenic Trails (NSTs), are vehicles for landscape conservation, the locally led and strategic approach to conservation that pulls the levers of public-private partnerships to identify and advance the most mutually beneficial tactics to support people and nature. Particularly through the co-ATC and National Park Service-convened Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership, ATC seeks to advance large landscape conservation throughout the "Appalachian Trail Landscape."

In Maine, the A.T. Landscape includes Oxford, Franklin, Somerset, Piscataquis, and Penobscot Counties, the last of which is adjacent to Baxter State Park (Baxter) and the A.T. and is the area of S. 4784's focus. Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWW) has much to offer visitors and residents of the Millinocket area, but improved access from what is now the southern boundary is needed to better realize this potential. The northern terminus of the ANST is the summit

of Katahdin in Baxter, contiguous with KWW. Millinocket—one of Maine’s official A.T. Communities™—has benefited from its proximity to Baxter and the Trail, which has been particularly important as the economic landscape of Penobscot County, and indeed much of central and northern Maine, has changed over recent decades. The addition of KWW has only increased the economic prospects of the region, protecting the historical recreational uses of the now-Monument while guaranteeing its conserved future. Its sturdy foundations as a growing outdoor recreation mecca will be significantly enhanced by road and public access improvements, such as S. 4784 would allow. Baxter and the Trail are incredibly popular parks in Maine, and the addition of KWW has enhanced the interconnected system of conserved areas available to the public while safeguarding the region’s natural, biological, and cultural beauty.

Second, ATC respectfully opposes S. 4693, the National Discovery Trails Act, as currently written, and urges this Committee to carefully study the NTS and NTSA as they exist today before making such significant changes to the statutory regime. The National Trails System, like each of its components trails, is a work in progress. Today, the National Trails System (NTS) is comprised of 11 National Scenic Trails (NSTs), 19 National Historic Trails (NHTs), and more than 1,300 National Recreation Trails (NRTs). When first enacted, the NTSA only recognized National Scenic Trails. In 1978, in recognition that a nation-wide system of federally administered trails could not be created only under the criteria established for NSTs, the Act was amended to establish National Historical Trails (NHT) and National Recreational Trails (NRT). NSTs and NHTs may only be designated by an Act of Congress and are federally protected public lands—in the case of NSTs in particular, the footpaths anchor national park, conservation, and forest lands in their own right—that are co-managed via Cooperative Management Systems composed of public-private partnerships overseen by a federal “trail administrator.” National Recreation Trails are established pursuant to Secretarial Order and are not independently protected federal lands. Each of these three trail categories have distinct attributes that each trail within that classification share.

The discrete characteristics of the three current pillars of the NTS reflect Congress’ appreciation that for a trail to be a *national* trail, it must meet certain universal and replicable requirements. Furthermore, individual additions to the NTS must rise to the level of *national* importance, following the guidelines Congress determined in the Act. It is customary, in fact it is the default practice, that an NHT or NST be studied by the National Park Service (NPS) prior to its designation, and when the legislated-only classes of National Scenic and National Historic Trails were established, Congress provided multiple designations within that class as well as a request the NPS to evaluate the “feasibility and desirability” of designating additional trails in those classes. The American Discovery Trail (ADT) itself was subject to a feasibility study several decades ago, and since the NPS concluded that study, ATC is unaware of any actions that either chamber has taken to further comprehensively study the issue in order to identify or address any perceived deficiencies in the classifications extant in the NTSA. Moreover, the NDTA does not clarify whether ADT designation is in order to create a federal conserved unit—such as the ANST or the Nez Perce NHT—or whether it is to unlock a special classification that may be used to promote tourism and/or offer a degree of federal recognition for some other purpose, such as with a NRT.

National trails, as currently envisioned by the NTSA, are for recreation more than for transportation—traveling a NST or NHT is rarely the most efficient way to get from one point to another—and indeed, the A.T. as a proxy for NSTs was envisioned to allow one to retreat from the bustle of the modern world, to “go for a walk and *see* what you can see.” Indeed, the proposed ADT

does not fit anywhere within the current NTS in part because, as the NPS noted in its testimony for this bill's House companion, its road shoulder routing "appears to diverge from the original focus of the National Trails System Act on avoiding motorized routes."<sup>1</sup> Roadwalks persist on some NSTs despite the NTSA's intention that they be continuous onsite, but those are considered undesirable gaps and the goal is always to relocate them onto dedicated, protected, treaded trail. Conversely, travel on roads and highways appear to be the explicit purpose of discovery trails. This has significant safety implications, as the NPS also addressed in its testimony on the companion bill.<sup>2</sup>

To no small extent, Congressional establishment of a national trail, particularly NSHTs, are an instruction to the trail administrator that the path and its associated landmarks, are vulnerable. NSTs are generally established within natural landscapes subject to conversion, for which affirmative efforts must be undertaken to prevent the loss of scenic and natural beauty while providing a unique recreational experience away from the developed world. NHTs are established to protect the routes on which historically significant incidents or campaigns occurred, and of remaining sites or viewpoints there-related that may persist. Based on the description within the bill currently, it is unclear what purpose National Discovery Trails would serve, as distinct from, and as lacking in, the current national trail designations, or what points of natural interest, or of natural, historical, recreational, cultural, or scenic value National Discovery Trails would connect.<sup>3</sup> These roadways do not appear to be in peril, and based on the text of the bill, there is no story or natural landscape that seems to run the risk of being untold or of being lost to development. There does not seem to be any exceptional non-automobile recreational value to the National Discovery Trail. The National Discovery Trail does not appear to be a trail such as envisioned by the NTSA. ATC is sympathetic to the proponents of the ADT, but does not believe that establishing a trail *sui generis*, without establishing potential deficiencies in the NTSA or giving direction to the NPS on how Congress to replicate that trail, would not be in the best interest of the National Trails System.

Relatedly, ATC remains concerned about the asymmetry between Congressional interest in expanding the NTS and Congressional interest in providing adequate funding for national trail management and stewardship. Designating a new NST or NHT – or, here, a whole new category – is much more than an honorarium, and, in fact, is usually only the first on a long road to building a park (or forest, or conservation land). An appetite to enlarge the NTS must be matched by an appetite to adequately fund the agency staff charged with overseeing its existing components as well as a commitment to sustained support for whatever assets may be added. In truth, even the bill's potential implicit recognition of cooperative management and the public-private partnerships that enable National Scenic and Historic Trails falls short of guaranteeing a Cooperative

<sup>1</sup> Statement of Joy Beasley, Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Concerning H.R. 4878, a Bill to Amend the National Trails System Act to Include National Discovery Trails and Designate the American Discovery Trail, and for Other Purposes (Apr. 28, 2022) at 2, [https://naturalresources.house.gov/download/beasley-joy\\_-testimony\\_-npfpl-leg-hrg-42822](https://naturalresources.house.gov/download/beasley-joy_-testimony_-npfpl-leg-hrg-42822).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 2-3.

<sup>3</sup> NSTs are required to "provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of areas through which such trails may pass...[areas exhibiting] significant characteristics of the physiographic regions of the Nation. NHTs "follow as closely as possible and practicable the original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance...National Historic Trails shall have as their purpose the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment." National Recreation Trails "will provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses in or reasonably accessible to urban areas."

Management System such as those trails possess, perhaps because given the putative class, the kind of management structure existing throughout the National Scenic and Historic Trails would not be able to be replicated on the ADT.

The NTS, and indeed its current three constituent classes, should not be understood to be complete. ATC would support the Committee evaluating the state of the National Trails System and whether there are gaps that could be addressed, either by clarifying existing language or by exploring whether the nation is better served by additional trail classifications consistent with the overall purposes of the NTSA. Until such time, ATC respectfully opposes the establishment of National Discovery Trails and of the American Discovery Trail.

We appreciate this opportunity to offer our perspective on these pieces of legislation and reiterate our support for S. 4784 and strong opposition to S. 4693. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss these topics, I may be reached at [bmysliwicz@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:bmysliwicz@appalachiantrail.org) or 207-370-0540. Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brendan Mysliwicz", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Brendan Mysliwicz  
Director of Federal Policy  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Testimony for the Record  
Senator Christopher A. Coons  
Senator Todd Young  
Senator Mike Braun  
Senator Sherrod Brown

Before the  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Subcommittee on National Parks

**Hearing on National Parks Legislation**

September 21, 2022

Thank you, Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and Members of the subcommittee for allowing us to provide input on the *National Discovery Trails Act* (S. 4693) included in this hearing. We write in strong support of this bill, which we introduced in the Senate this year.

This legislation would amend the *National Trails System Act* to include “national discovery trails” as part of the national trails system and would designate the American Discovery Trail (ADT) as a national discovery trail. In 1968, the

*National Trails System Act* created a framework for a national network of connected scenic, historic, and recreational trails. Today, the National Trails System includes eight National Scenic Trails, 15 National Historic Trails, and more than 1,000 National Recreational Trails. However, it does not include any trail linking the network from coast to coast.

The American Discovery Trail is made up of more than 6,000 miles of continuous, multi-use pathways stretching from Delaware's Cape Henlopen State Park to Point Reyes National Seashore in California, passing through Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada along the way. The trail splits into northern and southern routes at Cincinnati, Ohio, rejoining at Denver, Colorado. In 1994, Congress instructed the National Park Service (NPS) to study the feasibility of adding the ADT to the U.S. national trail system. The NPS Report in 1996 recommended the creation of a new category of trail for the ADT. In 2019, Congress again acted, overwhelmingly passing the *John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act*. Section 2503 concerns the American Discovery Trail and directs the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to support installing ADT trail signage on federal lands, which are now in place across the country.

We understand that the National Park Service (NPS) has concerns about safety on the trail that they expressed in the April 28, 2022 hearing on H.R. 4878. While we believe the trail is safe, we also respect and value the input of federal land managers. Therefore, we are open to amending the bill to ensure that the ADT meets the high standards of safety that the NPS maintains.

We are strong believers in the value of trails and what they represent: outdoor recreation, tourism, and economic development for local parks and towns. Trails like the ADT connect people, communities, and the outdoors. They help highlight the many natural gifts and man-made wonders that make the United States so special. We are proud to sponsor this bipartisan legislation so more Americans can

explore and enjoy the trail in Delaware, Indiana, Ohio and the many other states and communities it connects from coast to coast.



**Testimony of**

**DANA A. DORAN**  
**Executive Director**  
**Professional Logging Contractors of Maine**

**Before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks regarding S. 4784, to modify the boundary of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the State of Maine**

**Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines and members of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, my name is Dana Doran, and I am the Executive Director of the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine (PLC). The PLC is the voice of independent logging and timber hauling contractors throughout the state of Maine. The PLC was formed in 1995 to provide contractors with a voice in a rapidly changing forest industry.

As of 2017, logging and trucking contractors in Maine employed over 3,900 people directly and were indirectly responsible for the creation of an additional 5,400 jobs. This employment and the investments that contractors make contribute more than \$620 million to the state's economy annually. Our membership, which includes 210 small business contractor members, employs 2,500 individuals who work in this industry and is also responsible for 80% of Maine's annual timber harvest.

I would like to thank the Committee for providing me with the opportunity to provide a statement for the record in opposition to S. 4784, which attempts to expand the boundary of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

In 2016, our group carefully weighed the ramifications of a national monument designation on the logging industry – an industry which has a long and proud tradition throughout Maine as well as the region in question. At that point in time and still today, we are opposed to any action that might do serious harm to our industry. The designation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in 2016 has had a negative impact upon the logging industry in the Katahdin region and the potential expansion that is envisioned in this legislation will do the same, but on a much larger scale.

Maine loggers working in the region depend on private landowners, access to existing roads and right-of-ways, and stable regulations to operate effectively. We believe all these things will be jeopardized should the land being proposed for acquisition by this legislation become federally owned.

According to a 2015 wood flow study commissioned by Elliotsville Plantation Inc., the former owner of property that was given to the US Park Service in 2016 for the current National Monument, "It is hard to believe that given a National Park scenario that the private land along the park would remain in timber production." This prediction in 2015 has come to fruition and is exactly what has acted as the primary impetus for the bill before you today. Expansion of the Monument will continue to erode the forest economy in the Katahdin region until it no longer exists at all.

Put simply, if further property is grabbed by the federal government and taken not only out of production, but put off limits for timber hauling, it would jeopardize over 50 of our members who are within a 60-mile radius of Millinocket and over 1,000 of their employees. These jobs will not be replaced in number or salary by the jobs that "may" be created if the monument is doubled in size.

Of significant concern is the road network (see attached map) around the current Monument that supports off-road trucking infrastructure not seen in other parts of the country, whereby loaded log trucks can weigh as much as 250,000 lbs. Wood from the property surrounding the current Monument moves to markets via an intricate off-road network that is not designed to be shared with large numbers of private motorists. Further expansion of the Monument and the acquisition of private land could lead to economic devastation for logging operations and timber harvest haulers with the potential for catastrophic injuries.

As you will note in the referenced map, there are major logging haul routes in red that surround the current National Monument. The legislation before this committee will effectively provide the option for the National Park Service to purchase the property on the southern border of the current Monument and take ownership of the Staceyville Road, the Roberts Road and part of the Huber Road, which accepts timber hauling traffic from the west (Golden Road).

This land grab will go far beyond what has already occurred with the current Monument and the road system that serves it. The current Monument is accessed on private roads and log trucks and harvesting operations still have the right of way. If this legislation becomes law, the roads which access the Monument from the south will no longer be private and harvesting operations and log trucks will no longer be welcome and will be significantly restricted.

Our organization worked extremely hard with the prior Monument Superintendent, Tim Hudson, to ensure that the roads which provide access to the current Monument from the south were not pathways for the public. This also ensured that no harm was done to any harvesting and trucking operations (see attached literature). If the land that hosts these roads is sold to the National Park Service, these roads will

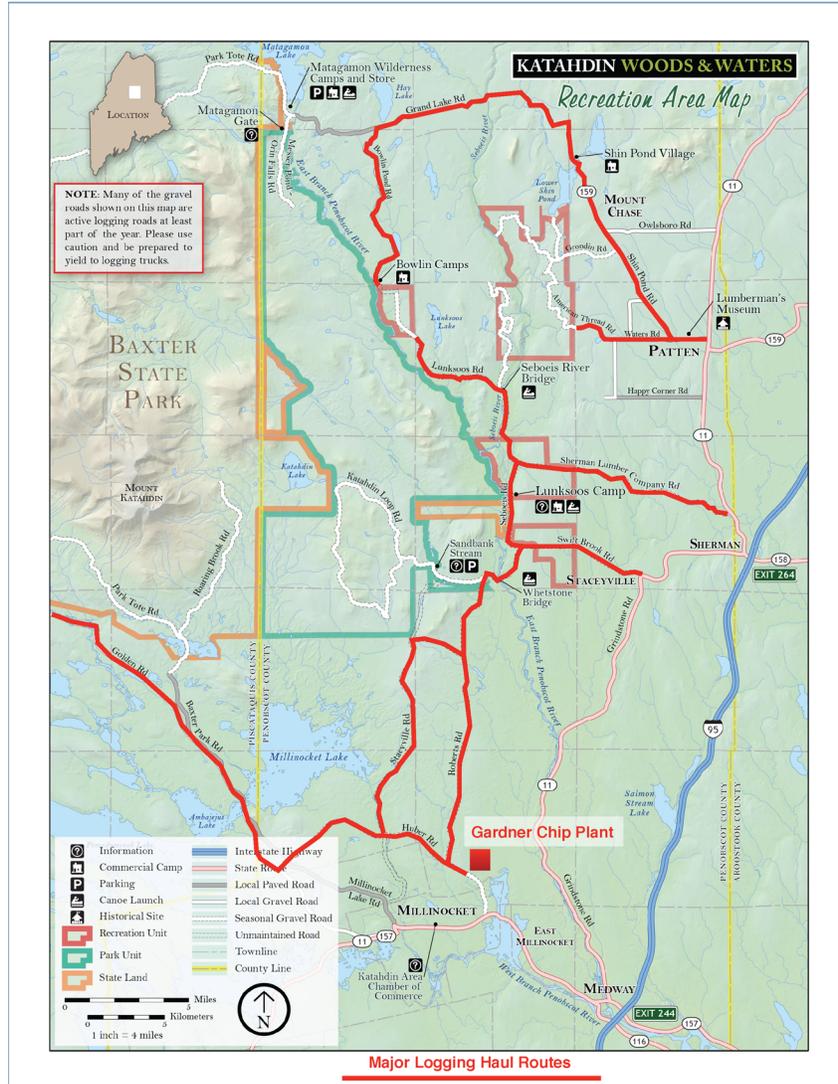
become public and timber harvesting and hauling will be minimized to the point of extinction because tourist traffic does not cohabitate well with a working forest. This will limit the utilization of these roads for forest products transportation in a significant way and in the long run, it will potentially put them off limits from production forever.

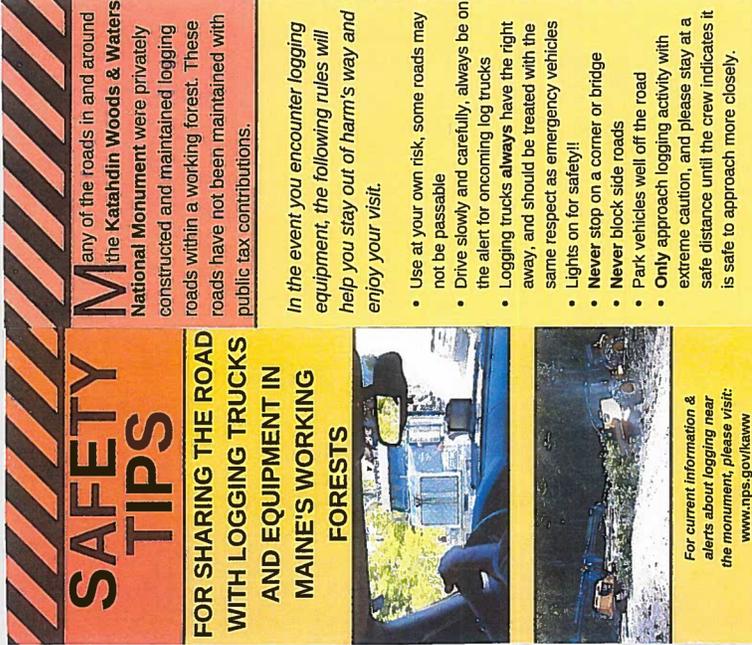
The state of Maine has been devastated by reductions in forest products markets over the last decade. If the action proposed in this legislation comes to fruition, not only will trucking be limited in a significant way, but other landowners will consider selling their property as the federal government becomes an overzealous buyer and mills like the Gardner Chip Plant, noted on the map will no longer serve a purpose.

While the PLC has a deep respect for the rights of private landowners, we also believe it is their responsibility to act in ways that do not harm the livelihoods of their neighbors. The further acquisition of land on the southern border of the current Monument has the potential to eliminate good paying jobs, further divide communities already split over the issue and discourage future economic opportunity in the forest products industry.

In closing, we ask you to carefully consider what the future of the Katahdin region will be. Is it to be only a park, with 150 years of proud industry history consigned to the pages of guidebooks for tourists? Or should it remain a showcase to the world of how well the interests of industry, outdoors enthusiasts, and seasonal visitors can be accommodated in a working forest for years to come?

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to appear before you today to speak on behalf of Maine loggers and I encourage you to reject the proposal for the federal government to grab more private land, expand a national monument with little scenic importance and damage the way of life for thousands in the North Maine Woods.





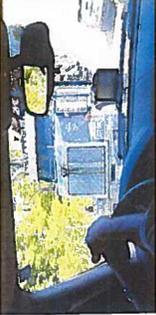
**SAFETY TIPS**

**FOR SHARING THE ROAD WITH LOGGING TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT IN MAINE'S WORKING FORESTS**

**M**any of the roads in and around the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument were privately constructed and maintained logging roads within a working forest. These roads have not been maintained with public tax contributions.

*In the event you encounter logging equipment, the following rules will help you stay out of harm's way and enjoy your visit.*

- Use at your own risk, some roads may not be passable
- Drive slowly and carefully, always be on the alert for oncoming log trucks
- Logging trucks always have the right of way, and should be treated with the same respect as emergency vehicles
- Lights on for safety!!
- Never stop on a corner or bridge
- Never block side roads
- Park vehicles well off the road
- Only approach logging activity with extreme caution, and please stay at a safe distance until the crew indicates it is safe to approach more closely.




*For current information & alerts about logging near the monument, please visit: [www.nps.gov/kaww](http://www.nps.gov/kaww)*

# Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument



Sled of pulpwood from the Great Northern Paper Company

## A TRADITION OF TIMBERING

Timber harvesting began in the northern Maine woods more than three centuries ago and by 1830, the forests in the Katahdin region were a major source of wood to the world's largest lumber shipping port in Bangor. Throughout the 1900s, the Great Northern Paper mill in Millinocket became the destination for much of the pulpwood harvested. During the winter, the woods were teeming with active timber harvesting camps and lumberjacks using axes and handaws to harvest pine and oak for shipbuilding, cedar for shingles, hemlock for tanning, and spruce and fir for pulp to make paper. Wood was transported to market using

horses, the Penobscot River, and later, by rail. Traditional timber harvesting continued well into the 20th century when new techniques reduced the impact on the resources, while still providing the raw materials used in a multitude of products.

Working forests in the Katahdin Region around the monument today utilize mechanized equipment to harvest and transport timber, making the process speedier, less wasteful, and safer. This vast renewable resource supports thousands of jobs and is vital to the economic health of the region.

## For Your Safety

**General:** Be advised that this is a new National Monument. Amenities are limited and signage is sparse. Cell phone reception can be spotty or non-existent.

**Driving:** Vehicles with regular to high clearance are recommended. All roads leading to and within the Monument are gravel and rough with ruts, potholes, and sharp rock edges. These roads serve a dual purpose as active private timber harvesting and haul roads. Viability can be limited due to dry and dusty conditions. Many of the bridges are single lane so be prepared to stop and move over.

**Yield to log trucks.** Log trucks have the right of way and cannot stop suddenly.

**Use at your own risk,** some roads may not be passable.

When you encounter a log truck, please pull over in a safe spot and allow it to pass

**Drive carefully and slowly** with your lights on, and be alert for oncoming log trucks.

**Never stop on a corner, bridge, or where you will block a road.**

**Approach with caution** any timber harvesting activity and remain at a safe distance until the crew indicates it is safe to approach more closely.

**Pets on leash** are allowed in the Monument. Keeping your pet on leash and under control helps protect your pet, visitors, and wildlife.



## Directions

**Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument** is located in north central Maine, approximately a 2.5-hour drive west of Acadia National Park and 1-hour drive north of Bangor, Maine.

Generally, wheeled vehicles may access the North/Matagamon entrance from mid-May to mid-November; and the Loop Road from Memorial Day to mid-November.

All parts of the Monument are accessible from I-95 Exits 244 (Medway) and Exit 264 (Sherman).

**LOOP ROAD** access is via Route 11 and the Swift Brook Road - 20 miles

north of Medway (EXIT 244) or 5 miles south of Sherman (EXIT 264) on Route 11. Access to the Swift Brook Road is on a sharp corner. Use caution with this turn as sight distance is limited. The Swift Brook Road, which is a gravel road, will lead you to the Katahdin Loop Road in 10 miles.

**NORTH/MATAGAMON** entrance access is via Route 11 and Highway 159 and the Grand Lake Road - 34 miles north of Medway (EXIT 244) or 9 miles north of Sherman (EXIT 264). All roads are paved until the turn off of the Grand Lake Road and then the road is gravel. Route 11

and the Monument are also accessible on I-95 South from Exit 276 (Island Falls).

**In winter, road access to the Monument is via the North/Matagamon entrance only.** This entrance offers a small parking area for access to groomed multi use non-motorized trails.

## Contact Information

**Patten Lumbermen's Museum**  
61 Shin Pond Road  
Patten, ME 04765

**Open seasonally.** Memorial Day through June; open weekends July through Columbus Day; open Tuesday - Sunday, and holidays; 10am - 4pm

Brochures, trip planning information, and passport stamps available.

**Millinocket Contact Station**  
200 Penobscot Avenue  
Millinocket, ME 04462

**Open year-round.** Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day; seven days a week, 8am - 4pm October through May; 1 day per week; 1pm - 4 pm

Brochures, trip planning information, and passport stamps available.

**Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument**  
P.O. Box 446  
Patten, ME 04765  
207-456-6001  
www.nps.gov/KAWW

**EAST BRANCH SNO-ROVERS AND ATV, INC.**  
6 CLUBHOUSE DR., PO BOX 296  
MEDWAY, ME 04460

September 28, 2022

Senator Angus S. King  
Senator Susan Collins

**RE: Comments on Senate Bill S.4784, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act**

Dear Senators King and Collins:

We are residents of East Millinocket, Medway and Lincoln Maine, avid snowmobilers and ATVers and also Board Members of East Branch Sno-Rovers and ATV Inc., the Snowmobile and ATV club that represents the Medway and East Millinocket area. We are writing on behalf of ourselves and also the East Branch Sno-Rovers and ATV, Inc. (EBSR) club.

Our club currently has snowmobile trails, along with the Northern Timber Cruisers club in Millinocket, that go through the proposed new land to be acquired by this Act to modify the boundaries of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (Monument). Because of this we are very concerned about this expansion of the monument and the impact it could have on snowmobiling in the region and the winter economy of Medway, East Millinocket and Millinocket. If snowmobiling in the region is impeded the results would be devastating to local businesses who depend on this sport in order to stay open during the winter months.

Section 3 (d) of the Act addresses existing uses of land added to the Monument including snowmobiling. Section 3 (f) (1) expands further on this stating as follows –

“The Secretary shall continue to allow public access and use of the Interconnected Trail System snowmobile trail within the National Monument (including the land added to the National Monument by this Act, consistent with subsection (d)) consistent with the access agreement of November 29, 2007, referred to in the Proclamation –

- (A) On land and interests in land identified in the access agreement: and
- (B) On land and interests in land east of the East Branch of the Penobscot River added to the National Monument after November 29, 2007.

While we are very happy that this protection of snowmobiling is included in the Act, we feel that stronger and more specific protections need to be included. We would like the attached map showing the proposed new area overlaid on the snowmobile trail map to be included. This would show the extent of the trails that currently fall within the proposed new area. We would also like the specific trails to be named within the bill - ITS 85/86, ITS 83, ITS 112 Connector and the local Dolby Trail. Currently the Bill only includes the ITS Trail System but there is the local Dolby Trail that goes through the proposed new area that is very important in traveling from Medway/East Millinocket to Millinocket. In addition we would like the wording in Section 3 (f)

(1) to include "The Secretary shall continue to allow, **in perpetuity**, the public to access and use the Interconnected Trail System". This would help to insure that these protections could not be reversed sometime in the future.

Regarding the plans by Northern Timber Cruisers to build an ATV trail to connect East Millinocket to Millinocket we are pleased to see that Senator King in his comments at the September 21<sup>st</sup> hearing stated that he intends to include language protecting this trail when the bill is in markup. This trail is very important to the ATV system in the region as it is one of the last trail sections needed to connect the systems from east to west. It will give people a reason to come to the Millinocket area to ride, stay and dine either as a base to ride out of or as a stop along a route. We have seen the economic impact ATViing has brought to areas north, east and west of us and feel that this access will be a boom to the local business economy.

As a club, we are not opposed to the National Monument nor to the proposed expansion as long as the expansion does not negatively impact the snowmobiling and ATViing activities in the Medway, East Millinocket and Millinocket region. We agree that improved access to the Monument will bring additional visitors to the area and believe that it is in the best interests of all in the region to have all of the activities provided by the Monument along with the existing snowmobiling and ATViing activities. We do believe however that the National Monument cannot ever replace the economic benefit brought to the region by snowmobiling and ATViing and that if these activities are somehow lost the result would be devastating to the local economy.

Sincerely,

**The Board members of East Branch Sno-Rovers and ATV, Inc.**

John Farrington, President	_____
Ken Osborne, Past President	_____
Joseph Yellope, Vice President	_____
Pauline Hanley, Secretary	_____
Linda Heinzelman, Treasurer	_____
Ossie Stanley, Trail Master	_____
Sally Osborne, Membership	_____
Donna Farrington, Membership	_____
William Heinzelman, Board Member	_____
Lee Powers, Board Member	_____
Fran Stanley, Board Member	_____



Town of East Millinocket  
53 Main Street  
East Millinocket, ME 04430  
(207) 746-3376  
(207) 746-3550 (fax)

November 1, 2022

US Sen. Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

US Sen. Angus King  
133 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

US Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 4784, The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act

Dear Hon. Susan Collins, Hon. Angus King and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks.

The East Millinocket Board of Selectmen have voted to support S. 4784, The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is an important economic engine in our region, and this legislation – sponsored by Sen. King and co-sponsored by Sen. Collins – is important for our community. Since the creation of the monument in 2016, creating direct access for southern communities into KWWNM has been a priority.

In addition to spreading the positive economic benefit of the monument to Millinocket, East Millinocket and Medway, southern access will also benefit visitors to the monument, enhancing their experiences and making it possible for more people to see the natural beauty of the Katahdin region.

S. 4784 has three components, all of which we believe benefit East Millinocket. The legislation allows the National Park Service to negotiate with interested landowners to improve monument access; it allows the NPS to work with communities in the region to develop facilities – such as a headquarters, staff housing or visitor contact stations – outside of the monument boundaries. And it protects and expands access for traditional recreational activities, including snowmobiling and ATVs.

During his opening statement before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Sen. King made clear his intention that this legislation would specifically protect the development of an important ATV trail connecting Millinocket and East Millinocket. This trail is important to for outdoor recreation and has long been a priority of communities in the region. We see no conflict between S. 4784 and the development of this trail.

East Millinocket has been called the “Town that Paper Made.” That legacy remains an important part of our history and identity. But we also recognize that our economic future requires our town to build a diverse economy. Our future has always been tied to our connections to the forest and rivers in our region and it still is today. Tourism, outdoor recreation, Baxter State Park and Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument are helping us to recover and build anew. Access to the monument from the south is an important part of this new future.

We have seen firsthand that the forest products industry can co-exist with tourism without compromising safety and, with a commitment to safeguard the new ATV connector trail, we are confident that S. 4784 will benefit our town and our region by expanding outdoor recreation opportunities and enhancing the visitor experience at Katahdin Woods and Waters National Park.

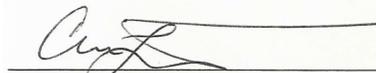
Thank you for your hard work and support of S. 4784. It is our hope that this legislation can become law and that we can quickly begin to take advantage of the opportunities it creates.

Sincerely,

The East Millinocket Board of Selectmen

  
Michael H. Michaud, Chairman

  
Kyle L. Leathers, Vice-Chairman

  
Clint Linscott

  
Anthony D. Moscone



## Maine Professional Guides Association

55 Morrison Hill Road  
Wilton, ME 04294

[www.maine-guides.org](http://www.maine-guides.org)

September 14, 2022

U.S. Senator Angus King  
133 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King,

On behalf of the Maine Professional Guides Association, we would like to offer some feedback in relation to Senate Bill 4784, legislation *To modify the boundary of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the State of Maine, to improve public access to the National Monument, and for other purposes*. We understand that this legislation will have an initial hearing on September 21 and believe it is important to share our position with you in advance of those considerations.

An important segment of our membership is comprised of recreational guides, in addition to hunting and fishing guides. These guides offer various types of trips from hiking and canoeing to ATV and snowmobile adventures. We understand that the Northern Timber Cruiser's ATV club in Millinocket, in addition to the State and other stakeholders, have been working proactively for years to develop a connector trail that would pass through the parcel of land being contemplated in S.B. 4784. This proposed trail is viewed as an important gateway, and would unlock thousands of miles of trails to the north and into Downeast Maine. Additionally, this trail is a key piece of recreational infrastructure that would facilitate increased economic activity in the Millinocket region.

For these reasons, we would urge the Maine Congressional Delegation continue to work with the Northern Timber Cruiser's and other Millinocket-area leaders to require that S.B. 4784 is amended to accommodate the development and siting of this trail by including explicit reference to it in the legislation, consistent with the existing accommodations for hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling. While we understand and support that any new trail must be developed with the support of a willing landowner, we also strongly believe that any new acquisition of land by Secretary of the Interior, or other government agencies should not impede the ability for local constituencies to work with landowners- public and private- to develop new opportunities for motorized recreational access. This is especially true in rural Maine, where these opportunities are critical to our economic success.

We truly appreciate your consideration, and your willingness to work with us over the years to advance opportunities for, and the interests of, professional Maine guides. We look forward to working with you and your staff towards resolution of this concern.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bellmore  
President, Maine Professional Guides Association

Cc:

U.S. Senator Susan Collins  
Congressman Jared Golden

*An organization of professional guides dedicated to promoting a quality, ethical outdoor experience.*



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

September 30, 2022

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), Chair  
Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), Ranking Member  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Manchin and Barrasso:

I write in support of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act, which if passed, will provide important local economic opportunities and more recreational access to this beautiful property. Specifically, the Act, sponsored by Senators Angus King, I-Me and Susan Collins, R-Me, will expand the Monument's boundary to the south and will give the Department of Interior authority to acquire multiple parcels in the region. The bill also gives the Secretary of the Interior authority to acquire or lease essential facilities for administration and visitor services outside of park boundaries.

Since its establishment in 2016, the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has been a boon to the Katahdin region. It has brought increased tourism and outdoor recreation to the region and has brought people to western Maine during the COVID pandemic. Expanding the Monument will continue this trend of outdoors-driven economic growth while preserving the area's rich natural landscape.

A southern entrance to the Monument will allow visitors in the Millinocket community to have better access to the property and will expand the Katahdin region's tourism economy.

The Act protects traditional hunting, fishing and snowmobile usage on the acquired property, and an existing ATV trail in the area will be maintained. The boundary expansion also improves access for park personnel and visitors and direct access to a regional hospital, health center, municipal airport, fire department, and police department in Millinocket.

I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this Act.

Sincerely,

Janet Mills  
Governor

cc: U.S. Senator Susan Collins  
U.S. Senator Angus King  
U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree  
U.S. Representative Jared Golden



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

**Testimony of Anne Mitchell for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in Opposition to S. 4784 - Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act for a 43,000 acre acquisition expansion of the monument.**

Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for the record in opposition to S. 4784, which attempts to expand the boundary of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

My name is Anne Mitchell. I am a life-long Maine resident and an in-holder within the boundary of the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument. My family and I own the East Branch Land Company with timber land on both sides of the East Branch of the Penobscot River and the bridge crossing the river at Whetstone Falls which my grandfather built in 1954. Our forest land has been sustainably managed for five generations and is the source of our family's income and that of the local loggers who harvest our timber.

At the very first, right after President Obama's 2016 proclamation establishing the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument, people questioned what it was a monument *to*. The president's proclamation establishing the Monument dwells at some length on the geological history of the region, the Indians who once inhabited it, and the region's common flora and fauna. It speaks of the early logging history and men who first settled the region.

If these are justification for a National Monument, then much of our country qualifies. In fact, the word "unique" appears only one time in the entire proclamation and that is to assert that the monument land "provides a unique and important opportunity for scientific investigation of the effects of climate change across ecotones." That is surely inadequate scientific justification for a national monument designation. There is no mention of a particular place, object, or phenomenon worthy of enshrinement. These thirteen scattered parcels of forest land clearly fail to meet the letter and the intent of the Antiquities Act.

These properties are not endangered. Ironically, the greatest threat to such values as they do possess, comes from the attempt to make them into a popular monument or park. This monument is not an economic success despite what you have been told. Such assertions of significant benefit to the local economy are sporadic and subjective. In point of fact, it is already a detriment to logging operations on private roads taken over by the NPS for access to the monument lands. And despite carefully controlled media reporting, pretending no local opposition, 70% of the people opposed the Monument in local referenda.

The wording of the Antiquities Act does not admit a collection of (thirteen) scattered parcels such as comprise this monument and the proclamation makes no distinction as to special characteristics of each parcel.

Inasmuch as the Act requires that a national monument be defined by the smallest possible footprint, if these parcels qualified (which they do not), it would seem a national monument would have to be limited to the smallest of them.

The parcels comprising the KWW National Monument are unique only in that an extremely wealthy and well-connected woman caused them to be donated to the federal government. The monument designation

was misapplied, not to protect a national treasure, but rather to protect a legacy for the donor and launch the start of the plan for a 3.2M acre national park in the Maine woods.

This expansion of a National Monument while looking for "willing sellers" does not make any sense under Federal law. That is not what a National Monument is.

The establishment of this monument already corrupted the Antiquities Act in both its meaning for "antiquities" and the process of bypassing the requirement for Congressional approval of a new unit of the National Park Service, calling the overt buying of government policy and action a "gift".

Now, expanding a "National Monument" by allowing the NPS to buy 50% more land (dishonestly calling it "access") has nothing to do with "antiquities" and is a further corruption of the definition of a Monument. Acquisition has been expanded to the "vicinity" of the Monument in the name of a vague "access". The boundary "map" referred to has not yet changed. If this bill is truly for improved access, why is 43,000 acres being added to expand the monument?

In-holders whose land lies between these parcels of the monument face the threat of condemnation and eminent domain as the monument expands in size.

S. 4784 does *not* prohibit eminent domain. Not "authorizing" eminent domain in this bill does not prohibit it. NPS acquisition authority automatically includes condemnation authority *unless explicitly prohibited*. The bill says that acquisition is in accordance with "(3) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System".

If the bill's authors wanted to absolutely ban condemnation, they could say that explicitly. The bill as worded would limit NPS acquisition in the weakest way possible so as to not preclude other powers.

We realize this "access" bill is only a segue to the whole 3.2million acre plan. That would be the death knell of Maine's rural economy in taking over the very heart of the "wood basket" that drives the forest products industry. Despite the creative arguments to the contrary, there is no way a park could replace the \$8 Billion contributed annually to Maine's economy by the forest products industry or the 31,000 forestry jobs.

The Monument and the expansion lands have nothing of outstanding scenic quality associated with National Parks; it is commercial timberland cut over many times.

All the photographs presented are of Mt. Katahdin in the background, highly visible throughout the whole region in northern Maine and not part of the Monument. The mountain is in Baxter State Park which the NPS wants to take over.

As someone once said, it would be the only national park in the world whose best feature is a few views of a state park.



**P.O. Box 269 Millinocket, Maine 04462**

September 20, 2022

U. S. Senator Angus King

133 Hart Building

Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King,

On behalf of the Northern Timber Cruisers, we would like to offer some feedback in relation to the Senate bill 4784, *legislation to modify the boundary of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the state of Maine, to improve public access to the National Monument and for other purposes*. The Northern Timber Cruisers understand that this legislation will have an initial hearing on September 21st and believe it is important to share our position with you.

As you already may know that the Northern Timber Cruisers has a rich history in providing both motorized and non-motorized trails in the Katahdin area. We were one of the first multi-use trail corridors in the Katahdin area, we opened the ATV multi-use trail in 2012 and have been working on a new multi-use trail connection to East Millinocket since 2015. Northern Timber Cruisers has been working on this connection for over seven years with completion hopefully in 2022. We understand that you are trying to provide economic stability in our area but with this land acquisition that you plan to take it could be very detrimental to our effort we are presently involved with and would have the opposite effect.

If your bill 4784 moves forward without any language changes that would include ATVs to the list of uses it would halt our trail effort that we have been working on since 2015. Northern Timber Cruisers believe by working together with all parties involved that there can be some changes made to the bill to modify it to have ATVs added to bill 4784. The clubs in the Katahdin area have been holding both Zoom and in-person meetings with representatives from your office and senator Collins office and have provided plenty of information that we feel is very important for you to read and hopefully understand why we feel this way.

Motorized recreation in the state of Maine was a 1.36-billion-dollar economy last year and we would like to be part of that booming effort between ATV's and snowmobiles. We started in 2012 by creating the Katahdin Regional Multi Use Trail (KRMUT) to the West of us and now

need this very important connection to the east of us to create the East-West highway for ATV's that doesn't exist now and as Brian Bronson director of the state of Maine ATV division commented, Brian said this will be huge for the area. We have looked over your map and have decided that if this does not change it could possibly cripple our snowmobile industry in the area and prevent any ATV trail connection to be completed because as you know there is no ATVing in any National Parks or Monuments. After conducting some meetings with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) it is believed that there can be a workable solution for a corridor for both ATV's and snowmobiles to share the same trail eliminating the need for multiple connections.

The Northern Timber Cruises appreciate your consideration and your willingness to work for a solution for all parties involved. We look forward to working with your staff towards a resolution to this issue that we have raise and hope you can agree in making the changes that we need to be successful in our efforts

Sincerely,

John Raymond

President

Northern Timber Cruises

(207) 447 1818



June 15, 2022

Honorable Senator Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Senator Angus King  
133 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Representative Jared Golden  
1222 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 12515

RE: Acquisition Boundary Expansion of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

Dear Senator Collins, Senator King, and Representative Golden:

I am writing to request that approximately 5,500 acres of land owned by Bayroot, LLC and lying westerly of Route 11 in Herseytown Township, Penobscot County, ME (the "Property") be considered for inclusion within an acquisition boundary expansion of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

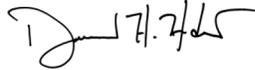
The Property is proximate to the existing national monument. If added to the acquisition boundary and acquired by the U.S. Department of Interior (together with other lands) the monument would then extend to Route 11, with roughly five miles of frontage along the Katahdin Woods & Waters Scenic Byway. The Property also includes key portions of the Mud Stream drainage, a significant tributary to the East Branch of the Penobscot River.

Our request to be included within the acquisition boundary expansion of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is conditional on our understanding that being included would not make the property part of the national monument. We further understand that neither this letter nor inclusion of the property in the national monument acquisition boundary creates any sort of contract or binding commitment by us or future owners of the property.

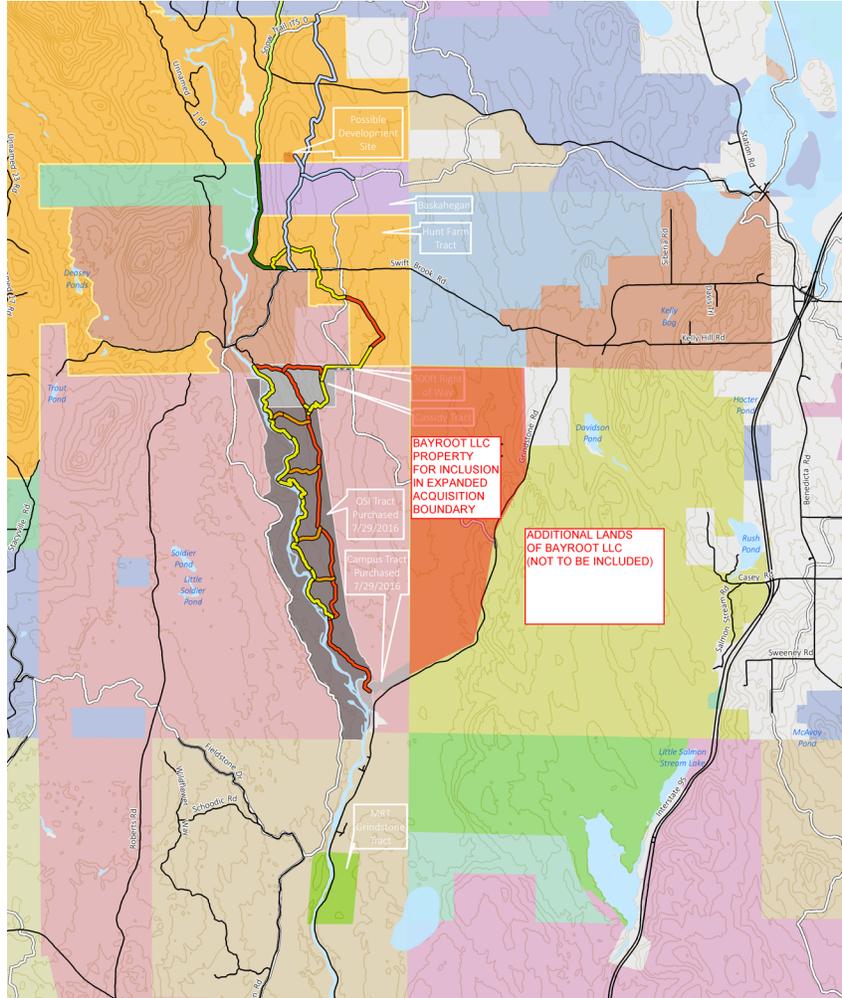
We understand that such inclusion would, however, allow all or a portion of the property to become part of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument should we, or a subsequent owner of the Property, decide to sell or otherwise convey it. We further understand that the federal government would acquire all or a portion of the Property only through a willing seller donation or purchase.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Bayroot LLC  
By Wagner Forest Management, Ltd., Its Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hudnut". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke.

Daniel H. Hudnut, President





Kent Gilges  
8 Center Street, Exeter, NH 03833  
603-658-0145  
[Kent.gilges@conservationforestry.net](mailto:Kent.gilges@conservationforestry.net)

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May 24, 2022

Honorable Senator Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Senator Angus King  
133 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Representative Jared Golden  
1222 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 12515

Dear Senator Collins, Senator King, and Representative Golden:

I am writing to request that approximately 31,367 acres of land owned by Sylvan Timberland, LLC (doing business as Conservation Resources, LLC) located in T1R7 WELS (Grindstone Township), T2 R7 WELS (Soldiertown Township), and T3 R7 WELS in Penobscot County, ME (the "Property") be considered for inclusion with an acquisition boundary expansion of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. The Property is adjacent to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and if added to the acquisition boundary and acquired by the National Park Service, could provide much needed access to the National Monument from the south, via the Town of Millinocket.

Our request to be included within the acquisition boundary expansion of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is conditional on our understanding that being included would not make the property part of the national monument or subject to existing National Park Services laws or regulations. We further understand that neither this letter nor inclusion of the property in the National Monument boundary creates any sort of contract or binding commitment by us or future owners of the property.

We understand that such inclusion would, however, allow all or a portion of the property to become part of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument should we, or a subsequent owner of the Property, decide to sell or otherwise convey it. We further understand that the Federal Government would acquire all or a portion of the Property only through a willing seller donation or purchase. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very Respectfully,

Kent Gilges, Managing Member



**NPCA Position on legislation before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources National Parks Subcommittee**

September 21, 2022

Dear Senator,

Since 1919, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. On behalf of our nearly 1.6 million members and supporters nationwide, I write to share our thoughts on select legislation ahead of a hearing held by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources National Parks Subcommittee scheduled for September 21, 2022.

**S.J. Res. 57 – Redesignating the Robert E. Lee Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery as the “Arlington House National Historic Site”:** NPCA **supports** this legislation which honors the request of descendants of people who were enslaved at Arlington House with the intent that it will help broaden the narrative that has been primarily focused on one individual. The bill reflects the National Park Service’s commitment to telling stories inclusive of multiple historical perspectives that can inspire people of all backgrounds.

**S. 1211 - Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act:** The proposed Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park provides an opportunity for the National Park Service to preserve and interpret the historical, cultural and natural resources associated with the life of the Mississippian Culture in three counties of Illinois and one of Missouri. This site is an established Illinois State Historic Site as well as a World Heritage Site. NPCA **supports** this designation as a site that is co-managed by the Park Service and Illinois Department of Natural Resources, a partnership that has worked well at Chicago’s Pullman National Monument and State Historic Site.

**S. 4168 - National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2022:** NPCA **supports** this legislation that reauthorizes the National Park Foundation’s appropriation through 2030 and increases the authorization level from \$5 million to \$15 million. The National Park Foundation is the official charitable partner of the National Park Service that directly supports the parks with private funding and strategic partnerships. Annually the organization raises over \$100 million in private funds to support the agency. The \$15 million funding authority requires a one-to-one match with private donations and is instrumental in providing necessary funding for our parks to address deferred maintenance needs and visitation challenges. Previous funding has supported the reconstruction and modernization of the North Entrance at Yellowstone National Park and helped restore Lake Irene and Lower Tanahutu Trails at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Headquarters  
777 6<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20001  
P 202.NAT.PARK | 800.628.7275

[NPCA.org](https://www.nps.org)



**S. 4371 - César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act:** NPCA supports this legislation, which will establish a historical park to preserve and interpret the stories of the Latinos, Filipinos, women and numerous other people who fought alongside César Chávez and helped found the United Farm Workers (UFW), one of the most consequential movements of the 20th Century. The park will include sites in Arizona and California and builds upon the existing César Chávez National Monument in Keene, CA. The sites represent locations critical to Chávez's development as a labor and civil rights leader, the first headquarters of the UFW, a retirement village built by volunteers for elderly Filipino farm workers and other significant locales. Additionally, the legislation calls for the creation of a National Historic Trail following the route of the nearly 300- mile march from Delano to Sacramento by farmworkers in 1965. The march brought national attention to the plight of workers in the fields-- their harsh working conditions and meager pay. César Chávez and the Farmworker Movement transformed agriculture and labor organizing in the American West and brought dignity, fair pay and better working conditions to hundreds of thousands of workers.

The César Chávez and Farmworker Movement National Historic Park will tell the story of one of the most consequential Latino American figures of the 20th Century, as well as the numerous other leaders and groups that struggled for justice and equity in the fields of California and the West. Such stories are deserving of inclusion in our National Park System and are important to understanding the heritage of all Americans.

**S. 4784 - Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act:** NPCA supports this legislation, which would greatly improve access to Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Designated in 2016, the monument covers nearly 90,000 acres in Maine in the shadow of Mt. Katahdin, Maine's highest peak and the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail. This legislation would enable greater access to the monument by allowing the National Park Service to acquire adjacent land on its southern border, better connecting the monument to more gateway communities. The legislation has an important provision allowing the agency to acquire non-contiguous property for administration and visitor services. All told, the bill will better protect resources and improve visitor access which is critically important for current and future generations' enjoyment of this incredible place.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. Please contact Tucker Johnson, at [tjohnson@npca.org](mailto:tjohnson@npca.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christina Hazard  
Legislative Director  
National Parks Conservation Association

Headquarters  
777 6<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20001  
P 202.NAT.PARK | 800.628.7275

[NPCA.org](http://NPCA.org)



September 20, 2022

The Honorable Angus King  
 Chair  
 Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
 Committee  
 Subcommittee on National Parks  
 United States  
 Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Daines  
 Ranking Member  
 Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
 Committee  
 Subcommittee on National Parks  
 United States  
 Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chair King, Ranking Member Daines, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks:

On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters, The Wilderness Society (TWS) writes to express our guidance on a number of bills being marked up before the Subcommittee on September 21, 2022. We respectfully request that this letter be included in the hearing record.

**S.J. Res.57, A joint resolution redesignating the Robert E. Lee Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery as the “Arlington House National Historic Site” – SUPPORT**

Our parks and public lands should be welcoming to all people, regardless of race, gender, or ethnicity. Memorializing Confederate leaders on public lands sends the message that the United States is honoring those who advocated and perpetuated bigotry, racism, and segregation. This is the wrong message. This legislation would also honor the request of the families of those enslaved at Arlington House along with the Lee family. For these reasons, TWS supports S.J. Res. 57 which would rename the Robert E. Lee Memorial as the Arlington House National Historic Site.

**S. 305, the Springfield Race Riot National Monument Act - SUPPORT**

TWS supports S. 305, the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument Act. It is important that our national parks and monuments tell the stories of all Americans and represent the full history of our country. The Springfield Race Riot resulted in the tragic murder of six African Americans in 1908, but the aftermath also spawned the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). TWS supports efforts to recognize this history and preserve and protect resources associated with the Springfield Race Riot of 1908 for future generations.

**S. 1211, the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Park Act - SUPPORT**

TWS supports S. 1211, the 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. 1211.

**S. 4168, the National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2022 – SUPPORT**

TWS supports S. 4168. National Parks are an American treasure, and the National Park Foundation is vital to improving the management and visitor experience in our national parks. Authorization of the National Park Foundation expires in 2023 and this legislation would extend the authorization until 2030. TWS urges the subcommittee to advance this legislation.

**S. 4371, the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act - SUPPORT**

The Wilderness Society supports S. 4371, the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act, by Senator Padilla. Recognized as one of the most influential leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, César Chávez inspired farm workers to fight for justice and helped create the first national union to advance the collective rights of farm workers. His practice of non-violence, unquestionable dedication, and unrelenting leadership is a continuing inspiration to all people. This is why the National Park Service, after years of study, recommended the establishment of a national historical park honoring César Chávez.

A César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park will provide the opportunity for present and future generations to learn about the progression of César Chávez as a farm laborer to the leader of a transformative national movement. The park will connect the evolution of the great community organizer to the places the history unfolded. This proposal is supported by a diverse array of civil rights, labor, and conservation organizations, as well as local governments and scholars. For these reasons, The Wilderness Society supports S. 4371 and urges the subcommittee to advance this important legislation.

**S. 4784, the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act - SUPPORT**

Senator Susan Collins and Senator Angus King have introduced S. 4784, the "Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act," which would allow the National Park Service to acquire land from a willing seller – and only a willing seller – to increase access to Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, with a focus on increasing access from the south, to better connect it with the communities of Millinocket and East Millinocket. Any new lands added to the national monument would include the same provisions for activities as in the existing monument parcels which allow for activities including hunting, fishing and snowmobiling, and the National Park Service would be granted authority to purchase or lease facilities for a park headquarters, staff offices and visitor services outside the boundary of the monument.

With increased access from the south, including Millinocket and East Millinocket, those communities will see more of the direct positive economic impact of the monument. Current access to the monument bypasses these towns entirely. Access from the south has been a goal of the monument since its creation, as it puts visitors within easy reach of amenities in Millinocket and East Millinocket. In 2021, the National Park Services estimated that Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument brought \$3.3 million and 41,000 visitors into the region. Easy access from the south will help to continue the momentum and growth that the monument has experienced since its designation in 2016. For these reasons, TWS supports S. 4784 and urges the subcommittee to advance this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Hartinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan Hartinger  
Government Relations Director  
The Wilderness Society